



Friends of Ditchheat School

16-07-2026 – 15:30 – School Hall

Attendees – Committee members: Aimee Arthur (Chair), Kirsty Senior (Treasurer), Nadia Holding (Secretary), Laura Ochoa (Vice-Chair).

Other Attendees: Elaine Cosser (Head of School), Olivia Atkinson, Dee Banbury, Anna Bishop, Natalie Bullard, Lauren Fox, Amy Gammell, Daisy Legg.

Apologies: Samantha Wilson (Vice-Treasurer), Andrea Oakwood, Gemma Travis, Alice Cartledge, Kristy Coleman.

Item		Action
1	Review of minutes from 2025 AGM	
	Nothing to discuss.	
2	FoDS purpose statement	
	The purpose of FoDS is to support Ditchheat Primary School by raising funds and organising activities which will ultimately benefit the school, teachers and associated community. Our aim is to provide equipment, facilities and activities that enhance the experience of the pupils through their educational journey at the school.	
3	Chair's report for 25/26	
	Thank you, Aimee. Full Chair's report available on FoDS WhatsApp group or shared drive. Summary for the coming academic year: 'Looking ahead to the next school year, I'd love us to continue promoting FoDS as the fun, welcoming and supportive team that it truly is. I'm delighted to be welcoming some new committee members this year but it would be fantastic to encourage even more parents to get involved, whether by volunteering occasionally or by joining the committee. 'We'll also have the opportunity to think about whether we'd like to work towards one larger fundraising project or continue supporting a range of smaller projects throughout the year, as we have successfully done this year. 'Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported FoDS over the past year. Whether you've volunteered your time, attended events, donated prizes, baked cakes, sponsored activities or simply shown your support, you have all helped make a positive difference to our school community. 'Without this team, none of what we've achieved this year would have been possible. Thank you.'	AA
4	Treasurer's report for 2025/26 (academic year)	
	Thank you, Kirsty. Full report/spreadsheet available on shared drive. Summary and key points: 'Income was raised through a range of school community activities. Key fundraising events included the Colour Run, Wreath Making, Bath Half	KS



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Marathon, School Disco and Easter Bingo, Summer Fete, coffee mornings, cake sales, uniform sales and EasyFundraising. We also received income from a generous £4,500 donation from Ditchheat Players for drama activities, and a £500 anonymous donation for the Zambian Teacher Fund.

‘Expenditure this year supported both regular school activities and larger enrichment projects. Major items included Chromebooks and headphones, whole school Longleat trip and coach costs, music lessons, Shakespeare workshop, Eco Ed Workshop, Victorian Dance Workshop, as well as smaller everyday items like history signs, Digimaps, a guillotine and megaphone. FoDS also funded or supported events including the Christmas lunch, wreath making, Easter Bingo, school disco, and summer fete costs.

‘Propose to reduce float from £70 to £40, due to limited amount of cash transactions now being done, this will speed up counting after events.

‘Although expenditure was higher than income this year, this reflects us using some of our built-up reserves to fund substantial items and educational experiences for the children. Despite no Glastonbury Festival money this year FoDS remains in a healthy financial position with a closing balanced anticipated to be £14,467.35 to carry forward.

‘Next year 2026/2027

We have already paid for music lessons for the next academic year, and the Outdoor Stage Construction which will take place over the summer and will use the remaining drama fund (£3,600).

‘We have also arranged an amazing whole school trip to Bristol Old Vic to watch Cinderella in December, which we are funding £1,170. Parents will be asked to pay for the coach travel (£10 per child suggested).

‘We have not yet paid for Mr T’s inspiring workshops, and will need to pay for Bookbags early in the academic year.

‘Overall, this has been another successful year and a new exciting year ahead. Thanks to the support of parents, carers, staff, pupils and the wider community, FoDS has been able to raise significant funds and, importantly, use those funds to provide valuable resources, activities and opportunities across the school.’



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5	Election process	
	Aimee Arthur resigned as Chair Kirsty Senior resigned as Treasurer Nadia Holding resigned as Secretary Laura Ochoa resigned as Vice-Chair Samantha Wilson resigned as Vice-Treasurer Aimee Arthur elected as Chair (final year) Lauren Fox elected as Treasurer Liv Atkinson elected as Secretary Laura Ochoa elected as Vice-Chair Samantha Wilson elected as Vice-Treasurer	
6	Colour run	
	Agreed date of Friday, 25th September. Aimee to manage. Aimee asked Laura to source sponsorship.	AA/LO
7	AOB	
	- With Andrea's departure from school, it was agreed that the gardens need maintaining so that we can continue to benefit from what has been created under her stewardship. Both Lauren and Dee said they would help, but we also voted to pay Andrea £150 per year for ongoing oversight and maintenance of the garden. - The village luncheon club donated £200 for school's 150th birthday, which Elaine would like to use to purchase class signs for trees. Kirsty to send bank details to Emily to pay in the money direct to FoDS account. - Elaine asked for the school notice board by the side wall to be repaired, which Lauren kindly said she would look at, to be ready for the new school year. - Elaine discussed need for outdoor chest/cupboard for Mrs Norris's outdoor learning equipment, as insufficient space in Cherry Garden sheds and the FoDS shed isn't secure (with the damaged door). Laura said she would look at options and costs. Lauren suggested this may be something to source on Marketplace. - Kirsty to book village hall for Christmas lunch for Friday, 18th December (last day of term suggested as best by Elaine; the previous Friday is the whole school trip to see Cinderella at the Bristol Old Vic).	AO/DB/LF EC/KS LF LO KS