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**Friend’s of Diptford School Meeting**

**Thursday 15th September 2021**

**Minutes**

1. Present:

Jo Palmer (Chair), Elle Barnes, Roger Knight (Treasurer), Kim Woodley, Jodie Churchward, Amy Lethbridge (Secretary).

1. Apologies:

Sophie Taylor, Lucy Carroll, Cheryl Mathieson.

1. Minutes from previous meeting:

Signed and on WordPress

1. Chair report:

We started off the term with well-attended tidy up and gardening days. Thank you to everyone who came and helped, I think we can be really pleased with the jobs we did. It has been suggested that we have regular days set each month for parents to go in and maintain some areas of the school, which I think is a great idea.

Elle, Kim and I, with a team of helpers, have organised Diptfest for this Friday, although this maybe subject to change due to the weather. We should discuss whether next Friday 24th is a better option.

I have organised for the raft race team to meet on 23rd September to check the raft and do any maintenance required. Kim kindly prepared sponsorship forms for Rachael to send to all parents, which was done at the end of the summer term. However, I’m unsure how many of these we have received back, we will need to chase this up to ensure the fee of £40pp is covered.

Lucy Carrol has been pushing through the planning and building of the lower year canopy and I have a update from her:

**School Canopy**

* I am providing the full package of informat**i**on to the Diocese later this week for approval.  We do not require building permission or planning permission.
* Assuming we get the go ahead, the roof is on 4 weeks' notice.
* The roof will be clear in appearance not coloured to limit the risk of reduced natural light in the Preschool room - there were a number of concerns raised about that and I think rightly so.  The clear roof is also slightly cheaper. and more likely to be approved.
* Quote is around £5-5.5K with contingency factored in.  Roger will be able to provide an update of where we with funds against this target.
* I would hope ground works could start before half term with a view to the roof going on between late Oct and Mid November.

I prepared a schedule of upcoming events at the end of the last meeting which I will keep amending as we go through the year. One of the main changes to the schedule is the Auction of Promises which, due to the Drews family leaving the school, will need to be cancelled unless another parent would like to lead this event.

1. Treasurer report: emailed from roger.

Our cash at bank at 31 August 2021 amounted to GBP 7923. Adjusting for known liabilities at that date, our funds amounted to approximately GBP 6790.

Of this balance, in addition to funds donated or raised specifically for the outdoor covering project (see below) GBP 147 is held for a designated purpose in accordance with grant conditions (library books and the accelerated reader scheme); Jodie has plans to utilise these funds.

In respect of the outdoor covering project, as discussed at our previous meetings, of the above funds we have designated:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brought fwd from playground fund | 1393 |
| On-line quiz | 340 |
| Body Shop grid | 224 |
| Fashion Show proceeds waived | 265 |
| Disposal of sails | 300 |
| Crowdfunder receipts | 87 |
|  | 2609 |

Of these designated funds, we had utilised GBP 237 for the two gazebos and GBP 50 on a structural review of the proposed canopy.

In addition in September we have received film night funds of 149, providing remaining funds of 2471 designated for the outdoor coverings. The budgeted further cost of the canopy is approximately 4950, leaving a shortfall of 2479

Our ‘free’ funds at 31 August 2021 amount to approximately GBP 4321 (est 3700 at time of our previous meeting) boosted by net uniform sales and healthy 100 Club inflows.

I believe that we afford to designate some of these funds to the outdoor cover project, and I suggest that we agree to be prepared to so designate up to GBP 2500 boosting the fund to GBP 4971, just covering the budget for the canopy whilst retaining GBP 1820 in free funds.

We would not wish to reduce our free funds further and consequently assisting with the proposed seating area on the playing field will require further dedicated fund raising efforts. Grant and match funding opportunities are being explored.

Many thanks to everybody who has worked hard to generate these funds.

In addition to this report we discussed an application to Diptford Community fund and the NFU. Roger has applied to the NFU with no luck but her will find the information and ask a parent who may have ties to the NFU to assist with this. Possibly Louise Lethbridge. A Co-op grant has ben applied for and we will hear in October if we have been successful.

1. Fundraising ideas School:

Outdoor seating, covered area, sports equipment and play equipment (for e.g big chess set becoming brittle). Possibility of making a list of items school would like which we could source from local companies ideally then parents could give them to school a “Christmas present” or local businesses may donate.

1. Fundraising ideas:

Raft race 10.10.21 in hand.

Diptfest this Friday – concerns re weather. Bouncy castle at present saying it will be too windy. We will consider cancelling the bouncy castle, decision to be made tomorrow. The company may cancel themselves, not sure if we can get our money back, may have to just move to another day as an after-school treat. We will make the decision tomorrow morning to possibly move the entire event to the following Friday. Plans to bring gazebos, School has 2, Amy has 1, Lucy has 1, Dave has 1 should be enough to cope with a little drizzle.

Diptford Arms – After winter, maybe spring as Covid still causing restrictions at present. The possibility of doing an online pub quiz was briefly mentioned but a face to face event was the preferred option. We will wait and see how government restrictions change in the coming months.

Film day will be Thursday 14th of October, using Jo’s Disney Login, same films we decided on before. Manned by Teachers, Amy will order popcorn and sweets when Jodie gives me number.

Spooky Disco is still on hold due to Devon being an ERA. 4th of October we will know if we are able to do this inside. Penciling in the 4th of November but this will not be advertised until government guidance is known. Hot food ordered in advance and sweets and drinks available plus entry. This fundraising could possibly go towards the paint for the outside of the classrooms.

Regular tidy up days – Dulux has a community fund, Kim has contacted them, you buy a tub of paint and they match it. Waiting to hear. The possibility of the first Saturday of the month for a regular event was discussed. Afternoons deemed better as lots of children have clubs in the mornings. There will be a rota for a lead person, who will have a list of jobs and organize other attendees. It has been commented on by parents that the mud kitchen in small playground is dangerous therefore FODS would like to level this at the bottom and cover with woodchip or similar. Jodie was happy for this to be done. Lots of ideas for jobs around the grounds – wildflower meadow area, there is a company called “Re-wilding” – Elle will contact to see if they will donate seeds. First school tidy will be the 2nd of October.

Christmas cards – Cheryl already talking to school about this, getting designs done in mid-November. Will do tea towels, mugs and coasters.

Christmas craft day to be organized in the future but will go ahead. Possibly decorate lanterns to them use at a carol concert which could be that day after school. This Carol concert could be straight after school to christen the stage. Fods could provide mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate.

A cake raffle once a month, parents to bake so need a Rota, Amy will ask East Allington about the logistics and how much it makes etc. (Must be nut free) Could then put an email out to parents to gauge interest.

1. Next meeting date:

Wednesday 20th October venue to be arranged.

1. A.O.B:

100 club draws done for July and August. Results to be published in the school newsletter.