

Court Fields School

Achieve | Belong | Participate

Mantle Street
WELLINGTON
Somerset
TA21 8SW



Tel: 01823 664201
schooloffice@courtfields.bep.ac
www.courtfields.net
<https://twitter.com/CourtFieldsSch>

Headteacher: Mrs P Matthews

CEO: Mrs L Heath

Meeting Minutes 21.01.2025

Pledged to help from our first meeting

Name	Pledge
E Smith	• Helping with gardening • Help with most things i.e. drama, chairs/raffle etc.
C Slocombe	• Outdoor learning, specifically gardening. • Happy to help with practical tasks. • Can provide resources – plants/seeds etc. • Expertise in horticulture
J Whiteman	• Outdoor learning • Exmoor challenge • DofE • Royal Marine has time to contribute.
P Gibson	• Outdoor construction/gardening • Exmoor challenge • Through Living Light Church, has access to people who can help with P.A & lighting.
H Bennett	• Outdoor learning support • Link with Grand Western Greenway
B House	• Community One Team promotion • Flyer in Edge
N Miles	• Performing Arts • Time • Stephen to support • Help with quiz night and other event set up and clean downs
K Cookson	• General fundraising support
P Joint	• Time/Contacts/Developers bid section 106.
Z Vinall	• Time pledged

Chair – Andrew Govier

Treasure – Charles Biscoe

Secretary – Andrew Howell

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome from the Chair to the meeting Andrew Govier, who introduced the group and outlined its aims and future plans. He emphasised the importance of community collaboration and the role of the forum in supporting the school and its wider network. Following this, Mr Govier invited Mrs Matthews and Mrs Westwood to provide updates on community matters.

Community Updates

Mrs Matthews and Mrs Westwood began by sharing an overview of a recent email regarding Madagascar, highlighting its relevance to the community and sharing the progress made by funds raised for them so far. It was suggested that we continue to support and raise funds for them and bigger plans for this will be put in motion in the coming months.

Mrs Matthews shares and update on the recent community breakfasts lead by Peter Joint, sharing the amount of people that show up to support our community and young people is great to see. It was handed over to Bob House to provide an update on the community breakfast, Mr House supports an initiative with The One Team that has pilot project with a student voice for independent advisory with the local police. Mr House share how proud he is of the students that gave a presentation to the community group.

An overview of the Cadle to Career project can be found in the last minutes on the Court Fields web site under the Parent and Community Forum option in the menu.

Mrs Matthews supported by Mrs Westwood designated a significant portion of their time with the group dedicated to discussing concerns around smartphone use among young people, particularly considering the recent documentary *The Anxious Generation*. Attendees expressed worries about the impact of phones on student wellbeing. A survey on this topic is available and will be reviewed for insights.

When asked whether students would be shown slides related to phone use, it was confirmed that they would, but only after ensuring the content is accurate and appropriately presented. The idea of implementing a phone-free period was also raised to trial its impact. The group agreed that this could be beneficial if done thoughtfully and with adequate support, drawing inspiration from a similar initiative showcased in a recent programme.

Mrs Matthew and Mrs Westwood thanks the community group for their time and had to step out early due to prior commitments.

Performing Arts and School Production

Mr Govier introduced the upcoming whole school production, setting the stage for an update from Mr Reed on the school's building developments. Mr Reed explained that this would be the final production on the current stage, marking the end of an era. He noted that improvements to the lighting system could result in savings of £1,000 to £2,000 and appealed for support in funding new equipment. The school is also seeking donations of stage costumes and paint for the walls and staging, with plans to carry out the work over weekends in preparation for the performance. A list of required props, including a crystal ball and sand timer, was shared, with a deadline of the 26th and 27th of February for sourcing these items.

Mr Govier commended the success of last year's performance and expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming show. Mrs Vinall will provide a link to the art proceeds, which could contribute to the development of the arts program.

Concerns were raised about the types of products (alcohol) being sold at events, and it was agreed that the Trust would follow up on this matter. The group discussed the importance of securing grants to maximise profits for the new arts build. A contractor has now been appointed for the project.

Fundraising ideas from the group included selling photos, t-shirts, and programmes, as well as organising a raffle, auction, and obtaining a lottery licence. All related information will be sent to the school email for coordination and distribution for future projects as it was agreed for this production timings were too close.

Forest School Development

Mrs Boyland provided an update on the Forest School, outlining several areas in need of development. These include replacing the canopy, installing raised beds and picnic benches, and adding internal lighting to the container. There is also a request for plants, which may be sourced from the school allotment and other centres around Wellington. Offers of help and fundraising support were welcomed and noted.

Minute Review 23.10.24

The meeting served as a meaningful reminder of the strength and potential of community collaboration. Led by Chair Andrew Govier, the session welcomed new members and reaffirmed the group's commitment to supporting Court Fields School and its wider community. A key highlight was the presentation by Mrs. Matthews, who reflected on the forum's journey over the past five years. Her overview not only celebrated the progress made but also set a hopeful tone for the future, particularly through the introduction of the "Cradle to Career" initiative. This program, supported by The Reach Foundation, was met with enthusiasm and optimism, especially after hearing firsthand accounts of its success in other communities.

The meeting also reflected on recent achievements, such as the success of the school's production of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and looked ahead to exciting developments including a new dining hall and kitchen, and the completed 3G pitch. These updates underscored the tangible impact of the forum's efforts and the importance of continued support. The Forest School's ongoing development was another point of pride, with members encouraged to contribute time and resources.

As the meeting concluded, there was a strong sense of momentum and shared purpose. The upcoming community breakfast and the call to prepare the school allotment for winter were framed not just as tasks, but as opportunities to deepen community ties. The challenge to bring new supporters and contacts to the next meeting reflected a forward-looking spirit, grounded in the belief that collective action can drive meaningful change for the school and its students. The 3G pitch construction has been completed and now in use by the school and community.

Some key achievements and continued support,

- The Forest School continues to get support and has further plans needing all available hands which can be discussed at the next meeting.
- The old bike shed has been converted into a Bush Craft area and can be labelled a massive success.

- The flower beds at the front of the school with the overgrown and dangerous bamboo has been removed
- Continued updates, maintenance and site development
- We revived a £200 donation from Tilhill Forestry (BSW Group) to support the DofE.
- Support of a very successful School Production and another in progress
- Many other wins and progression with lots of continued support from all of you, this is greatly appreciated

Other Business

- There is a community breakfast on the 20th May 2025 at 09:00 for all employers and the community, please do attend.
- We will cover the topics and areas of support needed in the next meeting for the rest of the year, this will include funding to kit out the new development starting in February.

No other business

Date for the next meeting – will be booked for new school year from September 2025

- Our usual challenge stands, please bring 1 person with you who can add to our fundraising/support.
- Before then, please make 3 contacts that could support our areas of focus and provide feedback on this at the next meeting.

Thank you!