



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

PARENTS, STAFF & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No: 1047233

Chair: Jacqui Davis
Secretary: Liz Page

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Meeting Minutes: PSFA AGM 03/11/2021 7pm School Library

1. Opening Remarks from the President:

Due to the unusual nature of this year the Headmaster kept the presentation brief.

“We are proud of our academic success as a school; I have never worked in a school where the experience is so rich and varied. Events such as the House plays where the students write their own scripts, are enriching experiences for all involved and we have many of these at Ecclesbourne. Within these, there are many opportunities for all students across the School to work together and they are a much loved event in the School calendar. They also offer the opportunity to be involved in a variety of ways – from House Dance, to Lighting, costumes and even film-making – and the short films no included in the House Plays are so good, we may have to add another Award to the awards ceremony to accommodate these!”

‘As a School, we haven’t been able run these events, or many others - over the last year due to Covid-19. We are looking at how we can reintroduce our annual events, but with case numbers on the rise and the Education Authority suggesting bubbles are reintroduced (which is still under deliberation), it is a decision that needs careful consideration. Although some of the events may happen, it is as yet undecided as to whether there will be the possibility of parents attending. It may be possible to produce a DVD of the House Plays if parental involvement is deemed unwise. We will report back on this when we have made a firm decision. However, the fact that House Plays are happening at all is a wonderful achievement enabling students to get a fuller Ecclesbourne experience once again.’

‘We have managed to vaccinate 550 students in the Lower and Upper School (sixth formers are mostly now vaccinated), but there have been far more cases this year than last year, including more cases among staff, so we need to be cautious regarding events.’

‘Quiz and Chips - the biggest PSFA fundraiser – is unlikely to be allowed this term, as it entails too many people to be covid safe; however, we can look at

re-introducing this in Spring, when we can have doors and windows open and when hopefully covid cases are falling.’

‘Prizegiving has been moved to December. We thought it would be nice to try this event at a different time of year in the hope of inviting some Year 13s back. Rather than this being an Upper or Lower School event, we are proposing that each Year group would have its own ceremony. PSFA help would be appreciated at all events and as soon as a decision is made on dates (potentially the last two school days of this Term – 21 and 22 December), we will communicate this to Jacqui (PSFA Chair) to organise helpers.’

The Deputy Head added:

“PSFA have a valuable role to play helping out at these events. We do not want to lose the work that Jacqui has done in building the Committee up.”

2. Present:

Martin Boyce, Natalie Hickman, Jane Arnold, Gail Lowe, Stella Shoesmith, Yvonne McNamee, Claire Flowers, Lorraine Jenkins, Sue Small, Liz Page, Pete Heath, Kathryn Chapman, Jenny Price, Helen Fox-White, Ruth Day, Jacqui Davis, Clarissa Ourabi, James McNamara

3. Apologies:

Lisa Kamen, Sarah Tate, Nicola O’Neill, Heather Foo, Emma Stott, Esther Crooks, Emma Smith

4. Minutes of AGM held on :

Minutes of the 2020 AGM held on 21 January 2021 were accepted as a true record.

5. Chair’s Report – The Ecclesbourne School PSFA AGM 3 Nov 2021

2020-2021 has been an interesting and challenging year in many ways! Unfortunately, covid meant that many scheduled PSFA events were cancelled and for the Academic year it was impossible to undertake any face-to-face fundraising.

However, EasyFundraising continued to bring in income – even while we were all confined to our homes. To date, we have raised over £2000 – what Martin likes to call “free money”!! – with only 73 supporters. Imagine what we could do with just another 10% of our School’s parents (which is currently around 1500). So, one of our goals for the next year MUST be to push EasyFundraising and get more of our parents to sign up. If we can manage this, it will bring in good returns for minimum effort.

Thank you to Tanya Spilsbury (who has now left the school), for her sterling efforts over Lockdown in organising 2 Big PTA Raffles in association with ParentKind. These were pretty much the only other income we made during the last year, and they managed to bring in a staggering £1245!! We are now

registered for the Christmas Raffle, so hopefully our coffers will increase further over the next couple of months.

With almost 18 months of relative inactivity, and no contact with either current Year 8 or Year 7 parents, PSFA must strive to build new relationships with our newer parents. We are in need of a new Treasurer as Martin will sadly be leaving us next July. Pete Heath and Liz Page will also be moving on, so it is essential that we find new blood for the PSFA. I did speak of the need for Succession Planning at the 2019 AGM, but then covid hit, which meant we are all in isolation for a significant period and no action could be taken. We need to focus on this for the next couple of months.

Finally, although we have been relatively inactive for the last 18 months, we still have a good pool of people on the Committee and within School who are always willing to help out at Events. I'd like to thank all of our Committee, Helpers and Supporters for all their efforts, and particularly Martin and Pete who always go the extra mile when things are needed (and Martin also keeps us firmly on track with the finances!).

The Chair went on to explain all the event roles that the Committee can get involved in, e.g. Quiz and Chips; Parents evenings; Bars at events; Raffle ticket sales; Stars in Their Eyes; Prizegiving; Summer Production and Spring & Christmas Concerts.

Possible future events: Bingo was voted as the best idea for a new event prior to Covid and we can look at this again for 2022. Happy to hear from any new PSFA members with their ideas.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Easy fundraising – So far only 73 parents are registered on this. We would like to encourage more people to sign up for this. Ideas are welcomed from the Committee. Full Report attached as Appendix 1.

7. Election of Committee Members:

Chair: Jacqui Davis – nominated by Natalie Hickman. Seconded by Kathryn Chapman

Treasurer – No responses as yet.

The chair explained the role of Treasurer is critical to the PSFA and if anyone has any family members who would like the role please let us know. The Treasurer stressed that role does not require a qualified accountant and detailed notes and training will be available.

Jacqui Davis nominated Martin Boyce in the Interim. Seconded by Pete Heath

Secretary – Liz Page nominated by Jane Arnold. Seconded by Kathryn Chapman

Minutes Secretary – Ruth Day nominated by Jacqui Davis. Seconded by Helen Fox-White

Publicity Officer – Gail Lowe, nominated by Jane Arnold. Seconded by Jenny Price

Committee:

Caine Scott-Mullen
Claire flowers
Emma Smith
Emma Stott
Heather Foo
Nicola O'Neill
Sara Eate
Yvonne McNamee
Esther Crooks
Gail Lowe
Jenny Price
Kate Dudgeon
Kathryn Chapman
Lisa Kamen
Liz Page
Natalie Hickman
Peter Heath
Penny Bamber
Sue Small

If any new members would like to be added to the Committee we normally meet once a month. Discussions about whether online or in person to be arranged.

8. Closing Remarks

The Chair relayed a big thank you to everyone who is on the PSFA Committee adding a massive amount to the school funds and giving extra to the children. Without the volunteers this would not happen.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming.