

FRIENDS OF DIPTFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE.  
Meeting held at Church House Inn Rattery.  
On  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 @ 19.30

## Minutes.

**1. Present:**

Jo Palmer (Chair), Kim Woodley, Amy Lethbridge (Secretary), El Barnes, Juliet James, Sophie Taylor.

**2. Apologies:**

Roger Knight (Treasurer), Lucy Carroll, Harriet Buchanan, Rebecca Filtness, Claire Olsen, Xenia Ball, Holly Edgington.

**3. Minutes from Last Meeting:**

Checked by Jo and posted to WordPress and on School website.

**4. Chair Report:**

There was a lot going on during the last half term, we attended the advent fayre this year with a biscuits decorating stall, thanks must go to Mrs Edgington for running the stall and Roger for his help.

The Christmas craft day and Father Christmas visit was a success as always. Thank you to all the parents who helped and to the teaching staff for letting us lead the way in showing how Diptford does Christmas.

The Christmas social afternoon was held after school but wasn't as well attended as last year. It was unfortunate that some teaching staff were off sick and so the carol singing was tricky to organise, hopefully next year it will run more smoothly.

We decided to have the FODS Christmas meal in an evening so that more people could attend.

The evening was reasonably well attended and everyone had an enjoyable time.

Unfortunately the table top sale had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest in stalls.

As we move towards the Spring we have events such as the Duck Race, Diptford Arms, and Diptfest to think about.

**5. Treasurers Report:**

Add later.....

**6. Fundraising request from School:**

Holly has booked the Library review for the 6<sup>th</sup> of February with Kate and Ali. After this they will use the money donated by FODS to order updated items. £1200 provided from FODS will be spent at Laburnum books which is competitively priced. £400 of this funding has been ringfenced for books from the previous WH Smith Grant

The Committee agreed via WhatsApp to pay £256 for the Theatre Alibi visit on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> of January, which was discussed in a previous meeting. This visit has been confirmed and Holly sends her thanks.

The state of the current Yurt has been revisited. Yurts for life Buckfastleigh have quoted for an 18 foot replacement roof, walls, ground sheet and winter cover - £11,200. The second

option is a complete replacement with a brand new yurt for - £15,000. We are wondering what the lifespan of a yurt is? The company states it will provide maintenance for the life of the Yurt for a fee each year. Mrs Edgington hinted school would take this on, but we would be interested in what the "life span" is and how much the yearly fee will be. Sophie wondered if a different structure may be more suitable/cost effective, for example a Sheppard hut or summer house. It was discussed that these may require planning. A Yurt is a temporary moveable structure therefore does not need planning. Kim will look at grants. The committee are leaning towards acquiring a new Yurt as we feel this would be better value in the long run.

School would like to put on a Science show by a company called "Wonderstuck", total cost £580 but they would like a contribution of £300 to bring the cost down for parents, who would be asked to give the rest. Unanimous vote to give the £300. This sounds like an amazing day.

## 7. Fundraising Ideas:

Duck Race – 22.04.23 Amy has messaged Diane Hunt regarding the field usage and she is happy for this. Scones – Sophie to bake, we have some cream in the freezer that was donated last year by Langage. Kim happy to buy Jam as last year. We need 3 Prizes as yet undecided, but committee will discuss on WhatsApp groups.

Diptford Arms – 11.03.23. What activity we should have was discussed. In the past we have had a Beetle Drive, Quiz and Bingo. In previous years the year 5 children have cooked a meal and the money they raise goes towards their residential the following year. The money from the bar goes to FODS and at this time the Yurt fund. There is usually a curfew for children at this event and then the bar stays open longer. Roger has discussed the possibility of a collaboration with the Community Group - Robert Worms has informed us that their funding would not allow a direct collaboration, but they are happy to promote the event on their mailing list. We will be compiling a quiz for this event and continuing with a 21:00 curfew for the children. Sophies husband is brewing homebrew so she will ask if he may be interested in providing some for the event. Kim will ask Lisa Setter regarding quiz questions. Start time 16.30 to enable people to buy a drink before we show the England vs France 6 nations rugby match starting at 16.45, 18:00 start time for food and the quiz starting at 19.00. Amy will ask a contact at Hunts Cider to donate some for the bar. There is the option of sale and return from Tesco and Juliette is looking into this. Amy to donate a small number of Plymouth Gin bottles. We will raise the question about year 5 creating a meal for the event as in previous years. Sophie is happy to support the children with cooking but would need a venue. Curry is a good option, we can hire the kitchen on the night to facilitate warming. We will ask Heather, Reverend David's wife, if we can borrow glasses and table wear – Sophie happy to do this. Jo will mention to Holly and ask Helen Titford to help with the cooking. Jo will book the Hall. Sophie will ask Graham if he can work the sound system that is in the Village Hall. Elle will make a poster for the event. We will need to advertise for helpers on WhatsApp groups, help needed from 3.30 to set up and then continued help throughout the evening for the bar. Quiz cost £2.50 per person, teams of up to 6. Food cost will be worked out according to cost of ingredients. This will be done on a pre order basis. We are considering doing a raffle during the evening, we will ask Lucy Carroll to organise this as she has mentioned she was unable to come tonight but wished to help where she can. Also we will put a request in the newsletter for donated raffle prizes.

Bags to School 21.03.23 – Will try and organise a jumble sale on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>. This means we need the donations that morning. Juliet and Elle free at present to help.

Easter Egg Hunt – Amy to get Eggs and will give to school, there are a number of Diary free children so purchases will be appropriate. Potentially 31<sup>st</sup> of March, Jo will ask Holly for date confirmation and numbers of children, including allergies.

Diptfest – Need to get a date in the Diary, the September date did better at fundraising than the July. Jo will ask Holly if she has a preference. Quick stall idea was mentioned by Amy - Hair tinsel, a kit is £8 on amazon and having bought some, at Christmas for friends, it was well received and quick and easy to use with an initial estimate of a good profit margin.

## 8. Agree a Date for next meeting:

23<sup>rd</sup> February at The Church House Inn Rattery 19:30

## 9. A.O.B.

Need to re advertise for treasurer position. Jo will ask Penny to put something in the newsletter.

Looking forward we may consider some form of shade for the quiet area outside Hawks class once the building work has been completed. This area has no shade in the Summer.

Shed – Kim has been unable to find an insulated shed, the options are to insulate them ourselves. We are not keen on this. Sophie mentioned Pre-School are emptying their sheds in April and these may be suitable. Would there be space in the new school buildings? Jo will ask Holly if there may be a cupboard FODS can use, the school uniform always was kept at school.

Amazon Smile is discontinuing, do we want to change to “Wish List” School would need to come up with a list of items which Parents can then purchase. The committee are not sure that this will work, school would have to add items to the list and parents must then want to buy a gift. Another option is “Easy Fundraising” which works in a similar way to Amazon Smile which currently gives school a donation based on what parents are buying privately. Currently this provides school with approximately £60 a year.