

FRIENDS OF DIPTFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Meeting held via Zoom.

On

Monday 7th of November 2022 @ 19.30

Minutes.

1. Present:

Jo Palmer (Chair), Roger Knight (Treasurer), Kim Woodley, Amy Lethbridge (Secretary), Holly Edgington, Xenia Ball.

2. Apologies:

Juliet James, Elle Barnes.

3. Minutes from Last Meeting:

Checked by Jo and posted to WordPress

4. Chair Report:

We have welcomed a busy start to the year with the bags2school and jumble sale, followed by the Spooky Disco. Thank you to Xenia for running the jumble sale and Roger for organising the bags2school. Our next bags2school is booked for Tuesday 21st March, so we need to decide if we would like to hold another jumble sale too.

The Spooky disco was a great success as always. Thank you to all those who helped. One thing I would consider doing differently is no prepayments. This became confusing on the hand over from school to FODS. All payments should be made on the door.

Thanks must go to Cheryl for being super organised in ensuring the Christmas cards and tea towels were designed and ordered in time. Although some teachers at school seemed unsure of their part in getting orders in on time, this is something we need to consider in future years.

Holly informed me that the maintenance man would be painting the gazebo seating area soon. We discussed whether a dark wood protection paint would be ok, rather than a stain. As this option wouldn't add any additional costs to FODS and would match the fencing around the school, we decided this was the best option.

I have booked the FODS Christmas lunch for 12.15pm on Monday 5th December. All parents are welcome to join us. The menu is available on the class WhatsApp groups.

We have lots going on in the next half term including, the tabletop sale, Advent fair, Christmas craft day and social afternoon.

5. Treasurers Report:

Documentation to follow. Verbal report – At the end of October there was approximately £10,000 in bank. We need to add the takings from the Spooky Disco which was, at first count, £297 minus costs. This leaves us with about £150 in profit from the event. Available cash is £9200, however we want to keep some in reserve so we have between 6 and 7 thousand to spend on upcoming projects.

6. Fundraising request from School:

We have previously spoken about the reading and library service, further investigation has highlighted some issues. Holly spoke to the Library service again in view of moving forward

and was told the quote for the rest of the year would be in excess of £2043. A full year cost is £2400. Both Teachers and FODS committee members are not sure if this is acceptable. It is double what we originally had been told. Holly has been given more information of what the scheme really does, the turnover of non-fiction books, annually, is approximately 200 books, plus topic books, plus guided reading books and advice. Staff training and parent workshops are also included. There is also the possibility of a 3 year tie in which drops the cost to £1222 for the first year, 2nd year costs £2443 and year 3 = £2443. Total for 3 years could be £7200 or with the tie-in £6108. A difference of £1092. Holly has worked with them before and in her opinion the service was fantastic. We do need a push for the Library as it is lacking and has books that are not fit for purpose. If we tie in for the 3 years, the service swap the books yearly to ensure we are up to date at all times. This is, however, significantly more that FODS were initially told. It was mentioned would school match the funds if we gave some, Holly said not this year as budget has been done but it is a possibility another another year. Roger, rightly, stated it is difficult for us to commit to future years as it will be different parents and committee members. This outlay would be a hefty proportion of our funds, but the Library is a worthy cause. It was asked if other schools in the academy using it, as would it be worth asking for a discount if multiple school in the Academy are interested? Holly does not think they are, she will have a chat with other academy heads to see if we could gather a group of school to partake and if this then reduces the cost. Would we possibly get more for our money if we bought books with that funding, but it is the topic books that would have been extremely helpful which this wouldn't get. There is the possibility of match funding from book company but Holly cant remember the name at present. Kim has sourced books for Christmas from Totnes Book shop and they have donated all of these, she will contact them about possibly updating the library. This is something Kim will try and sort before the next meeting. The committee are happy for emails or WhatsApp messages to be shared with this information to get a quick decision.

Holly has looked at the possibility of replacing of the Yurt, a company from Buckfastleigh looked at it and the canvas needs replacing. Quote for canvas, offer of winter thermals and new top which would allow us to use it all year round is £9323 and a total replacement cover £12,447. Maintenance would then be done within the school budget at a cost of £350 a year. Company said they would be happy to speak to us should we require more information. It was raised as to whether we could possibly apply for the Diptford Community grant to fund this. We would then need to make the Yurt usable by the village and wider community, possibly birthday parties or village events. Possibly apply to the NFU? Roger said should we wait for the outcome of the new classroom plans before improving the grounds elsewhere in case they became damaged during the rebuild? Holly is happy to apply for grants, Jo seems to remember approaching NFU last year and was told they are no longer offering grants. As the committee are leaning towards helping the Library at this time we will look into the Yurt further at another time.

7. Fundraising Ideas:

Christmas craft day – Xenia has this in hand and a list of parents that can help. Kim has sorted books for Father Christmas to give out, she is picking them up from Totnes Books next week. They have donated them all, we are very grateful for this, it was unexpected. She will ask them about aiding us in updating our libraries fiction books. Robert Worms will be father Christmas.

Christmas Social – Mulled Wine, Mince Pies as the children sing carols. Same day as Christmas crafts. Cheryl and Roger happy to get Minced Pies, Kim will get Mulled wine. This will be an event to celebrate the school and Christmas, not a fundraiser as we will not be asking for money for refreshments.

Tabletop sale – 19.11.2022 Helen was going to update but she is absent. Posters have been seen on WhatsApp groups with information. It is being held at Holsome Park Farm.

Advent Fayre - Pat Samford wants FODS/School to attend the Advent Fayre, we were not keen, due to low fundraising seen at previous events and lots of parent hours needed. This is made harder by lots of families living outside the village. This is being held on the 26.11.2022. Holly happy to go along and be the face of FODS/School. Biscuit decorating will be the activity on offer at our Stall, Jo will check with Pat to see if that is ok.

Pub Quiz/Diptford Arms – To be held early next year, 25th February as a possibility. Jubilee committee morphed into a social committee for Diptford Village and they have a website, Roger wondered whether we could utilise the website to advertise and ask if the committee may assist in the organisation. Robert Worm is part of this group and he will be Father Christmas for school this year, as he appears keen to help school Roger will ask him if the group may be interested in a collaboration. There would be a bar and family event (e.g bingo), children home by 9 and then adult only. Roger will ask if they would be interested in helping. Kim has a bingo set.

Duck Race – 22nd of April. Amy to ask Diane if we can use the field again.

8. Agree a Date for next meeting:

19th January next meeting, Jo will book Rattery Pub.

9. A.O.B.

100 club was drawn for the month of October. Roger/Kim/Elle to alert winners

October 1st - 56 Nick and Jo. 2nd - 86 Angela Fisher. 3rd - 2 Trudy Bell.

Next Bags to School - 21st March 2023

Storage box for FODS equipment. After research Kim thinks it should be an insulated option, she will send specifics within the committee WhatsApp group.