

# **Friends of Chittlehampton School**

## **Agenda**

### **Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Welcome: Amanda Rowe, Dani White, Wendy Evans, Phil Parsons, Rebecca Mac Mills, Amy Latham**

**Apologies: Annette, Leoni, Sharon Jones, Rebecca Brewer,**

**Firstly the two suggestion forms that had been returned were shared.**

**Amanda stated that parents have suggested that they would like to see the money raised being spent on the school, Mrs Evans discussed some ideas for the money we have raised. She mentioned that the school was in need of some general maintenance repairs such as the front door needs repainting and repairing. In the garden the school needs a new activities bench with whiteboard top, as the current one has broken. Mrs Evans and Mr Parsons both agreed that some new storage boxes and outside play equipment was needed, these could be stored in the shed in the school garden. Mr Parsons mentioned that he wants to repair / repaint the outside playhouse. He estimated £25 on paint, £30 for roofing felt and a small amount for a replacement piece of wood should be enough to repair the playhouse. Mr Parsons and Mrs Evans also requested funds be put towards some rubber matting that could form a pathway from the steps in the playground to the playhouse to enable the children to access the playhouse all year round. Mr Parsons estimated the cost of each rubber mat to be approximately £25. Mrs Evans also suggested that the wall in the playground is very bland and she would like to see it painted, either by the children or get someone 'arty' to maybe paint a memorial or view of Exmoor on the wall.**

**Amanda mentioned that several parents have asked about the possibility of a forest school opportunity within the school. Mrs Evans mentioned that she had looked into the costs of forest school. For a qualified instructor to visit the school it would cost approx. £100 for a two hour session, catering for 15 pupils, or £150 for a full day session for 15 pupils, held within the school grounds. It was agreed that this was too big a commitment and too expensive to be regular sessions, and combining with Filleigh would still pose the same expense as only 15 pupils could be catered for at a time.**

**Rebecca mentioned that she knows a friend who owns some woodland close to the school and that they might be interested in allowing the school to**

occasionally use the woodland for the school children to build dens etc. Rebecca will explore this opportunity further.

Rebecca asked what the situation was with the pony paddock located next to the school playground. Mrs Evans explained that although the paddock is up for sale the school cannot afford to buy it. We discussed the possibility of renting the paddock or using it as a community area. This subject was discussed in depth, and it was decided that as the Cricket Club committee own the land, and the school have been in talks about using the land in previous years without success, we would broach the subject again with the cricket club committee delicately. Amy to investigate further.

We discussed the possibility of sports opportunities for the school. The tennis and netball suggestion from Leoni was discussed. Mrs Evans is going to look into this opportunity further. As the cricket club have come and coached the children in previous years we will approach them about coming into school and holding cricket sessions for the school children, possibly over a 6 week half term during either pe sessions or as an after school club, this would benefit both the school children and also the cricket club in inspiring the children to take up cricket. We also discussed the football team with the same idea and it was agreed that Amy will talk to both the cricket team and football team with regard to this.

We discussed the suggestion of year 6 leavers. Mrs Evans explained that the year 6 leavers get an assembly, a memento from the school and a book / diary each when they leave.

We then looked at the possibility of a regular trip to the gym as with the swimming lessons. Mrs Evans explained that this was difficult due to the cost of the coach to Barnstable to use the gym.

Mr Parsons discussed a proposed trip to the beach with Taw class before the end of the summer term, (cost of coach to be confirmed), Mrs Evans agreed that if we are paying for a coach to the beach then it would be financially beneficial for the whole school to attend the trip.

We then discussed the suggestion of the star gazing tent which was used in school several years ago. Mrs Evans explained that this was part of the KS2 curriculum, which has a 4 year turn over. This means that the topic will be

covered again within the next two years and the star gazing will be part of the subject at that time.

Rebecca MM asked if parents could potentially raise money independently for a specific area, and use the school out of school hours to provide extra curriculum in a chosen area. Mrs Evans stated that any use of the school out of school hours has to be agreed by the school governing body, an application in writing should be made to the governors, and then the governors would make a decision. It would also depend on whether school staff would need to present for insurance / first aid etc.

It was agreed by all that the FOCS are happy to spend some funds on the outside area, and that Mr Parsons and Mrs Evans will look into accurate costs.

We then moved onto the pub quiz on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Amanda stated that we need to organise some teams and book them in with Emily Chair of Filleigh PTA. We need to provide 5 raffle / prizes for the night, and arrive early to help sell raffle tickets.

Amanda stated that the craft resources for the Queens birthday on June 12<sup>th</sup> is all ready, resources have been purchased and the parish council have reimbursed us.

Lastly Dani asked if we could hold another Cricket and Rounders day in June / July as last year. Mrs Evans and Amanda felt that there might not be enough time to organise it as we already have sports day and trips and leavers assembly etc. It was agreed that we would aim to hold the cricket day in September as it is a quieter time of year.

Dani also mentioned that several parents have commented that they feel they do not have enough involvement in the school. Mrs Evans explained that the school hold regular assembly's, invite parents in to look at projects, parents are more than welcome to come in and talk to her with comments / ideas any time, and the PTA have a comments and suggestions box for any fundraising ideas / suggested resources.

Date of next meeting - TBA

Meeting closed.