North Cerney School Association

Tuesday 16th September 2026 Bathurst Arms

Present	Lynsey Erica Heather Emmy Andrew David Anastasia Kayleigh Sophie
Apologies	Nil

Item 1- Welcome

Item 2 -Meeting with Mrs. Pascoe: Key Takeaways

- School's top priority: funding and support for school trips
    - Previously run at a deficit; parents not paying voluntary contributions
    - Coach hire is the main cost, roughly £1,500–£2,000 per year
- Other asks from the school:
    - More parental presence at events (reading cafe, open gates)
    - Stronger community feel:

Item 3- Outdoor Space Projects

- Early years outdoor area: benches not fit for purpose for small children
    - Vision: remove benches, add colour, sail canopy for shade and weather cover
    - Usable for learning (maths, phonics) and play
    - Needs local builders or volunteers; Joe (carpenter) flagged as a potential resource
- Forestry school section on the naturally shaded left-hand area
    - Jonathan (parish council) visiting to offer paving slabs and logs from the Woodman Cove project
- Pond restoration also on Mrs. Pascoe's wish list; parish council project to pick up
- Grants: list being compiled, many focused on outdoor space
    - Stratton School got a government grant for similar work; worth investigating

Item 2 - Events Calendar

- School disco: 8th October, village hall, booked
    - Volunteers confirmed: face painting, glitter tattoos
    - Note: one parent raised concern about volume at last disco; DJ to be briefed
- Christmas fete: 5th December, village hall, 12–2pm
    - Reformat: fewer stalls, more community celebration

    - Christmas carols, party games, hot dogs, drinks
    - Tea towels (children's portraits) and tote bags as merchandise to be sold.
- Easter event: proposed community fete with Easter egg hunt, shared lunch, raffle
    - Tie in with church and village community; avoid clashing with SATs
- Summer: preference to do Calmsden open garden only (not both Calmsden and Colesbourne)
    - Colesbourne made £1,200 (inc. £400 donation from Jane); Calmsden was one day and more efficient. Decision to be made later as to whether we keep both events.
    - Duck race to remain
- Halloween: scarecrow trail or "light night" idea (avoid scary themes for sensitive children)
    - Possible sweet hunt in the back field; village hall gathering after.
    - Check village hall availability with Cassie.

Item 2 - Fundraising Strategy

- Focus: work smarter, not harder; £7,000 currently in the account
    - Avoid low-yield stalls; prioritise high-return, low-effort activities
- Tea towels and tote bags: low cost, high margin, in production now.
- Theatre trip (The Barn): ~£800 for 43 children's tickets at group rate (covers 4 teachers free)
    - Agreed to fund tickets; transport cost to follow once quoted
- Corporate and grant outreach underway:
    - Bathurst Estate, North Cerney Gardens, local businesses approached for hampers/sponsorship
    - SJP Foundation: Jenny Gilstra (Stephen's mum) is a trustee, a warm contact
    - Employer match schemes (e.g. one attendee's workplace matches £500 for £500 raised)
    - Volunteering days from corporates being explored

Item 2 - Community Engagement

- Parent letter to be drafted: key dates, fundraising rationale, how to get involved
    - Send as both physical letter and email; physical letter gets read
    - Post minutes on school website for those who can't attend
- World Book Day: non-uniform day agreed with Mrs. Pascoe; children bring item from favourite book
- Litter picking: one weekend event, borrow kit from Jonathan (need child-sized gloves)
    - Link to eco council and wildlife messaging to engage children- option
    - Gather at someone's house or village hall afterwards
- Mural/art project: library (flying books theme) or outdoor space discussed
    - Artist quoted at £270/day; child-led tile or panel approach also suggested
    - Mrs. Pascoe wants it curriculum-linked, faith-related, and child-led

Next Steps

- **Draft and send parent letter with key dates and fundraising rationale**

Send as both physical letter and email; include disco, Christmas fete, and how to volunteer.

- **Contact Jenny Gilstra about SJP Foundation support**

She is a trustee; warm intro via Stephen's mum.

- **Speak to Jonathan about outdoor space materials and pond project**

He's offered paving slabs and logs from the Woodman Cove project; also raise parish council involvement in pond restoration.

- **Check village hall availability for Halloween event**
- **Confirm theatre trip transport quote, then decide on full or partial funding**

Tickets (~£800) agreed; transport cost outstanding.

- **Schedule next meeting after half term to finalise Christmas fete plans**