

MEETING MINUTES

FRIENDS OF CHITTLEHAMPTON SCHOOL

THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2018

LOCATION: IN SCHOOL

Present: Becca Brewer (Chair), Amanda Rowe (Treasurer), Laury Hancock (Vice-Chair), Wendy Evans, Leonie Millichope (Secretary), Vicky Williams, Hazel Gunn

Apologies: Jackie Lethaby

Treasurer's update

- Forthcoming expenditure/update on balance:
 - The current balance is £3,220. Once current debts are paid (pre-school: £1,046, PTA Association: £63, Story chair: c£100 and Forest School equipment: c£300), the remaining balance available is: £1,711.41.

Matters arising:

- **Forest school shelter:** Guy reported back that the wooden posts requested to construct a shelter would cost approximately £15 per post depending on the exact size required – he asked for more detail. Amanda agreed to go back to Rachel Pearson to find out what might ideally be required in terms of a shelter, given we have some spare funding and skilled helpers.
- **Playground and garden improvements:** Leonie agreed to speak to Rebecca about paint requirements for the pencils and to clarify what remains to be done. It was suggested that an Easter working party might be organised to help this effort.
- **Fundraising: pub quiz:** The Bell and the quizmaster, Martin Ives, have kindly confirmed that March 10th will be convenient for a pub quiz in aid of FOCS. Lynne and Mark will supply the quiz prizes. FOCS will need to supply raffle prizes and raffle ticket sellers on the night. FOCS will need to promote the event to the parent community and ensure we are well represented at the quiz.
- **Fundraising: The Voice concert in South Molton:** Leonie undertook to pass suggested dates to Rebecca MacMills to check the choir's availability. Mrs Evans asked if we could avoid SATS week (May 14th). First suggested dates (when the Assembly Rooms are free) are: April 20/21 and May 25/26. Leonie is forwarding these to Rebecca MacMills. Any possible dates will also need to be checked with Mrs Collins. See: <http://www.thevoicechoir.com/> for more info about The Voice choir.
- **Sandcastle competition:** we agreed that this would make a fun and social (rather than fundraising) event for the summer 2018 term and might take the place of the

Cricket Fun Day this year. We pencilled in a placeholder date of Thursday, 19th July (term finishes Friday 20th July). However, having raised this with Sarah after the meeting, she did make the point that if the event is during the working day, many parents would not be able to participate. We agreed to consider whether this could be a pm/tea-time event to avoid this issue and be more inclusive. FOCS need further discussion to consider this.

Any Other Business:

- **Fundraising: Easter raffle:** we agreed to run an Easter 'buy a square on the egg' raffle with squares available in the shop, school reception and the pub. We will purchase Easter Egg prizes for this event. Raffle will need to be available from early March and prizes will be drawn at the end of term Easter service (Thursday 29th March).
- **Choir club:** 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.
- **Funding options/priorities:** Becca suggested compiling a list of 4/5 funding suggestions to enable parents to vote for how FOCS spending should be prioritized. The Committee agreed this is an excellent idea to enable wider input into how our funds are spent and to make the process more transparent. We need to agree a short-list of spending options. Suggestions at the meeting included:
 - 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 (Laury also made the valuable point that many parents may have appropriate books to contribute to the library and that this might be a first step);
 - School trips (Mrs Evans confirmed that no summer trips have been organised as yet, but that autumn 2018 would include a trip to Lyme Regis/Charmouth for fossil hunting).

If anyone has further suggestions for this list, please forward them to Becca and we will draw up a suitable questionnaire for parents.

Date of next meeting

- We agreed to hold the next meeting in the evening: 7pm, Weds 7th March at the Bell Inn.