

TPC Meeting

25th March 2026

Agenda

Apologies - Rebecca Armstrong, Kate Studd, Kerry Saouter

In attendance - Will Searle (Secretary / 1R / 5Y), Jane Gibb (Nursery / 3GE), Link Clark (1M), Gemma Conley-Smith (Co-Chair), Oana Racu (3WM), Mari Price (3WM), Tom Reynolds (7M), Helen Atherton (6G), Cara Leo (2M), Rosie Watters (4/5C), Alexa Lander (3GE / 5Y / 7S), Angie Guthrie (3GE / 5Y), Han Dods (Co-Chair / 2B), Fergus Macdonald (Treasurer / 3MW / 3GE / 5RS) Encarni Corcoles (1R), Pippa Ricketts-Alighieri (online)

1. Alasdair friend retirement, new headteacher selection process
 - a. Supplemental on the impact of him leaving? Ski trips, lego competitions etc
 - b. Survey
2. Towerbank Community group
 - a. Survey
3. Playground equipment update
 - a. Supplemental on plans to further develop after remediation work
 - b. Question from P4H is people asking if there are still plans/budgets for the playground or whether the current refit of the wood sections has prevented any further development?
4. Security in the playground
5. Asbestos update (if response has come in)
6. Towerbank Community group
7. Wildlife Garden update
8. General Qs:
 - a. Colour of p7 hoodies?
 - b. Further actions on delaying smartphones
 - c. From Kate: couple of suggestions following up from the Kids and Tech event .
 - i. It's really timely to continue this conversation at the moment - eg the CEC consultation on banning phones in schools and the uk consultation on a social media ban for under 16s. The evidence and acceptance that social media isn't suitable for children is clear .
 - ii. So 1) does TPG want to continue to champion a community of parents / carers keen to delay smartphone / social media use? Any ideas and volunteers to step up (I'm happy to stay involved but there's power in numbers)?
 - iii. 2) Mr friend had an idea to get some S6s from Porty high to come to Towerbank and talk to the kids about issues with social media / tech. Not sure if he's still up for this or not - but it would be great! I can follow up and ask.
 - iv. 3) would TPG be up for getting the TPGs from Brunstane / Parsons Green / Duddingston / St John's together to think about how we could work together? Thanks so much and sorry again I can't be there in person
9. Treasurer update - Fergus
10. Fundraising / events update
 - a. Towerbank Lottery - Hannah
 - b. Volleyball, 10th May - Tamzin?
 - c. Summer Fair, 6th June - Will
 - d. Summer Disco, 13th June - Angie
11. ASN Group update
12. AOB

Discussion

1. Hiring of new Head
 - a. Purpose: agree approach to gathering community input
 - b. Proposal: we present a draft set of survey questions (what people want to keep/change, priorities, etc.) so we can gather structured feedback to inform the hiring process
 - c. Outcome: agree survey questions / approach
 - d. Notes:
 - i. Do we think parents know what a headteacher does
 - ii. Survey what we think kids like about Mr F.
 - iii. Highlight how the things he's brought to the school and how that's impacted them
 - iv. Find out what we think is most important in a headteacher
 - v. HD to share list of Qs
 - vi. Ask about the culture they understand at Towerbank and know about it
 - vii. Timings: Survey to be circulated before Easter
2. WhatsApp communications
 - a. Purpose: improve how we communicate as a community
 - b. Proposal: similar approach — draft survey questions (what's working, what's not, capturing year groups, etc.)Note: rather than going into individual experiences on the night, we gather structured feedback
 - c. Outcome: agree survey approach
 - d. Notes:
 - i. Discussion around how the channels are currently used
 - ii. Noted need for a reset
 - iii. Better use of all channels
 - iv. Feedback on the Announcement channel to update
3. *Asbestos update*Quick update (I'll chase Alistair today if needed)
 - a. Outcome: close off / confirm next step
 - b. Notes
 - i. Nothing from AF
 - ii. We will inform once we get an update
4. Financial update
 - a. Where we are currently — comfortable vs risk, key considerations
 - b. Outcome: shared understanding
 - c. Notes
 - i.
5. Playground discussion
 - a. Ideas, priorities, budget, whether fundraising is needed
 - b. Outcome: initial direction / next steps
 - c. Notes
 - i. Need to invest to start the project
 - d. Voted on playspace having £3k assigned to it to look at options and give Cathy options
6. Vote: £400 for Joanna's counselling project
 - a. Outcome: decision
7. Support needed / upcoming events
 - a. e.g. volleyball, fairs, reps' roles — how we can support each other
 - b. Outcome: clear asks / volunteers
8. Outstanding items
 - a. Anything previously discussed where there's been no progress
 - i.
 - b. Outcome: either move forward or park

9. AOB (time permitting)
 - a. Link raised an issue about allergen policy and the school. He was directed to School
 - b. Query was raised about future meeting and online vs in person. Agreement on having things in person but offering online on the day

Actions

- ☐ Voted to approve money for playspace project
- ☐ Voted for grief counselling project