



Friends of the Mead Meeting Minutes – 25 April 2024

Attendees:

Sara Wright (SW), Charlie Thomas (CT), Lora Grogan (LG), Lucy Rudge (LRu), Matt Grogan (MG), Tom Matthewman (TM), Stuart Hetherington (SH), Cath Newland (CN), Leah Pippard (LP), Georgina Ellse (GE), Sudefeen Coleman (SC), Kathryn Flavell (KF), Kelly Roche (KR), Daniel Jude (DJ), Gemma Wilson (GW), Michelle Coveney (MC)

Apologies:

Claire Cheshire, Rachel Pattison, Charlotte Walters, Liz Steedman, Hetty Maher, Becki Penfold, John Hunt, Alice Grebot, Lucy Renton

1. Welcome & Introduction

- SW introduction and overview of the agenda.
- CT will be stepping down as Co-Chair from September – she is joining the Mead as a TA. Thanks for all her efforts this past year.

2. Open actions

Action	Owner	Start date	Due date	Comments/update
Bike sheds - to investigate options and progress	FoM	27/09/2023	28/02/2024	<p>16/11: Request an update from CCa update to inform whether we need to fund anything for it or if existing shed can be 'made good'.</p> <p>05/12: Cca met with Carlos. Next steps to compare price of fix versus replacing with a new shed.</p> <p>12/12: Carlos to get Nigel Wheeler to cost up materials for a new shed that Carlos and Nigel can build - price to be compared with basis refurb but if feasible, new shed the best option due to size of existing shed and water damage.</p> <p>22/1/24: Quote rec'd from Dani C. Sought refurb cost from Chris Ca to make a comparison.</p> <p>07/02: Quote for refurb works received from Chris Ca. Decision to be made at the next FoM meeting.</p> <p>28/02: Decision made to purchase a new shed, with consideration about an add-on section for FoM equipment,</p>

				costumes, etc. SH to progress. 06/03: Alternative design received, quote to follow 25/04: Quote including extension came in at almost £5k as groundwork needed behind the shed. Agreed to stick with original shed proposal and Mead will make alternative arrangements for storing FoM equipment. The shed can be erected during May half term. CLOSED.
CT to lead on sponsored colour run with support from SW and LRu for other post-Sports Day activities.	CT	28/02/2024	01/04/2024	25/04: Covered in today's agenda. CLOSED.
GW to make enquiries with Edward (school chef) and IFG (school caterers) about providing a catering/BBQ service following Sports Day.	GW	28/02/2024	01/04/2024	15/03: School been in contact with IFG who will set ball rolling on feasibility and costs 25/04: Awaiting costs – imminent.
SH to work with FoM and the school to develop a one-pager to support FoM event organisers, covering what needs to be considered and who the best contact points are.	SH	28/02/2024	01/04/2024	01/03: Reached out to GW/MC for school details 25/04: SH reminder, GW/MC will follow up.

3. Treasurer update

MG gave an overview of what funds we have, what planned spend we have and what incomings we are projecting.

There is £8791.43 in the account at present with more incomings from second hand uniform and cake sales, giving us a healthy £9k approx. Outgoings include movie night, shed, Meadfest, golf day, colour run and end of term event.

4. Upcoming events

SW led a discussion around upcoming events and planning involved, summarised in the below table:

Event(s)	Year group committed if applicable	Discussion if any	Action if any

TERM 3			
Movie night	N/A	All in hand for tomorrow – SW commented that Claire Chattenton had done an amazing job.	
Golf Day	N/A	15 tickets sold so far, with at least another 10 anticipated. FoM reps asked to spread the word.	Action>> FoM reps spread the word re. golf day to push sale of further tickets.
Colour run – following Sports Day	N/A	CT gave an update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayham field hire extended with invoice after the event • Colour pack being organised for 300 approx. participants • All monies received will go to house charities • CT needs to agree way people sign up and get a ticket, plus what the costs should be • Discussion on white t-shirts and whether they should be bought or children to source their own • The team will test the colour packs don't stain Mead PE kit, trainers, etc. • Bar and pop-up van being considered • CT to get a flyer out in the next fortnight confirming details and how to register 	Action>> CT to determine sign-up arrangements for post Sports day event and release a flyer with all the necessary details.
End of term event	N/A	Discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous events have had a DJ but question whether the cost is worthwhile • An entertainer of some sort might be preferable – GW will share details of circus workshop with SW • Alternative to a DJ might be a parent volunteer managing a Spotify playlist 	Action>> GW to share details of circus workshop with SW, with end of term event in mind. Action>>: FoM reps to put a call out for a parent volunteer to manage a Spotify playlist for the end of term event.
Cake sale	Year 5	Date to be confirmed – a Monday towards the end of this half term, or early in the next. Preference to hold outside if weather permits.	Action>> Cake sale date to be confirmed and communicated to parents.
Second hand uniform sale	SC	The next sale will be Tuesday 14 th May. There will be another call out for stock.	Action>> The next second hand uniform sale to be communicated to parents, with a call-out for additional stock.
2024/2025			
Meadfest	N/A	This event will take place on Sunday 15 th September.	Action>> LG to book inflatables for

		<p>Save the date issued in ParentMail. Current year 6 poll indicated that there would be interest in some leavers returning for it. Some have younger siblings that will still be in the Mead.</p> <p>Further discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW to divvy up responsibilities • Theme discussed, such as wild west, circus, future/space – to be considered further • LG update on inflatables - £384 quote from 'Mr Bouncy Castle' for assault course to be booked • SW to design flyer with theme in mind • GW advised SW can obtain new parent contact details from Miss Winter. 	<p>Meadfest following FoM agreement.</p> <p>Action>> SW to decide on theme and design flyer for circulation with details on how to purchase tickets. SW can obtain new starter contact details from Miss Winter.</p>
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5. Funding requests

Trinity performance band:

Further discussion on this request to cover the cost of the band for this year's summer show:

- SW provided background to this request – there have been strong, mixed emotions and differing opinions on this request - due to concerns around the long-term reduction in school funding to the performing arts department.
- The current arrangement remains that this year, as a one-off, FoM will cover 50% of the costs of the band, with the Mead covering the other 50%.
- MC will obtain final costs from Mr Harley for the cost of the band for this year's summer performance, expected to be in region of £2k.
- FoM don't want to set a precedent by agreeing to this and will look at requests for funding in future years on a case-by-case basis. We would kindly ask that for items that have been a core school offering in the past, that school don't use FoM to plug a cost saving gap but continue to use our funds to provide 'over and above' what the school already offers. FoM have funded elements of the Summer show in the past e.g. Make up, Mics and 'The Plant' - these were not seen as "plugging a cost saving gap" and we would hope that this could continue where appropriate in the future.
- GW urged any parent with concerns around Wishford budgets for performing arts and other areas to speak directly with both her and Mrs Openshaw to quash rumours, some of them inaccurate. GW and MC will raise at school SLT.

Action>> GW/MC to raise school budgets with SLT, citing funding arrangement for this year's summer show.

Judo mats:

GW stated she would not be submitting a funding request now that a loan arrangement has been made with the new judo teacher, who the school have formed a good working partnership with.

Crossways:

This is a transition session for year 6 students that FoM are happy to continue to support.

Girl's football equipment:

SC has observed that the Mead are one of the only schools that don't provide girls with goalkeeping gloves, kit bag, etc. GW acknowledged that this could largely be due to girls' football being relatively new to the school curriculum. Football boots were also discussed, and it was suggested these are added to the second hand uniform sale, which was widely accepted. SC will meet with Mr Westwell to discuss this further ahead of making a funding request.

Action>> SC to meet with Mr Westwell and discuss girls' football kit ahead of putting in a funding request.

6. AoB

Team building activity:

LG raised circus and skipping workshops that FoM have supported historically but hasn't seen any requests for this year. GW commented that these normally came in at between £500 and £700. GW will put together a funding request, acknowledging this would likely be for the next academic year, but could serve as a team building activity.

Action>> GW to research into a team building activity for the start of the next academic year and raise a funding request.

Christmas Panto:

The school didn't manage to do this last year due to date conflicts, but options to be looked at for this calendar year now dates are being released.

Action>> SW to look at Christmas panto dates and start to make arrangements with the school if feasible.

[Meeting closed – the next FoM meeting will be held on Thursday 6th June]