



## Parent Council

### Minute of Parent Council AGM Meeting Tuesday 12 November 2013

**Present:** Fiona McQuarrie (Chair), Cllr. Helen Carmichael, Judith Whitelaw, Isobel Crawford, Colleen MacIntosh, Hazel Stewart, Linda Mair.

**In Attendance:** Kenneth Morrison, Head Teacher; Carol Miller (teacher representative)

1.	<b><u>WELCOME</u></b> Fiona McQuarrie welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Sharon Brindle, Jane Campbell and Claire MacGruer	<b><u>Action</u></b>
2.	<b><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u></b> The minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2013 was approved.	
3.	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trim-track: an amount of £1000 may be made available by donation in the coming weeks by Lifescan</li> <li>• Feasibility study: a site visit was done by Richard Jack (architect) to consider short term building development options to upgrade the school between now and a more comprehensive upgrade in 5-10years (as per Highland Council appending plan). Options are being considered and drawings to be completed. Local residents received letter regarding future site re-zoning, those who have seen the letter commented on its vagueness and lack of specifics.</li> <li>• Minibus: Following Community Council discussions, Kenneth expressed that there was positivity towards the concept. Kenneth and Jim Stewart are collaborating to move this forward. Local authority pot of money is no longer there for feasibility study. Kenneth announced that a donor who wishes to remain anonymous have made an approach offering £10,000 donation towards the minibus project. Kenneth is meeting with the community transport council. Permits, etc., to be discussed relating to a non-profit sustainable project. SSE, renewable department will be approached as possible financial contributors. Key community partners are to be identified and engaged in discussions.</li> <li>• The Parent Council presented Margret Macrae with a voucher and a card in appreciation for her work.</li> <li>• Thank you for organising Rag bag £180 (360kg at 50p p/kg) raised which is substantially more than last collection. Previous time raised just under £100. Collection bin to be located outside. They need to be on a solid base like concrete or tar. Size similar to industrial wheelie bins (1.5m tall by 1m wide). As the collection bins will be in a non-obvious site (i.e. inside school grounds) it will face the school for better visibility. Accepting these collection bins indicate a commitment to collect 600 kg over six months, which is achievable. Awareness to be raised of the bins, their location. Newsletter/notice boards in the village etc. Bins will be collected when full, and are to be emptied into hessian sacks.</li> </ul>	

**Chair: Fiona McQuarrie**

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- Andrew hopes to be at next meeting; he suffered a serious shoulder injury and off work at present.
- Overhanging thorns located along the pavement beside Croc have been removed.
- The newsletter has gone out, which highlighted all the work that is done by the Parent Council and the need for parent support/volunteers if this is to continue.

**4. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

- Miss Julia Macleod started on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October in P1/2 and has settled back into the school quickly.
- Janitor, Michael Edwards has returned to work on a phased return following his absence due to a shoulder injury. He is part of the FMA team now but is likely to continue with Beauly as a base in the near-future.
- Netball Club being introduced for two sessions to determine interest amongst P5/6/7. Adults are welcome to play after the children's club and hopefully this will continue into the longer term.
- Dance2it Club being introduced for P1/2/3 – A parent volunteer is required for this to be carried forward as a club for the long term.
- Basketball coaches Adam and Laura are undertaking Level 1 Basketball Coaching Certificate.
- The hall is now at capacity for clubs, the Music Room is also in use twice a week (ArtLab and Dance2it).
- Building and Maintenance:
  - The hut and adjacent sheds have been painted externally.
  - Football shed's external woodwork repaired (last term)
  - Bear Bins have been introduced into the playground, anchored into the tarmac.
  - New paper recycling bins in place throughout the school
  - Projector and screen installed into Library for ICT lessons
  - Corner building in playground (Out-house?) is to be demolished
  - Temporary radon sensors installed throughout school (and across Highland Council estate)
- Two new 'mobile', height adjustable Smartboards with integrated projectors have been purchased for the school. Initially the plan is that these will be used in P5/6 and the Nursery.
- There has been a significant investment in topic and numeracy resources (selected with Teachers). Most have been received.
- Beauly Primary School has been asked to play in North of Scotland Primary Hockey Championships following our recent 2<sup>nd</sup> place. This will take place on Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, our top team has been asked to attend a National Hockey festival in the central belt next year.
- Janet MacInnes – 'Teller', took an assembly and Lydia Michael Trust is offering to pay for 8 class sessions in local folklore, poetry and the writing of tales.
- Nov 25<sup>th</sup> – Nursery Student, Rebecca Gallacher starts (11 wks over course of year).
- Rehearsals are underway for P3-7 choir in preparation for Winter Light Switch on.
- Nativity C.H.R.I.S.T.M.A.S. spells CHRISTMAS will be performed on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm
- Further discussions are taking place for a P3-7 performance of The Firebird. This would likely be in the final school term.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ £1850 is being re-charged to the school account from a central budget as part of a Highland initiative to develop ICT in schools, following Kenneth's contact with ICT services.</li> <li>○ £1628.16 has been placed in the Primary Fund from an old school account which had remained dormant for a lengthy period of time. The account was in the name of previous Head Teacher, Mr R. Mackinnon.</li> <li>○ In the coming week information will be distributed to parents regarding a new uniform provider. Clothing at Tesco will provide a service with 5% of takings returned to school and a £5 off voucher for the first purchase over £25, used before end of February. All three uniform providers have links through the school website.</li> <li>○ Charleston ASG Learning Community Strategic Group. A Parent Council rep has been requested to join this group which is likely to meet once every 2-3 months with a view to enhancing the delivery of services that meet the needs for everyone in the community. Namely this will look at local provision, gaps in provision and how partners and services can work together to bridge the gaps. Any interested parents should approach the school office.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b><u>CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>Fiona McQuarrie remarked that the school website is well presented and well received by parents. Mr Morrison said that on occasion the website counter shows up to 60 visits are made per day. The calendar function is inactive at the moment and work is being done to resolve this issue. The great opportunities presented to children due to the provision of sport, particularly basketball/hockey and cross country has been recognised. The Parent Council purchased a voucher and card for Margaret and it was presented to her in appreciation of her services.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Parent Council account balance currently stands at £1234.64. Cost of trophies and expenditure of £30 already deducted.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b><u>SCHOOL GARDEN</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The books have been audited, roughly £1400 in account (books not at meeting).</li> <li>● More garden vouchers coming in, value now stands at £120.</li> <li>● Roz Paterson, a parent, has volunteered and wants to become more involved with the school garden.</li> <li>● The volunteers and school are keen to have even more people on board. Ideally the garden would be open twice a week in spring.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b><u>FUND-RAISING</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lantern Making to be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November in the Phipps Hall. Some lanterns have been prepped, would need about 70 in total. The 4 pint milk bottles are still coming. They have to be clean and rinsed.</li> <li>● The lantern parade is on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November – Braeview Park at 6.20pm.</li> <li>● Silent Auction – as this is not going ahead now the bikes will be sold on Gumtree and funds will go in the Parent Council account. The bikes could be sold for something like £25 each and the pink bike for a decent price like £85 as it is new. The donor of the bikes to be credited for the donation.</li> <li>● Christmas fair to be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November. There will be various stalls including the Parent Council's four stalls: Tea &amp; Coffee, Baking, Wrap a Present and the Garden Stall. The Book stall holder will donate 25% of takings to the school budget. Nina's (fabric flowers made from Harris tweed) will also donate a percentage of takings to the school budget.</li> <li>● Selection boxes – Fiona to check on the number needed.</li> </ul>	

9.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A discussion re individual trophies – is it viable financially in the long run? Even though the trophies are not costly, once a precedent is set it will have to be maintained and is that possible across all the activities taking place at the school?</li> <li>• A trophy cabinet – it would be good to have a display cabinet on show to display the shields. This is currently taken home.</li> <li>• It is easy to fundraise through the website Easy Fund Raising – parents to be encouraged to registered. So far £112 raised through purchases made via this site. The November newsletter will again highlight how to register and use the site.</li> <li>• Cllr. Carmichael has been approached by Murphy’s currently doing extensive works just outside Beauly – they have offered to make a crossing outside the school. Helen will make further enquiries etc., and liaise with Highland Council. Murphy’s have also been in touch with Jim Stewart with an offer to level a piece of land at the end of the school grounds</li> <li>• Helen also raised a query about the school being used for IT classes for older people, for example on how to use SKYPE. There are wider issues to consider for example disclosure etc. This needs to be researched further</li> <li>• An anonymous complaint was received from a resident who was threatened in the grounds of her own garden by a parent who parked across the gates of the resident’s property. Mr Morrison has also received similar complaints and is happy to make direct contact with parents if this is reported to him. If someone is verbally ‘assaulted’ they are within their rights to contact the police.</li> </ul>	<p>KM</p> <p>HC</p>
10.	<p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING -</u></b>  Tuesday 21 January 2014 – 7.00pm in the Music Room</p>	