

## Minutes from the Meeting of Cheney Friends

held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019

in the School Library

**Present:** Rupert Moreton (Headteacher), Claire Stevenson (Secretary), Gill Wilkins (Treasurer), Olivia Goodrich, Uniz Manda-Liu, Kirsten Burrell, Louise Niland, Damian Niland, Jen Henderson, Adi Kremnizer

### Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Louise Marsh, Priscilla Goldby, Sue Harmer, Tamasin Lilwall and Jenny McIntyre.

### Updates from the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

**Kayaking:** This is now going ahead on Saturday afternoons for the Cheney Falcon Kayaking Club.

**Futsal:** A lunchtime club for KS4 and KS5 is planned for next year.

**Sixth Form Garden:** This is a small patio area next to “Pam’s Hatch”, where there are benches and a new water fountain has just been installed. Items such as a trellis and potted plants are needed to make it a more pleasant place to sit. The Student Leadership Team has recently been renewed, and the Year 12 members have plans to improve the Sixth Form spaces, both inside and out. The Co-op has a Local Community Fund, which Cheney Friends could apply for in order to renovate the garden area. Applications for this fund must be sent in by 16<sup>th</sup> June, and Olivia offered to fill out the necessary paperwork. **Action point** – Olivia to apply to this funding scheme for the Sixth Form garden.

**Art Auction:** Uniz Manda-Liu suggested creating a team to discuss the proposed auction and to concretise plans for this before speaking to Ms Cox. Olivia volunteered to be part of this group and suggested one or two other parents who might be interested too. **Action point** – Uniz to arrange a meeting of this group.

**Call for secondhand uniform:** We need to put out another call, especially to Year 11s who will be leaving soon. The Year 11 Leavers’ Assembly is on 14<sup>th</sup> June. **Action point** – Claire to circulate the Call for Uniform Donations via Cheney Communications.

### **Changes to the minutes from the last meeting:**

Page 3, point 4: Cheney’s energy consultant also looks at energy-saving measures such as double glazing.

Same paragraph: Cheney has already benefitted from Salix funding in the past.

**Action point** – Claire to update the minutes from the last meeting.

**Easyfundraising:** Gill mentioned that Easyfundraising often runs promotional offers which have a very short time delay. It would be good if these could be announced quickly via Cheney's social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.). Jen Henderson confirmed that these announcements can be sent directly to [communications@cheney.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:communications@cheney.oxon.sch.uk)

**Environmental matters:**

- It was understood that Alison Grunewald has been in contact with some organisations about possible funding for water fountains.

- Sue Harmer has applied to the Doris Field Fund for money towards water fountains as well. In the future, even more water refill points will be needed at the school, as all students will be encouraged to have a reusable water bottle. These bottles will be included on the Equipment List for the upcoming Year 7s.

**Open Agenda**

1) Finance report

The last uniform sale (at the Year 10 Parents' Evening on 2<sup>nd</sup> May) raised £24.50, mainly from the sale of cakes! It was noted that the school had also provided cakes during that Parents' Evening, and it was suggested that Cheney Friends should contact Cheney Communications ahead of such events, in order to co-ordinate any food/drink on offer.

So far this year (2018-19), uniform sales have raised £454.30. It was agreed that this sum, plus the profits from the uniform sale during the forthcoming Transition Evening for the upcoming Year 7s, will be given to the Environmental Impact Team towards the water fountains. The EI Team needs to raise £1500 for these, and has already made £667 from the last non-uniform day.

2) The Rumble Museum will be organising a "Festival of the Future" in March 2020, and has asked Cheney Friends to sell refreshments during this event.

3) Cheney will have a full school in September 2019, with around 60 children on the waiting list for Year 7!

4) The Call for Donations for the Diversity Mural has raised nearly £4,000 so far, with £5,000 needed in total. The "Helping Hands" programme, run by Wilko stores, was mentioned, as this could provide items from its stores (such as paint, household and garden items, plus products to be used as raffle prizes) for charitable projects within the local community. This scheme could perhaps be approached about paint for the mural. "Community Repaint" was mentioned as another possible source of free paint. **Action point** – Claire to send details of the "Helping Hands" programme to Cheney Communications.

5) Mindfulness: Sue Harmer had passed on a request from Susie Stead (former Cheney parent and PTA Chair), regarding a "Mindfulness for Parents" course she was proposing. Claire read out the message from Sue, in which she quoted an email from Susie Stead, as follows: *"We didn't get enough people to run a course at the community hall in the spring but I'm still*

*keen to offer a mindfulness for parents course. I wondered if I could come to a PTA meeting and perhaps do a short taster session? Also I'd like to speak with parents and find out what would work for them and adapt time and material to fit what are very busy lives!"*

A couple of parents present had heard about the course proposed last autumn, but had thought it expensive. Rupert Moreton remarked that the school would not be interested in hosting this course, if it was a 'commercial venture'. **Action point** – Claire to transmit the reply to Sue, to be passed onto Susie Stead.

6) Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Various problems were highlighted by parents, with children of different ages, as follows:-

i) A Year 13 student has completed all the hours required, but her work towards the award has not been signed off by the school, as she has been told she needs 'physical evidence' of the work done. However, all the hours completed are filled in online, so there isn't any paperwork!

ii) The current Year 12s have still not received a proper induction to the DofE, so don't know how or where to formally register the hours they have completed.

iii) Many students – across the years – still haven't received certificates for DofE awards completed up to 2 or 3 years ago.

Rupert Moreton confirmed that Shane Clark and Miranda Giles are the Cheney staff currently responsible for the DofE award schemes, and emailed Shane Clark during the meeting about the various problems raised. A parent suggested that parents/carers could perhaps help with the DofE award scheme, where appropriate – with the administration or the expeditions, for example. **Action point** – The school to transmit any reply from Shane Clark to the parents concerned.

### **Update on Environmental Matters**

- The two new water fountains have been installed, but more will be needed as the school tries to phase out single-use plastic bottles.

- Recycling: Oxford Direct Services (part of the City Council) came in recently to give assemblies on recycling to Years 7 to 10. Cheney students are getting better at putting the correct items in the right bins! Some of the current rubbish bins on site will be reused for recycling, and decorated to show the items which should go in them.

- 30 Days Wild: This is a national initiative running at the moment, encouraging everyone to interact more with nature. In Tutor Time across the next few weeks, students will be encouraged to think about wildlife (plants, animals, insects) in relation to Cheney, and to come up with ideas to get closer to nature. Mr Bampton is co-ordinating this.

- Louise Marsh is keen for staff to spend some time on Inset Days thinking about environmental issues and ways to improve practices at Cheney. For example, some

departments are photocopying too much, and the number of copies produced could perhaps be included in the plan of work for teachers.

- There is a student Environmental Group set up by Mr Lea (Geography teacher), which is an extra-curricular lunchtime club. The group takes part in various small environmental projects around the school. It was felt that this club should be promoted to all students.

- Kim Polgreen had passed on information about the Summer School run by the Environmental Change Unit, which is offering some places at a very reduced price to Cheney students. She is also hoping to set up a Climate Club in Oxford in September 2019, for students from all local schools.

- Bike fixing workshops: Cyclo Analysts (a local bike shop which also carries out repairs) has been into school to fix staff bikes, and it was suggested that they could also organise bike fixing workshops for students. It was mentioned that another local company, Broken Spoke Bike Co-op, also does this (but not free of charge).

- The crisp packets collected in school (and also brought in from home) have been posted off to Terracycle, which recycles them.

- Oxford City Council's Recycling Team will be coming in soon to advise on recycling, by emptying the school's main landfill bin in order to see where improvements can be made. They will then return to school some months later, to see if the recycling rate has improved.

- The possibility of having a Food Audit carried out in the canteen was mentioned at the previous meeting, but it was subsequently found that this would cost approximately £400. The school could have a wildlife audit as well (also with a cost to it). Oxford Brookes University can carry out Environmental Audits, but each institution studied has to show why it would be a good subject for the audit.

- There is a proposal to plant a hedge along the school's boundary with Gipsy Lane. Saplings can be obtained free of charge from the Woodland Trust, for which no planning permission is required. There is concern that there would be a maintenance cost attached to this hedge. However, it was suggested that it could be the object of hedging courses for horticultural students (for example, from Waterperry Gardens, the Wildlife Trust or the RHS).

### **Organisation of help with school events during June and July 2019**

**Tuesday 25th June:** Transition Evening for the upcoming Year 7s and their families. There will be talks for the families in the Assembly Hall at 5.30pm and 6.20pm. Rupert Moreton forwarded a Google Slide about Cheney Friends, which was produced for a similar meeting in the past. **Action point** – Claire to update this slide and return it to Cheney Communications.

Volunteers will be needed from around 5.00pm to set up and run a secondhand uniform stall, hand out flyers & magazines, and chat to new families.

**Wednesday 26th June:** Refreshments for Sports Awards Evening from 6.00pm onwards. Volunteers will be needed to run the stall, and a drinks licence will be required.

**Thursday 27th June:** Refreshments for the Summer Drama Show. Set-up will be from around 5.30pm, and volunteers and a drinks licence will be required.

**Thursday 4th July:** “A Night at Glastonbury” Music Show. There will be a variety of stalls, and Cheney Friends will provide more ‘elaborate’ refreshments. The idea is to create a festival feeling, and ideas for food include strawberries and cream, churros, samosas and falafel wraps. A lot of volunteers, and a drinks licence, will be needed, and the stalls will be open from 5.30pm.

**Action point** – Claire to circulate a Doodle poll to ask for volunteers to help with all the above events.

**Action point** – Olivia to apply for drinks licences for the three events with refreshments.

**Friday 5th July (To be confirmed):** Staff vs Parents Cricket Match. Having been held at Oriol College’s sports ground off Cowley Road for many years, this match will now take place at Cheney (if it goes ahead). The fixture is uncertain as, whilst Cheney staff are still keen to play, the previous co-ordinators of the parents’ team no longer have children at the school, and there is no parents’ team at the moment. **Action point** – A call for players, and a parents’ team co-ordinator, to be circulated by Cheney Communications.

### **Next meeting**

A social event could perhaps be arranged in July, to celebrate the end of the school year.

The next Cheney Friends meeting should be held around the third week of September.

**Action point** – Claire to suggest a few dates via a Doodle poll.

### **Swap Shop**

An informal discussion took place at the end of the meeting, on the subject of “throwaway fashion”, and the importance of getting young people to think about this. A clothes swap shop for students was suggested, whereby students bring in one (or more) good quality item(s) to swap, and receive a token/coupon in return, which they can swap for another item of clothing. This is a good way to get different clothes, without a cost to the environment. Any clothes left over at the end could be passed onto the DT department for upcycling. A similar event could perhaps be organised separately for parents, with a small admission fee and refreshments on sale. **Action point** – Claire to add this to the agenda of the September meeting, for general discussion.

### **Summary of Action Points**

- Olivia to apply to the Co-op's Local Community Fund for the Sixth Form garden.
- Uniz to arrange a meeting of the group working on the Art Auction.
- Claire to circulate the Call for Uniform Donations via Cheney Communications.
- Claire to update the minutes from the last meeting.
- Claire to send details of Wilko's "Helping Hands" programme to Cheney Communications.
- Claire to transmit the response about the Mindfulness course to Sue, to be passed onto Susie Stead.
- Any reply from Shane Clark to be passed on to the parents concerned.
- Claire to update the Google slide about the PTA, and return it to Cheney Communications.
- Claire to circulate a Doodle poll to ask for volunteers to help with the events in June and July.
- Olivia to apply for drinks licences to cover the three events requiring refreshments.
- Cheney Communications to circulate a call for cricket players and a parents' team co-ordinator.
- Claire to suggest some dates for the September meeting via a Doodle poll.
- Claire to add the Swap Shop idea to the agenda of the September meeting.