

MEETING MINUTES

FRIENDS OF CHITTLEHAMPTON SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 7TH March , 2018

LOCATION: BELL INN

Present: Becca Brewer (Chair), Amanda Rowe (Treasurer), Leonie Millichope (Secretary), Vicky Williams, Sarah Slow

Apologies: Jackie Lethaby, Laury Hancock (Vice-Chair), Rebecca M-Mills, Annette Mills.

Treasurer's update

- Forthcoming expenditure/update on balance:
 - Following settlement of a bill for £1,013.55 (covering bark, cushions, story chair and forest school equipment), the current balance is £1,160.86.

Matters arising:

- **Forest school shelter:** agreed to check with Mrs Evans/Rachel Pearson as to what size of shelter might be required so that we can calculate the cost of building one. Leonie agreed to speak to John Andow (Chair of Chittle Cricket Club) to check that the construction of such a shelter on the rented pony paddock corner would be acceptable.
- **Funding options/priorities:** Becca updated the committee on the feedback regarding parents' preferred funding priorities. She will follow up with a letter home to parents to ensure the views of those not on Facebook are also taken into account. Ideas being considered are:
 - Support for swimming lessons (Mrs Evans confirmed that this costs £1,500-£2,000 per course);
 - Climbing wall for the playground;
 - ICT equipment – new interactive whiteboards (Mrs Evans made the point that the overall ICT suite is extremely outdated now, but that a thorough overhaul would probably necessitate a longer-term fundraising project);
 - Reading books/library re-vamp;
 - School trips .
- **Playground and garden improvements:** Rebecca M-Mills suggested a small working party of volunteers would be helpful to finish off the painting and tidy up of the garden. We agreed that a weekend date after the Easter school holidays would probably be most convenient. Date is yet to be set. FOCS agreed to fund the paint. We also agreed to seek out appropriate paints and get an idea of cost.

- **Fundraising: pub quiz:** thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes, attended or helped out on the night, and to all the generous contributors at the pub. We raised around £270 which was a great result.
- **Fundraising: The Voice concert in South Molton:** agreed to move forward with the South Molton venue, but have since decided to delay until an autumn date (possibly October) to suit Mrs Collins and the choir.
- **Sandcastle competition:** we discussed this event in more detail. We have a placeholder date of Thursday, 19th July (term finishes Friday 20th July). We agreed to make it an 'after-school' event to be more inclusive. We struggled to come up with ideas for fundraising so agreed that it would be more of a social event, purely with a competition entry fee. We agreed to try to get prizes donated. The event would be open to friends and family of school children and staff. We will need to agree on a format for teams. Families will provide their own picnic tea. We agreed that we would probably need a back-up plan or a reserve date in case of bad weather.
- **Fundraising: Easter raffle:** we agreed to run an Easter 'buy a square on the egg' raffle with squares available in the shop and school reception. We will purchase Easter Egg prizes for this event. Raffle will need to be available from mid-March and prizes will be drawn at the end of term Easter service (Thursday 29th March).

Any Other Business:

- **Fundraising: Pop-up restaurant:** Sarah Slow raised the idea of a pop-up restaurant. We would hire a venue and take bookings for meals. Then on the night, we would prepare, cook and serve the food. We would probably need a theme. We agreed this was a fun idea and agreed to schedule an event in for September 2018.
- **Library re-vamp:** we agreed that a first step to supporting this initiative would be to run a 'donate a book and get a cake' coffee morning event, for both parents and children. We would seek donations of appropriate books, and, in return, we would offer a cake and a cuppa. Mrs Evans has responded that she is fine with this idea. We now need to set a mutually convenient date and publicise the event.
- **Email communications with parents:** Vicky raised the point that it might be worth asking if school communications might be sent out by email rather than notes in book bags (which occasionally go astray) on an opt-in basis. We agreed to raise it with Mrs Evans and Mrs Bunyard.
- **Choir club:** we are awaiting feedback on this idea. At the last meeting it was agreed that this would be a popular after-school club and Mrs Evans undertook to ask Mrs Collins if there was any scope in her schedule to run this. Otherwise we might see if there are any other village/parent volunteers who might assist – we are awaiting feedback on this.

Date of next meeting

- We agreed to hold the next meeting which will be an AGM as a coffee morning in school. The proposed date is Thursday, April 26th. Mrs Evans has approved this date and indicated that the children might be able to do a small performance of some kind for parents.