



Friends of Ditchheat School

15-01-2026 – 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), Olivia (Liv) Atkinson, Dee Banbury, Natalie Bullard, Kristie Hughes, Daisy Legg, Andrea Oakwood.

Apologies: Samantha Wilson (Vice-Treasurer), Anna Bishop, Amy Gammell, Lauren Penney, Gemma Travis.

Item		Action
1	Review	
	Big thanks to Daisy and team for the wonderful Wreath Making event last term, which made approx. £250. Thanks too everyone who helped with uniform sorting ready for the sale at the Coffee Morning on Friday, 23 rd January.	
2	Financial update	
	Current balance: £16,328.20. Parentkind subscription paid (£121). Recently bought an additional five Chromebooks, which the children have already started using, plus a trolley (donated old trolley to another school). These in addition to 10 new Chromebooks purchased by the Federation. Kirsty awaiting invoice for the five Chromebooks and trolley.	KS/EC
3	Chocolate bingo	
	Date decided for 27 th March, 3.30pm to 5.15pm. Kids come in mufti and bring chocolate item on morning, as in previous years. Mrs Cosser indicated that Mrs Bates will be bingo caller. FoDS to do refreshments. Aimee to do poster stipulating children to be accompanied by an adult, as last year. School to sell tickets on Scopay (cost TBD). Extra volunteers nearer the time.	EC/AA/NH
4	Quiz	
	Liv proposed running again this great fundraiser and much-enjoyed event, following last May's success (which made over £1,600). Raffle too, as last year (raffle books go home in book bags) – call on local businesses and extend ticket reach beyond school families (local community?). Thinking about where cost savings can be made this year e.g. wine. Entry tickets £5 last year – increase to £7 this year? Raffle tickets again £1 per ticket. Suggested an 'Auction of Promises' too ... Snacks on tables again as before. Genna and Phil very generously donated pizza last year, so will ask again (note to reduce quantity as although a lot was sold, there was a fair amount left over). Speak to Amy regarding raffle licence. Pete to call again (thanks, Pete!). Date suggested either Thursday, 30 th April or 7 th May. Liv will ask for help where needed nearer the time.	OA
5	Disco	
	Usually February but following discussion, suggestion this year for Tuesday, 28 th April. Following meeting however, and availability check with DJ Krazy Kimmy, Elaine has confirmed date of Monday, 27 th April, agreed with FoDS. KS1 straight after school and KS2 after, exact timings TBD. KS2 may either go home to change	EC



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	first or stay at Ditchheat Extra. FoDS to arrange juice and biscuits as last year. Parent volunteers nearer the time. School to sell tickets on Scopay (cost TBD).	
6	Sports kit	
	Pete had offered, following conversation with Kirsty, to ask his designers to arrange some sports kit. Still work in progress. Aimee to speak to Pete. Also, re logos, checking if Pete's designers are recreating full suite for multiple applications, as suggested they would. For now, Aimee discovered lots of (Nicholls branded) hoodies that children could use for sporting events (wash and return). Discussion ensued between Aimee and Elaine regarding exact requirements. To follow up.	AA/EC
7	Bag2School	
	Amy arranged for 26 th January (thank you!). Nadia to draft email for Emily to go out to parents. Donations to reach school by Friday, 23 rd January. Uniform (branded or not) cannot be donated.	AG
8	Table top sale	
	Event suggested for end of May/beginning of June, exact date TBD. Andrea to organise in Caryford Hall (Castle Cary) with Beavers. FoDS to get proceeds and Beavers to get badges! More information and exact requirements from Andrea nearer the time. For now, asking for donations of good-quality, saleable items (can be dropped off at school in designated box near entrance – Andrea to arrange and be responsible for collections).	AO
9	Outside lighting	
	Aimee raised issue of poor visibility when collecting children after regular school hours (clubs or Ditchheat Extra) with no effective outside lighting. Elaine responded that lights need fixing/bulbs replacing; agreed to email caretaker following recent lack of response.	EC/AA
10	Coffee morning	
	Next Friday, 23 rd January. Nadia to arrange (apologies for postponing initial date of Friday, 16 th January – poster already reissued). Any bakes welcome too (thank you for offering, Kirsty!) for sale/pay what you can on the morning. Aimee to manage uniform sales. All parents and carers welcome.	NH/AA
11	'Big ticket' event for kids	
	Aimee to research options and present to Elaine. If this year, possibility after May half-term. Ideally an all-year event as logistically easier from a staffing/schooling	AA/EC



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AOB

perspective (EC). Discussed Longleat (following enjoyable Year 6 end-of-year outing last year and very reasonable cost). More discussion needed.

Kristie raised topic of swimming lessons. Elaine requested further discussion on another occasion. Difficulty in making this a FoDS matter unless all children can participate (must have equal benefit for all). School already provides weekly lessons (in Upton Noble and Bruton outdoor pools) for a short period each summer term, which is already logistically quite difficult given transportation and staffing limitations. Big cost and logistical implications for extending this indoor for the rest of the year using private hire. After school provision supported by FoDS is not a possibility as not all children can benefit. Additionally, many children already participate in lessons arranged by parents out of school.

KH/EC