

Meeting MINUTES: Committee **Date:** 6 March 2025 8pm

At: Willaston Pre-school, St Johns Methodist Church Hall

Attendees & Apologies

Committee Officers	Y/N	General Committee	Y/N	Staff	Y/N
Chris Taylor – Chair	Y	Abigail Bevan	N	Jacqui Piaf	Y
		Molly Mannion	N	Caryl Freeman	Y
Ruth Chesters - Treasurer	N	Duncan Bevan	Y		
Rachel Bridgett – Vice Chair	Y			Others	
Alexis Hesketh - Secretary	Y			Debbie Reyland	Y

Apologies: RC, AB, MM,

1. Welcome & Introductions

CT welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Admissions

Currently doing very well. Pre-school have a lot of younger children enrolling and starting. However, it is lovely to see that some of the older children are helping out with the younger ones. This is helping to build social skills as well as developing the children emotionally.

Situation as of the end of February 2025 can be seen in the table below (Max spaces for summer term, 25AM, 20 PM including SEN children). Overall 86% full. One leaver due to parent’s working hours.

	Morning		Afternoon		Hot lunches
	% full	Spaces	% full	Spaces	
Monday	72	6	70	5	11
Tuesday	100	0	100	0	18
Wednesday	80	5	85	3	10
Thursday	88	3	95	1	14
Friday	88	3	75	5	11

Waiting list

2 new starters March – 2 year olds
3 new starters April – 2 year olds
1 new starter June – 2 year old
2025-26 – 4 new starters so far

3. Finances

Year ended 31 August 2024 – Clean audit report. Accounts to be filed with Charity's Commission in June.

Current year – Admission numbers are very healthy. We are in a significant surplus situation at the moment so we can take this into account with payrises and staff numbers next year (and even now), as 2-year olds will increase in number given the 30 hours that are available from Sept 2025 and we are already at capacity in that age group. This will have some impact on staff/children ratio in September as the children are starting to settle into Preschool.

EYPP – over £1,000 to spend available now (plus £600 per term from now due to number of disadvantaged children). Sports coaching booked for Thursdays.

SEND funding for 6 children for this term received on 28 February.

4. Premises

Methodist church is intending to cease worship in May. However, DR reported that the Parish council want to acquire the site for the community which will ensure that Pre-school continues. They have set up a sub-committee to oversee this village hall project. This will provide reassurance for both staff and families of Preschool.

Methodist Church have also said that they won't be putting the church on the open market. It is hoped that if the Parish Council take over the building, they will be able to invest in the upkeep of the building.

JP stated that Ofsted are proposing changes to rations for inside/outside play. JP has suggested that a canopy area for Pre-school would be welcomed. Church have declined this as a possible option but if it was possible with new landlords, this would be a good investment.

Security – JP stated one of the children's grandparents are going to put a bolt on the door higher up to secure the door when it is shut. Ideally, a composite door would be installed in the medium term to enhance security which requires the permission of the Church/landlord.

5. Staffing and pre-school issues

Pre-school have been able to take on a new member of staff for a Level 3 Apprenticeship which should start after Easter. She has already been working with us for a few months and has been a great support.

Achievements/Challenges – JP reported that the only challenges that have arisen have been due to some of the high needs of the children. This can sometimes mean that more staff are needed to be able to address needs. Achievements – all children

(not SEN) are above where they need to be. Sports coaching has also been well received.

AOB

Possibly look at subscribing to Twinkl which would give access to resources that are relevant to the age group of the children who attend the setting, and help with staff CPD.

Helmets for children – safety for when on bikes/scooters.

Date of next meeting: 1 May 2025