

## Minutes of Cheney Friends AGM, Tuesday 28th November 2017

Present:

- Sue Harmer (Chair)
- Priscilla Goldby (Treasurer)
- Kirsten Burrell (Minutes)
- Marie-Alice Frappat
- Olivia Goodrich
- Gabrielle Lees
- Tamasin Lillwall
- Louise Marsh (staff)
- Damian Niland
- Louise Niland
- Emma Plugge
- Hannah Rea
- Richard Stamper
- Claire Stevenson

### Apologies

Sheila Macdonald, Ben Pincher, Alison White

### Agreement of Minutes of 201 AGM

Action points from the minutes of last year's AGM were reviewed as follows:

- Non-uniform day in aid of Cheney Friends: this did not prove possible this year. Carried forward.
- Money raised at Quiz Night for Sixth Form space: following changes in allocation of space, discussions on how best to use these funds are ongoing. Carried forward.
- Timings of Cheney Friends meetings: days on which meetings are scheduled are varied throughout the year to enable more people to attend.
- Yahoo group: there have been some incoming members for 2017 but some issues in signing up are still being experienced and it doesn't seem popular. There was a suggestion that new parents are automatically enrolled (so they have to opt out, rather than opt in). This might not be possible in Yahoo but there may be alternative systems that could accommodate this. Louise Marsh (LM) suggested that the Communications team may have some suggestions. It was asked whether the school could put out a communication encouraging people to join. Action: LM to discuss with Communications team. Carried forward.

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting on 30 November 2016 were agreed as an accurate record.

### Chair's report

SH gave an overview of Cheney Friends' functions, thanked Louise Marsh (staff link) and Richard Stamper (parent governor) for their involvement and welcomed Rupert Moreton as the new headteacher.

Cheney Friends communicates via the Yahoo group, leaflets, the Cheney newsletter, webpage (to be developed further) and has recently joined Twitter. Facebook is also being considered. SH thanked Marie-Laure Foisneau-Bates and Vicky Henderson for their help with communications at school.

Activities organised or supported by Cheney Friends from September 2016 to September 2017 included:

- School concerts
- 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'
- Sports Award Evening.
- Quiz Night – thanks to Claire Hamnett and Nick Field
- Cricket match (which sadly had to be cancelled at the last minute) – thanks to Emma Plugge and James Porter.

- Open Evenings and Transition Evenings

Thanks were extended to Rupert, Jolie and the SLT, the governors especially Richard), the school community, the Communications team, Sue Warland in reception, the site staff and everyone on the Cheney Friends committee (Priscilla, Emma, Kirsten, Tamasin, Claire).

### **Finance Report**

Balance increased from ~£1566 to ~£1645

Total income: £1436

Total expenditure: £1357 of which £591 went in donations directly to the school.

Almost all the income this year came from selling refreshments at school events: Quiz Night, school music and drama shows, Sports Awards evening. Two donations were made to the school: the proceeds of the Christmas show went to the Music department for their tour (summer 2018) and ten Year 11 prom tickets given as prizes. There is still £300 from the 2015 Quiz Night earmarked for the Sixth Form, use of which is still under discussion following changes to Sixth Form facilities since the completion of the Brighthouse building.

Easyfundraising brought in £55 this year – thanks were given to all parents who have signed up and raised money in this way while shopping.

Projects for future funding are to be identified, including a ‘wish list’ supplied by the school, some of which can be supported by funds currently in the bank and others by applying to grant-giving bodies.

The accounts for 2016-2017 were agreed. Thanks to Gillian Robinson for auditing. Gillian was appointed to serve as auditor for the following year.

### **Appointment of Committee Members**

Sue Harmer: nominated and seconded as Chair

Priscilla Goldby: nominated and seconded as Treasurer

Kirsten Burrell: nominated and seconded as Secretary

Tamasin Lilwall

Emma Plugge (until end of summer term)

Louise Rea

Ben Pinches

Richard Stamper

Claire Stevenson

It was noted that Sue, Priscilla, Kirsten and Emma are all Sixth Form parents and will continue in their posts for one year only. It is assumed that Claire Ridley has stepped down – Sue Harmer to confirm.

### **AOB**

#### School update

Louise Marsh and Richard Stamper gave an update on changes at the school:

The new head is Rupert Moreton. Jolie Kirby has moved to an over-arching role with the Academy Trust with Bayards now contributing a larger percentage of her salary than Cheney. The Senior Leadership team (SLT) has been re-aligned, with an injection of fresh blood but still retaining continuity for longevity. Deputy heads are Louise Marsh (teaching and learning), Sue Smith (pastoral) and Hugh Nelson. Assistant heads are Charlotte Broome and Steve Palmer. It was pleasing to report that morale had gone up and staff absence rates had decreased.

Exam results for 2017 were good, with GCSE rates having shot up. A Levels were less sparkling. There is a group of high achievers but these mask some who don't do as well as they could. There is a Sixth Form review being undertaken at the moment.

There are three new governors this term and some good hands-on involvement and regular school visits. Each governor is linked with two members of staff in a particular area (eg KS4 progress).

There are 270 students in the current Year 7. The numbers have increased because the County Council provided some funding for the new Science block and Cheney agreed to fund an extra class in return. There is a bulge in numbers due in a couple of years – more than current schools can cope with.

#### Careers evening

Tamasin Lilwall (TL) suggested a Careers evening (like that at Oxford High) where parents from different professions give an overview of their role/industry in order for students to discover more about work opportunities they may never have thought about or even heard of and give those who have a clear idea of what they want to do the chance to meet people who do that work. **Action:** TL to take forward with school.

#### Notification of Cheney Friends meetings

There was a request for reminders to be sent about Cheney Friends meetings on the day of the meeting itself. While on some occasions this may not always be feasible, notifications ahead of time and reminders can be accessed in a number of ways: communicated via the Yahoo group, Cheney Friends webpage, Minutes (also on the webpage and sent via Yahoo) and Cheney Newsletter. Reminders will also be sent via the Cheney Friends Twitter feed in future.

#### **Next meeting**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.15pm in the school library