



Friends of Ditchheat School

21-05-2026 – 15:40 – 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), Dee Banbury, Daisy Legg, Andrea Oakwood, Gemma Travis.

Apologies: Samantha Wilson (Vice-Treasurer), Lauren Fox, Olivia Atkinson, Anna Bishop, Natalie Bullard, Alice Cartledge, Kristy Coleman, Amy Gammell.

Item		Action
1	Review of last minutes	
	Regarding the quiz, this is now pushed to the autumn; Liv will update nearer the time. Mrs Cosser confirmed that the circus skills workshop will now take place on 3 rd July and not on school fete day (10 th July), as previously decided.	OA EC
2	Financial update	
	Current balance: £21,417.54. However, we have already committed to spend £11k (*more below), which leaves a balance of £10,452 of which £3,600 is ringfenced for drama activities. School owes us £360 for the disco and £285 for the Easter bingo, which Kirsty will invoice for. Since the last meeting, we spent: £200 (disco) plus £53.50 (food and drink), and £83.97 (garden plants). We also received a payment of £29.69 (Easyfundraising). *The committed £11k spend is: trips – £2,500; music lessons – £1,700; Victorian dance workshop – £135; circus skills workshop – £537; basketball hoops, map and history timeline – £560; eco workshop – £150; animal encounters £460; Shakespeare workshop £895; Longleat – £1,000; Mr T workshops – £590; Chromebooks – £2,085; headphones – £100. Discussed that the projected closing balance is around £10.5k for this year, which is sufficient for the next academic year but we should spend more cautiously as there will be no income from Glastonbury this year (fallow year) and, if available for 2027, it will only reach our account in late 2027.	KS
3	Computer invoice / invoices	
	All invoices to be submitted to Kirsty before the FoDS AGM in July and they will be processed before her handover as Treasurer. Kirsty to see the computer invoice following a discrepancy between what FoDS agreed and what we were invoiced for by the Federation (FoDS agreed to purchase five Chromebooks plus a trolley and the Federation bought 10); Kirsty to show EC the invoice.	KS/EC
4	Purchases	
	FoDS already agreed to a world map sign and a history timeline sign for the playground, along with two replacement basketball hoops; a request for 30 bookbags for future intake was granted during the meeting.	AA/LO



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	Discussed freeing up of space in FoDS shed for outdoor learning equipment (needs replacing but holding off for now, along with request for outside shelter in Cherry Garden) – Laura and Aimee volunteered to remove and dispose of the ancient barbecue.	
5	Shakespeare drama day	
	Agreed spend of £895 for Shakespeare drama day on first Tuesday after half term, and discussed other theatre experiences (from Ditchheat Players fund) most likely to now take place in the next academic year.	EC/NH
6	Stage construction instead of sandpit in playground	
	Mrs Cosser proposed using a large proportion of the legacy Ditchheat Players fund for constructing an outdoor stage to replace the old sandpit. Following the meeting, the sandpit has now been cleared ready for the stage to be built. Estimated cost around £3k.	EC
7	Coffee morning for school's 150th birthday celebrations	
	Coffee morning being held on Friday, 26 th June from 09:15 to 10:30 as part of school's 150 th year celebrations happening all week. Nadia and Kirsty to run coffee/tea and cake offering on the day. Mrs Battye is organising an exhibition in the hall, and all are invited, school and the local community. Mrs Clarkson will be making a big Victoria sponge school birthday cake. Will put out a call for more cake donations nearer the time. Mrs Bonham-Christie submitted a poster to the Fosse Trinity News before half term (in current issue). Need posters up in village hall, church, pub, etc; Laura volunteered to spread the word (also suggested personal notes through doors) and possibly generate larger donations – to discuss further with Mrs Cosser to see what is appropriate. An opportunity to come together to celebrate our school reaching a milestone and to reflect on its history!	NH/KS/LO/EC
8	School fete	
	Friday, 10 th July, afternoon, exact time TBD. As last year, FoDS will have stalls out on the front lawn, with the main activity for the children and country dancing, etc., in Cherry Garden. Aimee volunteered to run the bottle tombola (bring a bottle for mufti on the day) and Dee the cake stall this year (FoDS to put out a call for cake donations). Andrea will also run her table top sale here – decided as a better option than at the Alhampton dog show or as a separate event in the village hall. Laura also said that she would request plants to run a plant stall. Other volunteers to be requested nearer the time.	AA/DB/AO/LO



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9	Sports day – gazebos	
	Aimee agreed that she and Dave Turner will organise the gazebos. Call for extra volunteers if needed.	AA
10	Table top sale – Alhampton	
	See 8 above – this will now take place at the school fete.	AO
11	Zambia	
	Mrs Cosser would like FoDS's support in raising funds for a teacher from Zambia to join us in summer 2027 as part of the existing cultural and educational exchange programme. Ideally we would need to raise £1,000 to cover the costs of travel, etc., and families will be needed to host the teacher for the month that she is with us. Proposed running a separate event to generate funds for this, or perhaps sharing the profit from the quiz as this is now taking place at the time originally planned for the mouse racing. Aimee to seek agreement from the group for supporting this.	AA
12	Newsletter entry FoDS AGM	
	FoDS AGM agreed for Thursday, 16 th July at 3.30pm. Nadia emailed Emily with the date for the newsletter.	NH
13	New intake parents evening – FoDS intro	
	Aimee to be present for this on Thursday, 4 th June at 5pm.	AA
14	Yeast Scrapstore	
	Item proposed by Kristie Hughes on the group but not discussed at the meeting as she was absent – can raise at next meeting if wished.	KH
15	Water butt	
	Thanks to Paul for installing the smart new water butt by Cherry Garden and the FoDS shed – very much appreciated!	Paul Senior
16	AOB	
	i) Leavers mugs to be ordered – Aimee said Liv would do, as she did last year;	OA
	ii) Kirsty requested card machine on school WiFi – EC agreed;	KS/EC



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iii)	EC extended thanks to FoDS for the wonderful trip to Longleat;	LF/KS/EC/SW/AA
iv)	Committee changes – Lauren now to be Treasurer (with support from Sam as Vice Treasurer) – needs DBS asap, and handover from Kirsty taking place with Aimee over coming weeks;	
v)	Laura discussed a plan afoot by some parents for a festival in Ditchheat for next year – please speak to Laura for more information;	LO
vi)	Andrea requested some watering cans (6) – Laura said she would look into costs; to then put on group for agreement to purchase.	AO/LO