

FRIENDS OF DIPTFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE.  
Meeting held at Diptford Primary School.  
On  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 @ 19.30

## Minutes.

### 1. Present:

Jo Palmer (Chair), Roger Knight (Treasurer), Elle Barnes (Deputy Chair), Kim Woodley, Amy Lethbridge (Secretary), Holly Edgington, Juliet James, Xenia, Angela Fisher, Helen Price

### 2. Apologies:

Cheryl Mathieson, Sarah Benson, Sophie Taylor, Lucy Carroll, Clare Olsen

### 3. Minutes from Last Meeting:

Checked by Jo and will be posted to WordPress asap. Note the lack of Treasurer and Chair report, see rest of the minutes for up-to-date information.

### 4. Chair Report:

Firstly, a huge thank you to all of those who helped and supported Diptfest. Once again it was a huge success. Some parents commented that they prefer the September date, so maybe something to consider for the future.

Once again, we held a BBQ for Sports day, I don't think this was as lucrative as other years. Thanks to the Lethbridge and Chudley families for their help.

This year we supported the village fete, thanks to the Tomlinson family. I have been told the stall was much appreciated, it's great to have a connection with the community.

The end of term finished with the school play refreshments and film day. Thanks to all who The Raft Race teams were ready and raring to go but sadly we have been informed that there isn't enough water in the river for the event to go ahead. Hopefully next year!

### 5. Treasurers Report:

See AGM minutes for extensive report.

An extra point raised was that as a charity we could be criticised for having too much in the bank of which we have approx. £8000 at present therefore we should think of purchasing something large. Roger suggested a sensible bank balance is between £1000 or £2000. A minibus was suggested or a financial contribution towards maintenance to enable us to share the bus with Harbetonford. The important points about insurance/running costs/ability to drive it came up in a discussion – Holly to find out more information from Harbetonford. Another option which was discussed was a second seating area in the field. See fundraising requests from School.

### 6. Fundraising request from School:

Ms Reid has put together a document of items she would like to purchase for forest school. This was shown round the meeting and felt we could support the purchase of these. The Yurt was also discussed, is it too far gone or is it restorable? Paula states she knows someone who could come and check to see if it can be restored, Holly will ask her to organise this. It would need a maintenance plan if it is up and running again, we are unsure at present if this would be done in house or be doled out to parents/FODS. Compost toilet also

discussed as we are unsure who is maintaining it? There needs to be a person named within school to commence/continue the maintenance. Kim can provide sawdust for the toilet free of charge via her husband's work. School now have a maintenance person in position so there is the possibility that they can be involved in this. The toilet was placed initially at the request of preschool, so possibly the maintenance can fall to the leaders within that class. The toilet building needs guttering which will drain into a waterbut. Kim has been looking at the waterbut but up until now the council have not had any available. Holly will discuss with Paula, to come up with a specific plan of action. Some of this would be within schools budget, however there is possibly some money left from the fundraising event supported by the Rotary (Initially these funds were used for sports equipment) which could be used for this. Plan would be for school to purchase items as they can then claim VAT back and we pay the rest.

Whole school pantomime trip – As we already fully fund a Christmas craft day, we had previously discussed sharing the cost. Options discussed were we cover the transport or the tickets and share the cost with school. This would be a way of subsidising the trip, Holly will find out costing and alert Jo/Roger when she has this.

Library Service needs improving – FODS do have approx. £200 set aside for that, however a partnership with Devon library was mentioned. The Library service provides boxes of topic books, modern and up to date fiction and non-fiction, delivered and collected from school, a consultant also comes in to update the Library on a regular basis and ensures modern and relevant literature. The cost for this is £1000 each year. Committee loves this idea, many have children who have mentioned the lack of modern books that they have heard of and keep their interest. The books provided would also link into accelerated reader, the committee thought this was an excellent idea and would like Holly to go ahead and initiate the partnership.

## 7. Fundraising Ideas:

Bags to School – We have decided to collect bags on Monday the 10th of October to sort them, Jo, Amy, Juliet, Ang and Xenia are free to sort, and have a jumble sale and second hand uniform at School on the Tuesday at 15.00 in the small playground. Xenia able to help sell, Jo, Juliet, and Helen able to set up. The idea is that a jumble sale will bolster the funds raised by bags to school. The rest of the bags will be collected on Wednesday.

Christmas Cards and Tea Towels – This is in hand. Cheryl has organised for the cards artwork to be completed in the next few weeks and orders will need to be placed before October half term. She has also ensured school has access to the correct sized paper for the tea towel artwork, this needs to be done before half term to allow parents the time to see the design before committing to ordering. Orders will be needed soon after half term to allow time for delivery before Christmas. Cheryl will update us when she has exact dates.

Spooky Disco – 04.11.22 3.15 to 4.45. Xenia will speak to Steve Hill regarding hire of the village hall 2.30 to 5.30. Order forms to be sent to parents regarding hotdog and veggie dog and entry fee. Elle to source the veggie dogs, Amy to ask Lou regarding sausages, Jo has hot dog buns already in her freezer from Diptfest, also squash left over. Kim will sort sweet bags, tattoos, and Jo will get Glow sticks. Order forms to be returned by the 17<sup>th</sup> Jo will sort this with Rachel. FODS will do the disco themselves, Kim has Spotify and a speaker, members of Fods will bring along disco balls, we can reuse decorations from previous events. Jo will ask on WhatsApp for volunteers.

Christmas social – This was held last year in the playground with mulled wine, and minced pies, it was well attended and nice for FODS to do something where no money is being raised so everyone can relax and enjoy themselves without feeling any obligation. Children will sing several Christmas songs immediately after school on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December this is after the Christmas craft day. We will organise Father Christmas to attend Christmas lunch,

on the craft day, to give out books as we do every year. Jo has asked a local person to be Father Christmas, Kim has a contact in a book company so she will ask for a donation of books. Jo will ask Rachel for a list of children per class to ensure we get appropriate books. Xenia will organise Christmas crafts – Jo will support her with this.

Garage Sale - Helen and Idris have a fundraising idea that involves a garage sale/car boot sale in the school field/playground. A map of the village will be created with a trail of houses who are happy to join in. Possibly £5 a table to FODS, then people keep the money they make, and they could make cakes to sell. A Saturday afternoon the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December was suggested, Helen will run with this. School will help with advertising it in the newsletter and on the notice board.

#### 8. Agree a Date for next meeting:

10.11.22 19.30 at Rattery pub.

#### 9. A.O.B.

Diptford Community grant is open for applications – Amy will ask Lou Lethbridge for support as we think she has applied before.

Jo has a lot of FODS things in her house, she has had a discussion with Rachel about buying a lockable waterproof box to have on site at school. Holly is happy for this; she will think about where this could go. Xenia has good reliable outdoor storage at her house so will send Jo a link for sizing and costing.

School tidy up days became once a month and we feel this is too much for FODS to take on. This could possibly be every 6 months, we have handed the running of this back to school. Due to the newly appointed “Handyman” these sessions may not be needed so regularly. School to send out information. This in the past has been geared around the open days, Holly will consider this and advertise via school not FODS. Date provisionally set at 15<sup>th</sup> of October.

100 club was drawn for 3 months. Roger/Kim/Elle to alert winners

July 1<sup>st</sup> 49 David Bell. 2<sup>nd</sup> 21 Tracey Shippey. 3<sup>rd</sup> 29 Roger.

August 1<sup>st</sup> 30 Tomlinsons. 2<sup>nd</sup> 27 Sue Franklin. 3<sup>rd</sup> 39 Roger.

September 1<sup>st</sup> 20 Kate Hampson. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 Trudy Bell. 3<sup>rd</sup> 40 Lucy Carrolls parents.