

Friends of Windsor Clive meeting - 13th October 2025

Ceri-Ann was once again nominated to be the Chairperson as she is able to be a liaison between school, us and the parent council group. It was requested by everyone that Sara stay on as treasurer as she is in a finance role at work. Beth has agreed to continue to be the secretary and take notes during the meetings. They will then be typed up for Ceri-Ann to publish on the school website for clarity and accountability. Members will remain anonymous on the website minutes, except those in roles as stated above.

Membership - we have lost a lot of members due to their children leaving our school now (last year's Year 6s) meaning that there are very few of us left. This is something we need to look at this academic year. Most of the members we do have, no longer have children here at school so it was deemed more appropriate for us to be called a 'Friends of' group going forward. However, changing the bank account name will become complicated so that will remain as it stands. We can also explore the timings of the meetings again once we have new members so that more staff can be involved. Many staff have lots of really good fundraising ideas but are unable to join due to meetings taking place during the school day but previous members were unable to attend after school. Ceri-Ann will continue to get ideas and feedback from staff for now.

General feedback from last year was that the Summer Fayre went well. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it seemed busier than the previous year. We were lucky with the weather again and the sunshine meant that we were able to bring the stocks back out as a few people asked about the year before. It can be difficult to get staff to volunteer for the stocks but we had several TAs willing to take part this year. One of the TAs taking part requested to sit on a chair and have sponges thrown at her as she would find standing in the stocks physically difficult. Families seemed more than happy to throw wet sponges at her so this should definitely be an option for next year. Rather than the stocks, just soak a staff member.

We made just under £300 profit from the event. This is double last year's, which is amazing! It was agreed before the fayre that any profits would be spent replenishing the supplies that we use to provide refreshments for activities across the school. As we made more than expected, it was agreed for this to be put aside to continue to provide food hampers for families in crisis. There was a discussion around not only the stigma of using FoodBanks, and how we can help reduce that, but many of our families have children who are incredibly picky eaters who will refuse to eat if it's not their 'usual'. Providing money this way means that families are able to work with school to produce a list of items they know their children will eat. It was mentioned that families are worried about their children coming in to school disclosing that they've not eaten. Members were reassured that staff treat these cases sensitively and families are always offered support discreetly.

It was asked at the recent parent council meeting if we were able to run a Halloween disco again this year. This has previously been a really good fundraiser. Ceri-Ann has already got the go ahead from Mrs Clee if we decide to organise one. Members are happy for this to take place again this year and are willing to help out with preparations. It was agreed for the price to stay at £5 per ticket and for us to do snack packs again. Staff requested that we not give the children lollies as they were running around with the sticks in their mouths last year and this could be dangerous. It was agreed to buy chocolate Halloween coins instead. Ceri-Ann also asked members to vote on using the profits from this to purchase a new defibrillator battery pack for school. They are around £150. They have expiry dates on them, so although ours hasn't been used (luckily!) it is due to expire in January and therefore shouldn't be used. Members all agreed that this is a vital piece of equipment that needs to be in good working order and are happy for funds to go towards this. One member requested that the old one be kept for training purposes. The battery pack also has the pads attached to it as one unit so this may be useful. Ceri-Ann shared the minutes from the recent parent council meeting with members and brought attention to the request for funds to provide festive arts and crafts supplies for family after school sessions. Members agreed that a maximum of £50 could be allocated towards this. Parent council members can make a shopping list and order items more cheaply from online shops such as Shein as we have plenty of time to get them shipped.

Members would like to get started earlier on the Christmas fayre preparations this year as another local school has already put a donation request post in the local social media group. They would also like to do the parent gift stall again this year and would like Ceri-Ann to start collecting donations. Ceri-Ann will speak to staff about this. Ceri-Ann will also write a donation request letter that members have offered to take around local businesses to collect donations towards the Christmas raffle/fayre.

Date of next meeting: 5th November 2025, 2pm in the Family Room