



Friends of Ditchheat School

19-03-2026 – 15:40 – School Hall

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

Other Attendees: Elaine Cosser (Head of School), Lauren Fox, Kristie Hughes, Daisy Legg, Andrea Oakwood.

Apologies: Laura Ochoa (Vice-Chair), Olivia (Liv) Atkinson, Dee Banbury, Anna Bishop, Natalie Bullard, Alice Cartledge, Amy Gammell, Gemma Travis.

Item		Action
1	Review of last minutes	
	Regarding the quiz, Aimee said Liv will confirm date in due course, either 30/04 or 07/05, after discussion with Pete on his availability. To check also about raffle licence with Amy. To notify us of any needs for the event nearer the date.	OA
2	Financial update	
	Current balance: £21,231.16. Kirsty still awaiting invoice for the five Chromebooks and trolley (committed spend: £5k) Funded items so far: £1,576 Approx £10k available if aim to keep £5k as reserve (but £4.5k is ringfenced for drama-related activities – see below) Income since last meeting: £150 (Christmas cards); £4.5k (the disbanded Ditchheat Players legacy cash donation to be spent solely on drama activities – more below); £39.94 (Easy fundraising); £360.35 (Paul Senior's sponsorship money from the Bath Half Marathon already in). Spend since last meeting: £121.51 (Tesco shop reimbursement for Xmas lunch) Aimee to send Kirsty Gift Aid for Colour Run 2025. A big thank you (and congratulations!) to Paul Senior and the Locke family for running the Bath Half Marathon and donating their sponsorship money to FoDS, which will total around £500.	EC/AA
3	Drama fund	
	The now disbanded Ditchheat Players generously donated £4.5k to be used solely for drama-related activities for the school. Looking at options to include, ideally, theatre in education (TIE) companies to bring productions into school as well as opportunities for the children to attend live theatre events. Nadia to send some options to Mrs Cosser. Ideas welcome from all; please email Mrs Cosser. Discussed the need to book long in advance as schools performances during the week in Bath and Bristol in particular are very popular and get booked up early. Most likely looking at academic year 2026/27 now as calendar of events already very busy!	EC/NH
4	Committee succession	
	At the end of the school year, Kirsty will be stepping down as treasurer and Nadia will step down as secretary. Kristie in discussion to take on the role	AA/KH/LF



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	of treasurer, and Lauren has offered to be secretary. Aimee will remain as chair for another year. Thank you!	
5	Chocolate bingo	
	Next Friday, 27 th March, 3.30pm to 5.15pm. Kids come to school in mufti and bring a chocolate item in the morning (as a donation for the bingo prizes), as in previous years. Mrs Bates will be bingo caller. FoDS to do refreshments (Nadia to do sandwiches and Aimee/Amy and Liv fruit and biscuits). Aimee to send reminder email to office to go out to all parents/carers to book on Scopay and to remind all that children must be accompanied by an adult. Aimee to get bingo books from Kirsty. Amy and Liv to organise chocolate prizes for lines and games on the day in Aimee's absence.	EC/CB/AA/OA/AG/NH
6	Disco	
	DJ Krazy Kimmy confirmed for Monday, 27 th April. KS1 straight after school (3.30pm to 4.15pm) and KS2 after (4.30pm to 5.30pm). KS2 may either go home to change first or stay at Ditchheat Extra. FoDS to arrange juice and biscuits as last year. Parent volunteers needed. School to sell tickets on Scopay (£5 proposed by Mrs Cosser and agreed by FoDS). Sam to do poster.	EC/SW
7	Longleat trip	
	Whole school trip planned for Tuesday, 19 th May to Longleat. 2 coaches @ £710 and cost of Longleat £875 for 90 children (to include staff and parent volunteers). Parent volunteers will be requested by school. Agreed to add on tour guide for each coach onsite @ £100 per coach. Kirsty to pay direct. Additionally, as part of 'Animal Week' in November (next academic year), Mrs Cosser has booked a visit by Longleat staff to school on Tuesday, 10 th November @ £245 for the whole day to include every class. Also discussed a vet talk, falconry visit and Twinnies petting farm coming in as part of the week. To follow up.	EC/KS
8	Coffee morning	
	As part of the late Queen's centenary and school's 150 th anniversary celebrations, we will hold a coffee morning on Friday, 26 th June from drop-off to 10:30. Open to school and wider community. Nadia and Kirsty to organise coffee. Nadia to do poster (to go up at village hall and on local community WhatsApp groups). Cake donations will be requested nearer	EC/NH/KS



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	the time. Children will wear Victorian outfits that day. Lots being planned by school for this special anniversary event.	
9	Victorian dance workshop	
	As part of school 'Party Week' (above), Mrs Cosser is proposing a Victorian dance workshop by a company not used before at a cost of £539 for the day. Discussed researching and obtaining other quotes.	EC/NH
10	Circus skills on fete day	
	As part of fete day on Friday, 3 rd July, Mrs Cosser is proposing a circus skills workshop from the same company as above, at a cost of £539 again for the day. Aimee said she would call Wookey Hole to obtain cost/possibility of their circus school coming into school.	EC/AA
11	Alhampton Dog Show	
	Gemma informed us in absentia of the Alhampton Dog Show again this year, being held on Sunday, 28 th June, and that we can have a pitch/table for fundraising. Last year's cake stall was successful (over £250 raised) at what was a great event, so would be good to do again, if there are volunteers. Aimee said she'd put a message out on the WhatsApp group to see if anyone is interested.	AA
12	Year 6 treat and leavers' gift	
	The consensus from Year 6, Mrs Cosser said, was to go to Greenbank (swimming and picnic) on Monday, 20 th July. Mrs Cosser asked Nadia to do cupcakes again (14 pupils). Discussed mugs – Kirsty raised the possibility of using the same company as Christmas cards (can do self portraits!). Leavers' ceremony will be on Wednesday, 22 nd July so need by then.	EC/NH/KS
13	Sports kit / running vests	
	Ongoing discussion regarding suitable running vests for external sporting events in which the school is participating. Suggestion by Mrs Cosser to possibly use her contact for the design and printing but to use Aimee's contact to order the vests (agreed quantity of 25 in both smaller and larger sizes). Aimee and Mrs Cosser to continue the discussion offline and action in order to have kit for future events, e.g., cross country, which has now finished for this academic year.	AA/EC



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14	Recycle bins at Barbers	
	No update from Liv regarding recycle bins at Barbers. Will keep Bag2School arrangement for now. However, no collection on 24 th April, so Nadia to email Emily in the office to ask her to remove it from the weekly planner.	NH
15	Mouse racing fundraiser	
	Mrs Cosser proposed holding a 'mouse racing' event in the village hall to raise funds for the school's Zambian link (and costs associated with flying over a teacher from the school there next year), with support from FoDS. Discussed opening this up to the wider school and village community. Ideally next October/ November (could form part of the school's 'Animal Week' in November). Further discussion to be had.	EC
16	AOB	
	i) Aimee informed Mrs Cosser that FoDS have agreed to having a jar of £1 coins in the office available for staff to use for those pupils who come without money to buy cakes, books, etc., on special event days. ii) Aimee raised the topic of ice-cream Fridays, and said she would put a message on the FoDS WhatsApp group asking for a core of volunteers to run throughout the summer term.	AA