



**St
Ambrose
Parents
Association**

Minutes of St Ambrose Parent Association 63rd Annual General

Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Mr Groves, Mr Driscoll, Will Bonning, Sam Alford, Elaine Cannon, David Godsmark, Steve Tiernan, Joanne McEntee, Stella Corran, Neil Priestner, Mary Ireland, Andrea Mottram, Lynda Nempotakis, Pamela Cowen, Natalie Lawrence

1 Notice convening the meeting

Will Bonning welcomed everyone and convened the 63rd AGM of SAPA.

2 Welcome by Headmaster

In the absence of Mr Keulemans, Mr Groves welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked all the officers and members of SAPA for their continued support for the schools. He acknowledged the enormous contribution SAPA has made since its formation which has greatly benefitted the two schools. More recently money from SAPA has been spent on the fencing in the College and in the Prep it will be used for temporary staging and iPads as well as play equipment.

3 Apologies for absences

Nadia Allen, Laura Whittle, Una Devlin

4 Minutes of 62nd Annual General Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

5 Matters arising

None

6 Chairman's address

Thank you to the Headmaster and Principal of the Prep and the College for their support. In the college I'd also like to thank Donna, Alison, Julie, Heidi and Clare for their time and efficiency in the office, Karen in the kitchen and we literally couldn't start considering any of our activities without Tom and Jamie the caretakers. Many thanks also to Pauline and Katherine at the Prep School who are our communications hub with the younger boys' parents. My gratitude also extends to all the other staff in both College and the Prep who help out and offer their time to SAPA.

I'd also like to thank all the volunteers who repeatedly give up their time for the Association events and meetings. We only exist because you give us your time - whether it's for an event where you're thrown into managing a stall, or setting up for an event or simply taking part in our meetings to offer your thoughts, you have gladly given your time and expertise to jobs that need to be done. Thank you - SAPA would not exist without you.

I reserve special thanks for my fellow committee members for their guidance, advice and commitment to the cause with their time and their thoughts. Dave has been a solid and dependable treasurer with great knowledge and commitment, Elaine, a magnificent and diligent Secretary who readily jumps in at a moment's notice to help out, Sam for being the backbone of the Association, College communications and a general Wikipedia of SAPA, Steve for his time, advice, assistance and long standing commitment and last but not least, our next Chair, Joanne who has always been a reliable and committed member and is already creating new revenue streams and engaging with parents in a way we've not seen before.

Being a volunteer for a cause is very difficult. It's a thankless task and pays nothing. The hours are random and usually at times you'd prefer to be doing something else. It takes a certain kind of person to take part in a voluntary organisation and I think it's safe to say that whilst many might aspire to be this kind of person, only a few actually achieve it. You are all that kind of person and should be proud of who you are and I hope Karma will reward you in your lives.

I know the future of SAPA is in safe hands with Joanne McEntee, a committed and strong new chair, the backing of an excellent committee and great support from volunteers, but the fundraising is always limited to the number of people who support SAPA in helping organise... and attending the events. I urge anyone who is not a regular supporter of the Parents' association to please get involved. In uncertain economic and political times, the role played by the Parents' Association may be the key to Saint Ambrose's future students being afforded opportunities and equipment they might not otherwise have, so please encourage friends and other parents to support a cause that is very close to home.

It has been an honour to act as Chair for SAPA this year and I'm happy to say that this year we've managed to exceed the fundraising over last year and now have a useful web presence and we've extended the use of social media. I hope I've been able to do justice to the position.

So it just takes me to pass on the baton and bid farewell to an extraordinary year.

I hereby tender my resignation and I wish you an excellent summer holiday and all the very best for the future.

7 Treasurers report

David Godsmark discussed the accounts for the year. We are in a healthy position currently holding just over £14k in the bank account (as of 31/05/17). He discussed the income from each of the three main fundraising events (Christmas fair -£4190, fashion show - £1419 and Ball - £4846). A cheque for £6k will be presented to the College and the Prep school which will leave SAPA with a balance of over £2,000. The generosity of Annette Glynn from Top Table was noted as she provides so much of the catering at a non-commercial rate.

8 Election of officers and members:

Steve Tiernan proposed the election of Joanne McEntee as Chairperson and David Godsmark seconded. David Godsmark was re-elected as Treasurer and Elaine Cannon as Secretary.

9. Future fundraising events

Christmas fair will take place on Sunday 26th November. A fashion show is

Christmas fair will take place on Sunday 29 November. A fashion show is proposed for early 2018. Date to be confirmed for May Ball (Saturday 12th is a possibility). Other fundraising events will be discussed in September's meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Next meeting June 2018