

FRIENDS OF WEDMORE FIRST SCHOOL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2009



MINUTES

Present:

Anita French	Richard Harris	Mal Johnson	Dae Sasitorn
Cathy Bird	Sue Thomas	Lucy Garrard	Jackie Hipwell
Carol Moreton	Paula Renton	Charolotte Harris	Laura Waters
Bev Keift	Sue Moreman	Tracey West	Vicky Hendry
Jo Keen	Jane Manning	Ali Chetwode	Sarah Rant
Anita Jones	Adrian Warren	Kevin Buck	Paula Gledhill

1. **Apologies**

Sue Ham; Clare Bean; Helen Reeson; Ceri Pearce; Emma Graham-Brown; Charlotte Harris

2. **Minutes of the 2008 AGM for approval**

Anita French welcomed the full committee and asked them to review the minutes from the AGM on 17th September 2008. These were signed by Anita French, as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. **Presentation of Accounts**

As Ceri, the Treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting, the statement of accounts were distributed and Anita French explained that the year Friends raised £8091.16, which was a good result considering it was a financially difficult year.

With £25889 in the bank account, Friends committed £17867 for the provision of additional resources for the school such as a French Teacher (£3000) and Spanish Teacher (£600); ICT Suite refurbishment (£4500); Sports Coaches (£1875) and many other items.

Items that Friends have committed money for the refurbishment of the swimming pool liner (£5000+); Music tuition (£1200); Sports coaching (£1800) and other items, totally £12650. This is solely dependant on what is raised during the coming

year.

4. Chair's Report

Anita French started by explaining that the Friends Committee has charity status and whose aim is to raise money to improve educational facilities, opportunities and resources for Wedmore First School.

I (Anita French) began the year as Co Chair with Richard Keen, but after spring, took over the role fully. I have had a tremendous amount of support from my committee. I would like to extend a big thanks to Ceri Pearce for her work as Treasurer; Cathy Bird and Lesley Williams as Secretary; Richard Keen as Co-Chair and the staff of the school for their help and support.

There were many events that was held throughout the year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people for their commitment and hard work:

The Christmas Craft Fair is a traditional craft fair that Jane Higginbottom organised along with a large team; The Children's' Christmas discos were a big success at the end of the Autumn term;

Ashlea Slater worked hard throughout the year heading up the uniform shop, fun mats project, yellow moon catalogue and bag to school collection; The Christmas presents were organised by Sarah Rant; The winter supper was produced by a great team - thanks to Gabi Bullcock, Tracey West, Ceri Pearce, Jane Higginbottom, Clare Vickery and many others; The Wedmore Street Fair was great fun and gives the school a presence in the local community; The summer fair and bike trials is always a well organised and supported event and a big thanks goes to all the helpers including George Cardale and his group of dads who helped with the bike trials.

Charlotte Harris and her husband Richard, has worked extremely hard applying for grants for the school to raise funds for the building works that has been going on throughout the summer.

The swimming pool would not be useable if it was not for the work that Kevin Buck and Jo Keen has done to keep it chlorinated and clean. Sally Robinson and Sue Morris worked hard taking swimming lessons over the summer and thanks goes to all the parents who have supervised the pool while it was open during the summer holidays.

The year 4 leavers party was well received with a pig roast on offer and thanks goes to Ceri Pearce and her team for running the evening.

Although the year has been busy, it has been enjoyable.

5. Head teacher's Report

Jackie Hipwell started by saying a big thank you for all the hard work to that the committee has done over the year. The children and staff all appreciate the huge effort that was made to raise funds to help the school. All of us (Staff of Wedmore First School) value the funds we have been given to support the enriched curriculum we aim to provide to all of the children. Without this generous support, we would not be able to provide the specialist sports coaching, the French and Spanish lessons, music tuition for Y3 pupils or the forest school training for staff, to name just a few of the areas Friends have supported. These are parts of the curriculum, which many children really enjoy and I can only emphasise our deep appreciation for everyone's hard work and dedication.

6. Governor's Report

Mal Johnson, the Governor's Representative on the Friends committee thanked Friends on behalf of the Governors for all their support and hard work in raising the money they have during the last year.

The School Governors are represented on the Schools Forum, a Countrywide committee dealing with finance implications in schools, which is an important role as budgets are being tightened again next year. We (The Governors) are also represented on the Somerset Governor Strategy Group, which again is important, as we are borderline of having funding cut due to the total amount of children in the school next year. We are in talks with County with regard to the funding for next year and will keep the committee informed of any progress.

As discussed at the previous AGM, the building project was projected to cost £165k, to which we had to raise £40k ourselves. We were successful in doing this through a number of grants that we successfully were awarded. This does leave the finishing off of the changing rooms, corridors. Shortly, a number of parents will lend a hand (and a hammer and paint brush!) decorating and finishing these areas to make them usable.

The Grants committee are working extremely hard to get more money to fund the finishing of the kitchens. We will keep Friends updated as and when we have news. More emphasis needs to be put on the shopping portal linked from the website. We need to send out a clear message to all the parents and their families that any online shopping can be done with the school getting a percentage of the money as donations. A newsletter must go out soon to take advantage of the upcoming Christmas shopping season.

7. Voting of Committee Members

See attached for full details.

8. Any Other Business

A clean and dry home is needed for the popcorn machine and after a little discussion, Jackie Hipwell said that it could be stored in the kitchen extension until work starts on the project.

Sarah Rant would like to organise a coffee morning soon and it was suggested she speaks to Val in the office to make sure it does not clash with any activities that school has organised.

Someone suggested that Friends have their own website, obviously linked through the School site. This is something that can be discussed at the first meeting, but on the whole, it was a good idea.

The School website needs to be revamped to be more dynamic, which may give people more reason to visit the site to using the shopping portals.

The Committee would like it minuted that their special thanks goes to Anita French for her leadership, commitment and hard work throughout the year.

9. Date of next Friends Meeting

Wednesday 7th October 2009 at 8pm at Ceri Pearce's house. Address and map to be sent out with the agenda.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Minutes were prepared by Cathy Bird, 25th September 2009