



Minutes

MCS Friends Meeting

Wednesday 19th March – Estero Lounge Monmouth

Present

Abbe Opher (Chair), Mark Rampton-Carter (Treasurer) Leanne Wakerley (Secretary), , Becky Stoddard, , Emily Ryder, Sally Chilton, Mr Hampshire

Apologies

Noni North, Tess Deighton,

Welcome - Abbe welcomed Friends to the meeting thanked everyone for attending.

Outdoor Multi-use Space

Ceri Jones presented plans for an outdoor multiuse space on Community land adjacent to the g visitors carpark to the school (see appendix 1 photographs and map). Ceri is seeking support from the Friends Association to apply for grant funding (circa £100,000) through the use of the MCS Friends Association Charity. Ceri confirmed that the proposal had received endorsement and input from Mr Hutchison (MCS Headteacher), MCS Student Council, Leisure Centre leadership and MCC as the landlord for the land. The next steps are to send a survey to the student community for input and then to the Monmouth community via school (parents), leisure centre members and social media. Friends should note that should the grant application be successful we would not be able to apply to this funding stream for 5 years. National Lottery community fund – 2 years. Ceri also confirmed that she would apply for the funds and manage the build should funds be agreed. Suppliers/contractors will be sort from those already approved by MCC. VAT should not be charged by suppliers due to out charity status so MCS will not have to apply to be VAT registered.

Friends agreed in principle to the use of the Friends Association Charity as the vehicle for applying for funds for this project. **Emily** and **Mark** agreed to be the contacts from Friends on this project and represent the Friends.

Friends discussed the use of this space by students looking for a quiet place to study. Ceri suggested that there may also be an opportunity for older students to use space at the Shire Hall and this could be raised at a Full Town Council meeting tomorrow night.

PE Grant Applications

Ceri confirmed that she has put an application for funding for sports kit into Monmouth Building Society Community grant opportunity for £350. She has also sent an expression of interest for £1,500 to Sport Wales. They will confirm if her bid is likely to be successful and if so she will submit a grant application. She may need to meet with the PE department before doing this. MCS Friends will need to match fund this if the bid is successful - £250.

Battle of the Bands

Ceri has secured the Pavillion for the Battle of Bands auditions - 5pm-10pm on 14th/15th/16th April. There is an opportunity for refreshments to be served on each of those dates with 120 tickets available. Ceri has a number of interested charities to run refreshments. MCS Friends agreed that they would be unable to run refreshments and **Emily** agreed to let Ceri know. MCS students will be singing at the final event in June and the National Lottery promotion materials will be displayed and photographed.

Second Hand Uniform

Ceri queried pricing for second hand uniform that she has experienced in the Magic Cottage shop. Sally agreed to check pricing next time she goes in and Abbe agreed to look at producing a list of prices of new uniform alongside suggested pricing for secondhand uniform.

Staff Requests Round Spring 2025

1. **English Department** asked for **£550** to purchase books and resources to access the Carnegie Awards shadowing event allowing students 7-9 to read access books shortlisted for the Carnegie award and to provide opportunities to invite authors into school. Funds needed urgently to progress plan to invite authors. Friends agreed to fund this in full.
2. **Finance** - asked for **£70** to fund spare pads for the school defibrillators to support all students, staff and members of the community who use school astro turf and playing fields. Not urgent. Friends agreed to fund this in full.
3. **SRB** - asked for **£500** to fund purchase and installation of an A1 dibond Widget Communication board to site in the SRB playground. The board is a key part of their drive to improve communication opportunities for both non speaking but also speaking pupils within the base (all of SRB cohort). As soon as possible. Friends agreed to look for a grant to secure these funds. **Leanne** to liaise with SRB.
4. **PE** – applied for **£550** for a football kit for the under 18 senior boys (year 11-13 football players). Friends are in the process of applying for grants to support this but agreed to fund this as the request was urgent whilst the grant funding is progressed.
5. **Library** – applied for **£271.00** for books and protective plastic covers. Quite urgent there are books without protective covers. Friends agreed to defer this request on the advice of Mr Hampshire to next term.
6. **Design Technology** – asked for **£300** For five Stanley 4, 2 inch Smoothing Planes (approximate cost £60 each) - To give pupils the experience of using the planes for all types of hard and softwood planing (year 10/11) to support the growing Built Environment Course. As soon as possible. Friends agreed to fund this in full.
7. **Science** – applied for £1300 to buy 10 (£130 per unit) electronic PH Sensors to support A Level Chemistry practical work and GCSE Science practical demonstrations (KS4&5). The department has 4 sensors which are 10 years old and well best their guaranteed lifetime. curriculum. Friends agreed to fund 5 units = **£650** and re-visit this application in a future staff requests round to see if they can support the purchase of further units.
8. **Social Sciences** – applied for **£3000** to provide laptops to support curriculum. Current laptops are 12 years old. Friends refused this request as we were advised that this is not within our remit. Friends asked **Mr Hampshire** if he could give Friends details regarding how computing equipment is being supported in the school as we have turned down a few requests for computing equipment on this basis.
9. **PE** – applied for **£200** for badminton equipment to support years 8-11, as soon as possible. Friends agreed to fund this request in full.
10. **Art** – applied for £2000 for 2 new ipads and pens to support art curriculum and offer opportunities within digital media- especially to our KS4 and 5 students, many of whom don't have access to this equipment at home; as soon as possible Friends agreed to fund 1 ipad – circa £1000 and to revisit this application in a future staff requests round to see if they can support the purchase of a further unit.
11. **International Languages** – applied for £1000 to fund the Sanako software licence for 3 years supporting the speaking element of growing international language study in K3/4/5. Needed July 2025. Friends agreed to contribute **£500**, to be paid in July.
12. **Computing** – applied for **£300** for Classroom equipment in order to run our lessons smoothly as possible. Due to the rise in most subjects and exams moving online mice and keyboards are going through extensive use and therefore are costing a lot to replace to ensure every student has fair access to equipment to carry out their learning. Ideally before summer exams start in May. Friends refused this request as not being within our remit on the advice of Mr Hampshire.
13. **Finance** – Applied for **£50** to fund 15 footballs for use at break times. Not urgent. Friends agreed to fund this in full.

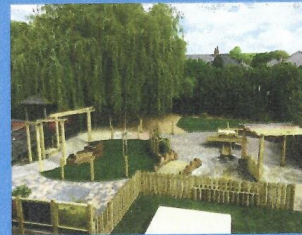
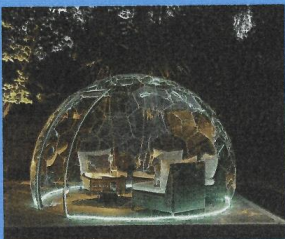
14. **Music** – applied for **£500** towards the purchase of 30 ukuleles for use in lessons and an after school club. Abbe and Becky both had Ukuleles that they are willing to donate. Friends suggested that a communication be sent out in the newsletter asking for donations of ukuleles and the Friends will re-visit the application next term.
15. Mr Hampshire suggested that the amount that Friends would need to set aside for Summer Learning would be within £4,000.

Total amount agreed to be distributed - £3,870

Next Meeting Date - tbc

Appendix 1

Can we develop this space?



Idea's that could be beneficial to the community, students and teachers

