

# MINUTES OF FOCS MEETING WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 7PM AT THE BELL INN

**PRESENT:** Becca Brewer, Amanda Rowe, Vicky Williams, Laury Hancock, Jackie Lethaby, Sarah Slow

**APOLOGIES:** Amy Latham, Rebecca Mac-Mills, Annette Mills, Mrs Evans, Leonie Millichope, Karen Luscombe.

Becca began by welcoming us to the meeting and running through the agenda.

**CRICKET DAY UPDATE:** A total of £675 was raised on the cricket fun day that took place at the end of the summer term. This was a combination of sponser money, cake and coffee sales and the raffle squares. A truly fantastic fundraiser and thank you letters have now been sent out to all involved.

**BIG BREAKFAST UPDATE:** A total of £620 was raised from our latest fundraiser that took place on 16<sup>th</sup> September, again a fantastic result. Becca will check with Amy about thank you letters for this event.

**SCHOOL GARDEN UPDATE:** We discussed the current situation with regards to the garden project and whether it would be better to finish it gradually, plant spring bulbs and have a grand opening next year. However the general census was that it should be finished sooner rather than later it was felt that people may forget about the project if we don't crack on and stick to a deadline. We agreed to ask Amy to arrange the next delivery of bark, check with Mrs Evans about paint colours, get these purchased and as soon as we have some fine autumn days crack on with the painting, string up some fairy lights and grand open before xmas. It was suggested that with Hugh Grant filming in the village on 24<sup>th</sup> October it would be a nice idea to ask the film production crew if he would consider doing a grand opening for us??!! But we really would need all hands on deck to be completed by 24<sup>th</sup> October!

**UPDATE ON COMPLETION OF ABBOTTS HILL:** The Licence and Insurance for this is now completed.

**CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING IDEAS:** It was decided that as it is such a busy time of year for all of us we would keep the xmas fundraising very simple this year and just sell raffle tickets for the Christmas hampers as this brings in a good total for us each year.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPERS:** The Christmas hampers are a fantastic fundraiser but we discussed that the contents of our hampers had not changed for many years therefore making it seem a slightly tired event. It was decided we would re invent the contents and as a result we have come up with a xmas spirit hamper to include much alcohol, a Mr & Mrs Hamper, contents to be decided!, An organic hamper which Sarah is going to ask Riverside if they would consider donating and a more luxurious take on our normal chocolate hamper. Laury will contact the raffle ticket company to arrange the new printing and ordering of the tickets. Laury also to check that our lottery licence covers us to sell raffle tickets for alcohol.

**CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE:** We decided we would again serve hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies after the school xmas play this year and instead of making it a money making event as such we would just have a donation box. Amanda will also organise a lucky dip for the children. Becca suggested it would be a good idea to have the raffle tickets for the hampers on sale at this event to in order to maximise sales.

**PRE SCHOOL MONEY UPDATE:** We discussed that £1000 of the money in FOCS account is ear marked for anything that it is needed to get the new pre school up and running. Mrs Evans had asked for various items such as waterproof cushions etc to be paid for and we all agreed this was absolutely fine.

**AOB:** Becca read out a letter from Mrs Evans requesting funds for various items such as forest school equipment and paying for the Christmas trip to the plough. Again we all agreed that this is exactly the kind of things that we wish fundraising money to be spent on.

Mrs Pierson has asked if it would be possible to get six large posts put into the forest school area, Vicky is going to look into costs and the possibility of this.

It was discussed that future fundraising money could possibly be used towards something such as a field shelter for the forest school area, although this may be quite expensive it would be a good goal to aim for.

Sarah Slow said that the after school Spanish sessions were going well and we asked her about the possibility of the children doing a little Spanish song or performance that we could come in and watch at the next meeting. Sarah has agreed she will work on this with the children and hopefully present to us at our next FOCS meeting.

Rebecca Mac-Mills asked for the facebook page to please be shared as much as possible so that we are promoting the school as much as we can.

It was brought up that the school website needs updating on a more regular basis. Becca to speak to Mrs Evans or Sarah regarding this.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 3.30 pm in school.

**CLOSE OF MEETING:**