



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the year 2025/26

Tuesday June 2nd 2026

7.30pm

The Punch House, Monmouth

1. Welcome from Emily Ryder, Vice Chair.
 1. Present – Emily Ryder (Vice Chair), Ruth Brown, Tess Deighton, Will Warburg, Helen Warburg, Ali Almond, Su Madurasinghe (interim Secretary), Mark Rampton-Carter (Treasurer) and Sally Chilton
2. Apologies received from Abbe Opher (Chair), Leanne Wakerley (Secretary), Becky Stoddard, Noni North and Hari Fell.
3. Approval of minutes of last AGM – approved by general consent.
4. Annual Chair's Report – presented by Emily. The group reflected on how much we had achieved in the year given the changes to our committee. The full report is attached below.

Report approved by general consent.
5. Annual Financial Report – presented by Mark. We are in a sound financial position and have made significant contributions towards resources and activities in school. The full report is attached below. Report approved by general consent.
6. Nomination and election of officers for MCS Friends

The following officers stood down:
Chair – Abbe Opher
Vice Chair – Emily Ryder
Secretary – Leanne Wakerley
Treasurer – Mark Rampton-Carter

The following officers were appointed:

 1. Chair – Su Madurasinghe nominated by Emily Ryder, seconded by Sally Chilton.

2. Secretary – Ali Almond nominated by Emily Ryder, seconded by Tess Deighton.
3. Treasurer – Mark Rampton-Carter nominated by Emily Ryder, seconded by Ruth Brown.
4. Committee member – Will Warburg nominated by Emily Ryder, seconded by Mark Rampton-Carter.

All of the outgoing officers were thanked for their hard work and long service for the Friends.

We also have a team of dedicated, behind the scenes volunteers who will continue to carry out the following roles:

5. Ruth Brown – Social Media
6. Sarah Swann – Second Hand uniform
7. Sarah Pilkington – Promotional materials
8. Tess Deighton – Easyfundraising

Thank you!

7. Date of next Meeting June 23rd 7.30pm at the Punch House.

AGM Report

It's been a while since our last Chair's report. First of all, we want to thank Abbe Opher for all of her hard work on the committee and particularly as Chair, a role she took on in Oct 2024; sadly she had to step down last summer. We wish her all the very best. We are also grateful to our small committee, but we have managed to achieve an awful lot over the last year or so supported by a group of helpers aren't able to serve on the committee but always jump into help us particularly at events.

Fundraising Activities

Over the last 12-18 months we have carried out lots of activities to raise vital funds for the school.

Events

We are very proud of the events that we run twice a year to raise funds for the school and more importantly to bring the school community, parents, staff and students together in a social setting. Over the last 18 months we have run our tried and tested Curry and Quiz night as well as trying some new ideas a Race Night and a Twmpath evening or Ceilidh in response to a survey kindly carried out by Ceri Jones to discover the sort of events to the school would like to see. We have been heartened particularly by the numbers of students who have enjoyed our events and students who have supported us by providing entertainment for the evening or acting as compares for the quiz. We would like to thank Maggie and her catering team for the wonderful spread that they created for us for the Curry and Quiz night in March. We have raised a total of £1,447. In March 2025 we raised funds for the school by serving refreshments at Monmouth's Got Talent and collected nearly £600 at the school carol concert on behalf of the PEA department.

We would like to thank Kelly and Brian from Milking Solutions who very kindly donated the live band for the Twmpath evening. Also like to thank Becky Stoddard and Noni North for running the bar and refreshments so well at all of our events and Andy North for great compering. **Our next event a Twmpath/Ceilidh evening with live band Callenig on Friday 16th October.**

Raffles

We organise 2 raffles a year at Christmas and Easter/Summer. Our prizes include an Ipad, various hampers and vouchers kindly donated by local businesses. Over the las year we have been delighted to introduce an external online raffle ticket company, which has helped us to reach more of the school community (friends and relatives) who do not have access to parent pay to buy tickets. Thanks to Su Madurasinghe for setting this up. Our raffles have raised £2,386 this year. We would like to thank Pig and Apple, Devauden Music Festival, Monmouth Show, Monmouth Canoe, Tudor Farmhouse and Live on the Wye for providing prizes for the Easter Raffle.

Our 2026 Summer Raffle will be launched shortly and drawn on 13th July. Prizes include an ipad, Sumer Hamper and lots of vouchers kindly donated by local businesses and events. Look out for information in the newsletter and on parent pay to buy tickets.

Ongoing fundraising

Easy Fundraising

Tess Deighton has worked hard this year to Raise over £1,000 through Easy Fundraising consistently communicating this scheme through school newsletter and Facebook pages. The numbers of members registered has increased, but the number of active members is still relatively small compared to the size of the school community. It is easy to sign up and the school receives a small donation, which costs you nothing, every time you shop online. The small donations really add up and provide a useful ongoing funds for school projects.

To join up go to www.easyfundraising.com and select Monmouth Comprehensive School Friends Association Charity number 1137926 to support. Don't forget to download the donation reminder.

Second Hand uniform

In Autum 2024 we set up a new partnership with The Magic Cottage charity shop in Monmouth to sell second hand uniform collected through the school in their shop with the profits split 50/50 between the two charities. Since then, we have raised over £2000 through the sale of second hand uniform to fund projects within the school. We would like to thank Sally Chilton who ran the 2nd hand uniform service for many years and supported the work of Friends in many other ways and Sarah Swann who has taken on the role of ensuring the quality of second hand uniform kindly donated by parents, by making it ready for sale to the school community via our high street partner charity shop. We also very grateful to Magic Cottage for their work in supporting this service and fundraiser for the school; unfortunately, they have had to close their Monmouth shop recently, so Friends are now looking for a new charity shop partner to help us run this important service for the school community. **Please keep your donations of good quality uniform coming into school – there are two blue bins in the school foyer for this.**

Grant Applications

We have strived, over the last 12 months, or so to raise funds and support areas of the school to raise funds in other ways rather than relying on the school community solely by applying for grants through the Friends as a charity. We have raised almost £6000 through grant applications. We would like to thank Ceri Jones for her hard work in this area. This year we have successfully applied for funding for an outdoor garden for additional learning needs department, football kit for the very successful senior boys football team, Silent Disco equipment for the Special Resource Base. Ceri is currently working very hard on a very exciting grant application for the school, and we have our fingers crossed for that.

How have funds been used to support the school?

Over the last few years, we have been regularly opening up applications for funding from the Friends Association directly to individual departments and members of staff within the school (Staff Requests). This approach has given us a much deeper appreciation for what would benefit each department the most and understanding of the challenges that the school experiences in trying to deliver enhanced experiences and curriculum to the students within the constraints of the school budget. We have funded applications from across the school with positive impacts on all year groups. You can see a full breakdown of what we have funded on our webpage on the school website in the parent's section.

Over the last 18 months we have distributed £8,442 in two staff requests rounds as well funding ongoing requests for table tennis bats and balls and footballs for use at breaktimes and ingredients for the food technology department to ensure that practical aspects of the curriculum are accessible to all students.

We have also been supporting the school's summer learning programme for several years and last year we set aside £2,500 of funds to support transport of students to events and outward-bound activities. **Our next round of staff requests is currently underway with the meeting to decide the distribution of funds on 23rd June.**

Behind the scenes

There has been a lot of activity behind the scenes to support the work of the Friends Association, improve our communication, increase efficiency and support fundraising efforts. We are grateful to our treasurer Mark Rampton-Carter who has worked very hard to manage accounts and improve processes. All of our banking has now gone online which has made our work easier and more efficient. In terms of communications, we are extremely grateful for Sarah Pilkington's work creating all of flyers and communications material to promote activities throughout the year. To enhance our communications and raise our profile within the school community we have had a good presence at transition events for new year 7 students and have enhanced and expanded our presence on the school website. We have also spent time trying to ensure that messages about the work of the Friends Association consistently appear in the school newsletter and on all relevant Facebook pages and finding ways to promote our events to students and the wider school community and even to cluster primary schools. Thanks to Ruth Brown for all her work to consistently show our messages on all relevant Facebook groups. We would also like to thank Chilli Pepper signs who helped us produce a new banner showcasing the work of the Friends and the benefits that we bring to the school. We have also spent some time looking at further opportunities to raise funds for the school, analysing the funding that we have distributed to school projects to ensure funds are distributed across all subject areas and year groups and ensuring good governance of the charity by reviewing and updating our policies and procedures. Thanks to Leanne Wakerley for her hard work on these behind-the-scenes enhancements to our work.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has supported our activities in any way this year: to the school admin, finance, and senior leadership team who are always quick to help when we ask; to Mr Hampshire for staying late and attending our meetings and being an invaluable link between our group and the school; to the selfless generosity of the committee members who all give their precious time and skills for free; and finally to those of you who jump in and help whenever we call upon you.

If you would like to get involved, you will be given a warm welcome. Being involved with the Friends is great for meeting other parents particularly those with children in other year groups and making a very real contribution to what the school can offer all students. To contact the committee please email on moncompfriends@gmail.com. You can find more information about the work of the Friends Association on the Monmouth Comprehensive School website in the Parents section. **Our next meeting will be on 23rd June at The Punch House Monmouth 7.30pm all welcome.**

Annual Financial Report For AGM

Changed for Academic year	2024 to 2025	
Bank balance as of 29/08/24		£13,152.60
Total income for year		£35,216.72
Total expenses for year		£35,006.19
Closing Bank balance at 30/08/25		£13,363.13
Petty Cash held for events		£110.00
Funds allocated not yet spent (taken from Sept 25 Minutes		£9,290.56
Available funds		£4,182.57

Headline figures exacted

Easy Fund raising	£642.85
Second hand uniform	£2,408.00
Funds to school	£13,283.30
Bank charges	£67.84
Insurance	£162.00

Grant and large donations

Lottery funding for the PEA (Lighting and sound equipment)	£19,850.00
Monmouth Town Council (outside timber frame shelter)	£4,200.00
Rotary Club Disco	£999.00

