Friends of Deighton Gates – Meeting Minutes
8:00pm Thursday 22nd October 2026

Attendees: Louise Pedley - Chair (LP), Paul Frões – Secretary (PF), Jon Heeley - Treasurer (JH), Luke Hale (LH)

Apologies: Katie Horridge (KH), Tamsin Day (TD), Kirsty Smahon (KS), Rosie Evans (RE), Marguerite Proctor (MP), Theuns Liebenberg (TL)

No.	Item
1.	**Welcome and Introductions**
2.	**Actions from previous meeting** • LH to show PF new methods for updating the new website – Done. • LP to contact chalkboard supplier regarding quality – Still to do. Waiting on invoice with order number. • ST (School) to feed back on the idea of moving ukulele lessons to the end of Year 3/start of Year 4 – The curriculum is fully mapped out and the music units are in that order for a reason, so school would prefer not to move this.
3.	**Finances** • **Opening balance £18,517.72** • Income **£2,149 –** Disco, Pre-Loved and Bake Sale (£325 SumUp and £1,824 cash) • Outgoings **£3,428.89** – Disco £864.78, Project spend £2,493.29 (footballs £190.73, football posts £1,308.33, reading books £994.23), Raffle (Quiz and Fair) £50.82, Central costs (lottery licence) £20 • **Balance for PTA meeting £17,238** • Approved yet to spend £7,395 • Regular yearly commitments £1,745 • Less reserves £2,000 • **Available to spend £6,098** • **Approved spend summary:** ○ SUDS £5,000 ○ Staff room kitchen £1,000 ○ Animal Guy £895 ○ Library books £500 ○ iPads/tablets £4,000 ○ Forest School £2,300 ○ **Total approved £13,695** ○ This exceeds available funds by £202. E.g. Library books and SUDS are not expected to be paid out this calendar year, and income from the Christmas Quiz and Raffle will cover the shortfall before it is spent.
4.	**Approved Funding Requests** • Books for library £500 – Not yet purchased. To progress with Kemps. LH to follow up. • Staff room kitchen – Approved up to £1,000 spend. TL following up with Howdens regarding supply/discount. TL to update. **Funding Requests/Suggestions to Discuss** • Forest School (£2,300), due to change in PE funding – Discussion around whether Forest School can become a bit "samey" if done every year, and whether teachers could be trained to deliver Forest School lessons. LH explained that due to the mid-year change in funding, school didn't want to stop abruptly. The longer-term vision is broader "outdoor learning" lessons, which is being considered for next academic year. Approved to fund £2,300 for next term's lessons. Review again for final term. • iPads/Tablets – 15 with charging trolley and cases (approx. £4,000) – School investigating requirement for iPads vs other tablets. This is a top-up; existing devices are all iPads and the planned learning uses Apple apps. LH to investigate whether Android tablets could be used before purchase. £4,000 approved to spend on appropriate devices. • New black bin for front of school (price TBC) – Given the costs approved above, replacing a faded bin seems excessive at this point. Rejected.

	New Suggestions – LH • Outdoor corridor between the two school buildings – Would like to turn this into a "sensory corridor" (painting, tactile walls). Specialists coming in next half term to look at options. • Quad spaces (4 across school, excluding Reception) – Turn into habitat zones/learning spaces (outdoor plants, reading areas, sand pits). Ideas and prices to be provided at a later date.
5.	**Allergy Training (Benedict's Law)** • LP and TD have both passed the training course. Question raised on whether trained volunteers should know about allergies of specific children, and whether parents' permission could be sought to share this with the relevant people on the team. LH to review. Permission can be requested for new admissions.
6.	**Halloween Disco – Friday 9th October** • All feedback positive. The candy floss machine didn't work but is being fixed for next time. • Mr Shuffles booked for Friday 8th October 2027. • Spring 2027 disco – Checking dates with Mr Shuffles.
7.	**Bake Sales** • £218 raised. Highest total to date. • Next bake sale after Christmas – Y3/Y4.
8.	**Christmas Events** • Christmas Quiz – 28 people (5 teams) booked so far. Plans progressing. • Christmas Raffle – Prize list being finalised. Raffle tickets ordered. Tickets to go on sale after half term. • Christmas Cards – Order forms distributed. • Sparkle Day – Friday 11th December. Children wear something sparkly and, in return, bring in a gift for the Secret Gift Room. Secret Gift Room – 15th/16th/17th December (Reception nativity on 15th and 16th; Y4 trip on 16th). FoDG to fully staff as last year. • Christmas Class Gifts – As in previous years, donate a gift per class (craft boxes, wet play games, etc.) to be given at class parties, budgeted at £1 per child. LH to ask for teachers' views on this. • No choir performance in school this year due to other performances in the community.
9.	**AOB** • None.
INFO	**Future Events – For info only, discuss if required. (Bold: confirmed;** normal: details/dates to be confirmed**;** *italic: to discuss at future meetings***)** • Ongoing Bake Sales School Year 2026–2027 • **Secret Gift Room & Sparkle Day 2026 – Sparkle Day Friday 11th December; Secret Gift Room 15th/16th/17th December.** • **Christmas Quiz and Raffle 2026 – Friday 4th December** • *World Book Day 2027* • *Say It With Flowers 2027* • *Spring Disco 2027* • Summer Fair & Raffle 2027 – Saturday 19th June 2027 • *Open Orchard 2027* • *Halloween/Autumn Disco 2027 – 8th October 2027*