



Friends of the Mead Meeting Minutes – 26th February 2025

Attendees:

Sara Wright (SW), Danni Leydon (DL), Lora Grogan (LG), Tom Matthewman (TM), Stuart Hetherington (SH), Tessa Duff (TD), Leonie Apte (LA), Emily Thain (ET), Kathryn Flavell (KF), Jess Tadmor (JT), Emily Seddon (ES), Sarah Morley (SM), Zoe Freeman (ZF), Claire Chattenton (CC), Jennifer Lui (JL), Charlotte Beer (CB), Michelle Coveney (MC), Gemma Wilson (GW)

Apologies:

Matt Grogan, Lucy Rudge, Sudefeen Colman (SC)

1. Welcome & Introduction

- Introductions were made by SW

2. Open actions

Action	Owner	Start date	Due date	Comments/update
MG formally handover treasurer responsibilities to TM	MG	27/09/2023	26/02/2025	14/11: MG chasing Lloyds for them to update bank details to add SW and TM. 15/01: MG confirmed SW, TM and he will attend in person given lack of success in doing this remotely 26/02: Handover complete. Agreed this can be closed.
MC to share FoM event school one-pagers, to be combined with the ones SW/FoM are preparing.	MC	27/09/2023	14/11/2024	14/11: Mrs Openshaw noted this action remains open. 10/01: MC shared first draft which FoM agreed meets the brief well. 15/01: SH to share more widely for any feedback with eagerness to get this out there and put to good use for upcoming events. 26/02: No further feedback, adding value, can iterated as we go. Agreed this can be closed.

Parents (Reps) to put forward any funding requests as appropriate	Reps	14/11/2024	26/02/2025	18/11: Author idea visit World Book Day being followed up with school by KS 15/01: Keep action open for further ideas. SH to follow-up with Katie re. author visit idea 26/02: Agreed this can now be closed.
Seek parent input on what they're preferred Meadfest date would be – September (start of academic year) or May/June (end of academic year).	SH	15/01/2025	26/02/2025	10/02: Results in and showed a slight favour for end of year, with a large majority having no preference 26/02: Feedback shared and agreed to close.
Call-out for willing volunteers to organise a Winter Ball, taking onus off FoM.	SH	15/01/2025	26/02/2025	26/02: CC still happy to take on ball and get a few people to help. See upcoming events for further discussion. Agreed to close.
FoM to make a decision around Meadfest date and feasibility of holding a Winter Ball at the February meeting, subject to the conclusion of the corresponding actions.	FoM	15/01/2025	26/02/2025	26/02: Covered in above two actions. Agreed to close.
DL and SW discuss Art/Murals proposal further with GW and the school with a view to bringing a proposal back to FoM in February for further discussion	DL/SW	15/01/2025	26/02/2025	26/02: See funding requests for further discussion points. Agreed to close.
Funding request ideas to be costed up and discussed with the school for feasibility where relevant, for example "vegetable patch" idea, ahead of discussing at a future FoM meeting for consideration	All	15/01/2025	26/02/2025	26/02: Vegetable patch idea parked as area not suitable. Agreed to close.
DL and SW to discuss a practical alternative to the panto that FoM could fund ahead of bringing it back to the school for consideration	DL/SW	15/01/2025	26/02/2025	26/02: Idea prepared – see upcoming events for further discussion. Agreed to close.
Call-out to parents wishing to join the FoM committee as Secretary or other roles	SH	15/01/2025	26/02/2025	17/01: SH reached out to Reps 10/02: Reminder sent 26/02: SH made another plea for volunteers. KF suggested preparing a job spec which SH agreed he could share with a parentmail to go out to all parents. Committee urged to think of anyone that could be persuaded in the meantime.

3. Treasurer update

TM gave an overview of funds – the current balance in the account is £5,378.65 with hamper money (£1,000 approx.) still to collect. FoM have paid the school £1,525.78 which was for

Playtime Games Session, Living Eggs, the Play Table and Construction Blocks. There was a discount as the school could claim some of the VAT and there was also a parent donation of £52.88. Our current total includes funds from the golf tickets to date, less what needs to be paid back to Nevill GC.

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 2			
Quiz Night	Y2 with Ben Rudge and Richard Chesebrough as hosts	Saturday 8 th March – free event Flyer circulated and sold out. Event form completed and returned to school. Everything in hand.	
Bake sale	Pre-Rec	Date to be agreed with the school – previously discussed it being held after the clocks change when it's lighter (and hopefully warmer).	Action >> Next bake sale date to be agreed with the school
Second hand uniform sale	SC	Sudefeen advised offline that the next sale would be on Tuesday 11 th March, subject to being confirmed with the school (MC). <i>Confirmed with school after the meeting.</i>	
Easter end of term event	Y1	KF leading and seeking volunteers – LR offered her support previously, and SM has already indicated she would be Easter Bunny again. Recommended KF liaise with Hetty Maher who coordinated last year. Discussion points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting sticks • Dietary requirements to be obtained early on • Easter bonnet competition – pros and cons • Alert teachers so they know what to expect and space can be provisioned 	
TERM 3			
Movie Night	CC et al	Friday 25 th April confirmed – CC will lead with volunteer help. Discussion around film choices – CC to find out from GW when the next school council is so it can be put to the vote, ensuring it's on MC's list of appropriate films. SW will then make ticket sales active on FoM website.	Action>> CC to liaise with school regards Movie Night film choices so the school council can vote. SW to arrange ticket sales once confirmed.

		LA/ZF offered their help organising the separate screening for the younger children on the same day.	
FoM Golf Day	N/A	Friday 6 th June, tickets on sale, with 14+ sold already.	
Sports Day colour run	Y4 + Charlie Thomas	Not discussed today.	
NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR			
School Disco	TBC	A new idea put forward to compensate for potentially not having a disco before the Mead breaks up for Christmas if the panto goes ahead. This could maybe be a September event when the new school year begins. GW will raise with school council.	Action>> GW to raise the idea of a school disco with the school council.
Winter Ball	CC et al	CC still happy to organise to take onus off FoM who will be organising the Christmas Fayre at the same time of year. Date and venue options discussed. CC will liaise with those who have helped organise the event in the past. SW and CC will pick up offline.	
Christmas Fayre	FoM	SW reiterated the need to get a good number of volunteers to help make this a success again. Feedback was to get a date out earlier due to other competing commitments over this time period.	
Christmas Panto	FoM	Charlie Thomas has made some enquiries with a touring panto company and GW indicated that the school could hire the hall at the King Martyr for two sittings (EYFS 1 & 2) – this could potentially take place on the last morning of term, with end of term events taking place onsite at school in parallel. GW to raise with school council.	Action>> GW raise Christmas Panto proposal with school council for thoughts and feedback.
Meadfest 2026	FoM	Feedback from school years around preferred date shared and considered. May was preferred to September as felt it gave time for new joiners to get to know Mead families rather than coming in cold at the start of the academic year. A May date was also preferable to FoM from a planning perspective. FoM to work with the school around suitable date – consider if one of the Bank Holidays might be suitable, and Saturday more desirable than a Sunday.	Action >> FoM and MC to consider possible Meadfest dates for the next academic school year.

5. Funding requests

World book day

- Mrs Hogg proposed some funding for prizes – FoM approve

Fluorescent vests

- FoM to find out costs for proposal of fluorescent vests to help with evening crossings

Art/Murals

- DL put idea forward with school and settled with GW on replacing the caterpillar wall. Neutral colours with a music and water-play theme, and in liaison with Pre-Reception teachers. Costings at £500 approx.
- Everyone on board so next step is for DL to speak with Carlos about next steps.

Crossways (school transition)

- FoM have agreed to fund this as usual.

Plastic blocks

- MC confirmed these have arrived and playground markings under consideration.

6. Fund matching

SH was approached by a Y5 parent and having discussed with core FoM committee was an initiative they were keen to capitalise on.

DL gave an overview – if an employee raises money for a particular charity event, their company will match 1:1 the money they raise (once per year). So if that employee volunteers to help at Meadfest or the Christmas Fayre for example, we can potentially double the proceeds, after the event.

CC expressed caution around fund matching for private schools, but it would be at the company's discretion. LG also spoke about the risk of going above the £25k threshold but SW countered that FoM could make more events free or at least subsidise more.

Decision – FoM to ascertain where fund matching a possibility when calling out for volunteer help from parents.

7. AoB

None

[Meeting closed]