



Friends of the Mead AGM - 14th September 2021

Attendees:

Catherine Openshaw (CO), Emma Kent (EK), Alice Patience (AP), Matthew Grogan (MG), Sarah-Jane Churcher (SJC), Matt Cullimore (MC), Andy Martin (AM), Rachel West (RW), Simone Mowling (SM), Rachel Truman (RT), Kate Leuty (KL), Melissa Morgan (MM), Ayme Flay (AF), Alicia Faith (AF), Sarah Morley (SMo), Leah Pippard (LP), Emily Thain (ET), Kate Goodwin (KG), Isabelle Davidge (ID), Natalie Alexander (NA), Rachel Flowerday (RF), Kelly Francis (KF), Sara Groves (SG), Ksenia Ostrovska (KO), Lucy Jones (LJ), Michelle Coveney (MCo)

Apologies:

Tamasin Absolon (TA), Ella Blackwell (EB), Kath Newland (KN)

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies (EK)

- EK opened the meeting with introductions from the current Executive Committee, Incoming Committee, Class Reps & Parent Volunteers.
- EK noted that all reps will be set up on the website, which will be used for comms. The role of the Class Reps is the dissemination of these comms & coordination of any support needed from year groups.
- EK shared that these meetings will also be used to discuss upcoming events.

2. Chair's Report (EK)

- EK reiterated that FOM is a charity, any funds being raised for other charities must be led externally - while FOM can support, these cannot be led by FOM.
- EK noted that the Executive Committee meet with the school 1 or 2 times per term to discuss what events to hold, and how to spend the money. Requests are also received from teachers.
- EK shared FOM's mission statement:

"FoM's mission is to bring the Mead community together outside of the classroom for fun events that raise funds for FoM. FoM use these funds to enhance our children's education over and above what the school provide."

- EK highlighted that the last year has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Highlights from last year include:
 - Christmas Mariah Carey video (spliced by MG's colleague)
 - Christmas Jumper Day & Fun morning
 - Christmas Hampers (raising £1700)
 - Own clothes day & mini disco in class at year-end (all-school disco was rained off, sadly)

3. Treasurer's Report (MG)

- MG reiterated that we have had a lean year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However we have a healthy bank balance due to the ball - we opened on 1 August with £12,236.61, closing on 31 July with £19,698.86.
- Payments IN have included: £422 second-hand uniform sales, £375 own clothes day, £500 profit from Christmas cards, £1700 from Christmas hampers, £1000 from the Mariah Carey video.
- Payments OUT included £366.40 for mead fest decorations, £17,074 for the playground refurbishment, £400 for PTA Events membership.
- MG noted that the DJ for the rained-off disco will refund their fee.

4. Election of Committee Members (EK)

- The proposed new Executive Committee were voted in by a clear majority. These are SJC – Chair, AM & MC – Vice Chair, MG – Treasurer and RW – Secretary.

5. Meadfest (EK)

- EK noted that final numbers are still pending, however it looks like we have exceeded the amount raised by the previous Meadfest, mainly due to the takings on the bar. Contributing factors are the fact that it was held on a Saturday this time with no school/work in the morning, and that we ran the event for an extra hour.
- EK noted that there were a few hiccups - late marquee, late band & missing fridges, however these were swiftly rectified.
- EK noted some highlights - the Thai food van, additional craft stall, Selfie booth & salsa dancing.
- SJC queried whether the ball & Meadfest were alternated year on year - EK noted that both were included in the year, with the ball in November & Meadfest in May. AF highlighted that Meadfest replaced the previous school fair held on Sports Day. SMO shared that Meadfest does not have to be repeated - there was previously a Christmas Fair which was enjoyed by the children. Every year group runs a stall in their classroom & the class reps lead preparation.
- SMO raised that there were complaints from some new parents that they were unable to secure tickets for Meadfest - EK confirmed that all new parents were sent the link & had the opportunity to purchase tickets.
- MG shared that we were limited to a maximum of 499 people - anything above this number becomes extremely arduous in terms of insurance/administration overhead.
- EK noted that the ball made £13k, with all of the profit coming from the auction on the night, including £5k from the silent auction that the auctioneers ran in parallel (prizes included a holiday, chalet stay in Courchevel, apartment stay in Washington, festival tickets). MG shared that most of this money went on the playground.
- MG noted that ideally we do not want to exceed £25k income for the year, as this necessitates the preparation of additional accounting. Meadfest has already tipped £13k for this year. MG shared that in the event that we do require additional accounting this year, it should be more straightforward as it will be a repeat rather than a first time effort.

6. Gym Refurbishment (EK)

- EK gave an update on the gym refurbishment, which has been on the cards for some time.
- Plans include new lighting, new floor, re-plastering, decorating and an IT upgrade. The storage at the back will also be repurposed into more space for the children. MC noted that the first phase is planned for October half-term.

- AF queried whether the plans could be shared out more widely, including the new floorplan? EK noted that some details have been included in the latest FOM newsletter, but once available perhaps the floorplan could be shared later. The upgraded space will be used for dance, sport, assembly & more.
- EK noted that this will be a project in conjunction with Wishford, who are sharing the costs with FOM.

7. Christmas Cards (SJC)

- SJC noted that the Christmas card packs have arrived, templates will be distributed to each class for completion. Order forms will be distributed to parents in November.
- SJC noted that initial plans for Christmas events will be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

8. AOB

- RW shared that a new Instagram has been created, to replace the existing broken one. Once the old one has been deleted, this will be communicated out to parents to increase followers, hopefully making sponsorship more attractive.
- KL raised whether it might be possible to have meetings outside of working hours - EK noted that this will be decided by the new chair - TBC.
- EK thanked everyone for their support during her tenure as chair, and wished the new committee the best of luck!