

**Meppershall Academy
Parent Teacher Association
Registered Charity No. 1081004**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**17th July 2024
15:00hrs**

Meppershall Academy School Hall

Attendees

Mrs Newman – Head of School (MN)
Vanessa Freakley – Chair (VF)
Amy Gulvin – Treasurer (AG)
Rebecca Duignan – Secretary (RD)
Melissa Brewer – Committee member (MB)
Vicky Hoyte - Committee member (VH)
Sophie Robbens (SR)
Hannah Barker (HB)
Ali Collins (AC)
Stacey Slattery (SS)
Nina Emms (NE)
Laura Cornell (LC)
Kylie Johnson (KJ)

Apologies for absence

Sophie Archer (SA)

Chairs report

VF began by opening up the meeting and outlined the purpose of the PTA explaining that the PTA is governed by the ParentKind constitution that the PTA subscribes to.

VF acknowledged the hard work of existing committee members and thanked the parents and wider school family.

A brief overview of the events run by the PTA was discussed which have resulted in the PTA bank balance being at £4896.00 on 16th July.

VF also gave a special mention to Mrs Newman for all the support she offers the PTA.

MN emphasized the importance of the PTA adding to the school community and that the money raised is great but it's not just about the money its about more than that.

Treasurer's Report for 2023/24

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Election of Officers and Trustees of the Committee

All committee member stepped down and it has previously been announced (prior to the meeting) that the Chair and the Secretary positions would become vacant and that two people had put themselves forward for these roles.

Voting forms had been sent out to all parents prior to the meeting but no forms had been returned.

VF mentioned that as an official committee member it allows you to vote on how the PTA spends the money and other official PTA business.

Chair – Sophie Archer had already put herself forward for the role of chair. AC nominates SA and AG seconds

Secretary – Ali Collins had already put herself forward for the role secretary. RD nominates AC as secretary and VH seconds

Treasurer – Amy staying in role was nominated by MB nominates and RD seconds. – MN suggested that AG should stay on in this role following the difficulties faced with the previous treasurer.

Committee members – VF nominates MB as committee member and VH seconds

MB nominates KJ as committee member and AG seconds

HB nominates SR as committee member and RD seconds.

VF asked MN if she would like a member of school staff as a committee member.

MN will be the PTA liaison for now but this will be reviewed over the year as a new member of staff may get more involved.

All others in attendance are happy to help the PTA when needed.

Any Other Business

There are still ongoing issues with the Charity commission these have been ongoing since previous treasurer left. Numerous attempts have been made to gain access to the accounts to no avail so this will be handed over to the new committee.

MN has offered to write to the CC to see if this can be resolved.

AG emphasized that she has the accounts up to date but has but unable to file them with the Charity Commission due to lack of access.

VH stated that this could affect application for grants as accounts must be up to date.

MN suggested that this was the most successful year for the PTA and colour run was amazing, raised a lot of money and was a great community event. SR did a great job at organizing and MN would love to see it as an annual event and that there are talks about how to improve and expand the event.

MN acknowledged that all the events the PTA take part in the Shefford fayre, discos, Christmas lights etc. are all at very busy times of year are run by volunteers and she is very grateful for those that run these.

MN highlighted where she would like the money spent and where future money raised could be spent. The big wish is a garden sensory room which could be achieved with match funding/crowd funding.

The trim trail also needs replacing so could also be where the money is spent as well as canopies for where the existing play equipment is to save them from being defaced by birds.

MN will also look at fun things for the kids, such as visiting theatre groups and science workshops.

Many of the above like the trim trail could be a long term fundraising with the use of thermometer fundraising targets.

MN stressed that budgets are tighter than ever and that we don't know if this will change with the change in Government (Labour elected on 4th July 2024 after 14 years of Conservative rule.)

Money PTA raises helps the school survive.

MN also thanked VF for all her hard work and also that of her family for the input into the school since MN joined 3.5 years ago. VF will be missed.

MN expressed her gratitude for all the PTA for the time they put in.