

# Friends of Heathlands

Committee Information



Established: 2016

Each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) around September or October we re-elect our committee.



This includes...

- Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary

# The role of the Chair person...

- Duties and responsibilities of the PTA Chair
- Prepares for meetings (with the Secretary)
- Invites committee members, parents, and staff to PTA committee meetings
- Suggests items for the agenda
- Identifies outstanding items from the last meeting
- Prepares introductions for any new committee members attending
- Sets the ground rules for meetings, and makes sure they are inclusive and efficient
- Delegates tasks to other committee members and volunteers, and checks they're completed
- Liaises with the school, and requests a 'wish list' for the PTA committee to use when deciding which projects to fund
- Ensures the committee fulfils its role in respect of the governance of the association as set out in its constitution – for example, holding an AGM, electing committee members, working with the Treasurer to ensure annual returns are completed if the PTA is registered as a charity
- Ensures any decisions made are clear, fit the objectives of the association, and are made by agreement of the committee as per your PTA's constitution
- The PTA Chair cannot make decisions alone: all decisions must be made by the whole PTA committee
- Writes the annual report for the association (with the Secretary)
- Writes the Chair's report for the AGM
- Can be a signatory on the PTA bank account (along with at least one other committee member)
- Makes sure the association is GDPR-compliant.
- Key skills
- Confident and assertive – able to control meetings and call them to order when necessary, making sure everyone has an opportunity to speak
- Able to remain impartial – ensures contributions are brief and that everyone's views are respected
- Calm, friendly and approachable – as the main point of contact for the PTA for all members, the PTA Chair must be inclusive, and make sure everyone feels welcome
- Organised and able to delegate – most PTAs organise a lot of activities. The PTA Chair should make sure the workload is shared and that tasks are completed as agreed

# The role of the Treasurer...

## **Duties and responsibilities of the PTA Treasurer**

- Keeps accurate, up-to-date financial records
- Presents financial updates at each committee meeting
- Manages the PTA bank account, and holds the association cheque book
- Arranges changes of signatories on the association bank account
- Manages different payment platforms
- Ensures all bank cards, cheque books, and paying-in books are accounted for and obtained from any individual leaving the PTA
- Ensures best practice procedures are followed for counting and banking money after events
- Makes approved payments
- Ensures procedures for making approved payments and claiming approved expenses are followed by all committee members
- Prepares the annual Treasurer's report for your AGM and arranges an independent examination of the association's accounts
- Completes the relevant Charity Commission's annual return if your PTA is registered as a charity
- Manages Gift Aid (or assists the committee member responsible for managing Gift Aid)
- Ensures committee members have read a copy of your association's insurance policy summary, which should detail cash cover, and that they adhere to any guidelines contained in the document
- **Key skills**
  - Basic understanding of bookkeeping – able to maintain accurate records of income and expenditure
  - Organised with an eye for detail – big events involve counting a lot of small change. The Treasurer leads the 'money' team, making up floats, and collecting money from various stalls
  - Calm, approachable, and a team player – able to remain calm during busy times. Ensure they don't work in isolation by communicating regularly with the rest of the committee.

# The role of the Secretary...

## **Duties and responsibilities of the PTA Secretary**

- Prepares for meetings (with the PTA Chair)
- Takes minutes at meetings, recording attendance, action points, decisions, and proposals
- Circulates approved minutes, along with a reminder of any actions agreed
- Maintains association records
- Makes sure the association is GDPR-compliant
- Updates trustee details with relevant charity commission (as appropriate)
- May be a signatory on the PTA bank account (along with at least one other committee member)
- Handles the association's correspondence
- **Key skills**
- Organised and efficient – keeps accurate records in a format that can easily be handed over to a successor
- Good listener – able to identify key discussion points, actions, and agreements at meetings to accurately record in minutes
- Calm, friendly, and approachable – able to communicate confidently with the school and the committee members

You must not act as a trustee if you are disqualified under the Charities Act, including if you:

- Have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception (such as fraud);
- Are bankrupt or have entered into a formal arrangement (for example, an individual voluntary arrangement) with a creditor;
- Have been removed as a company director or charity trustee because of wrongdoing.

**More information can be found on the Charities commission website.**