



ABOYNE PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 24th JANUARY 2023, ABOYNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRESENT	Colin Hutchison (Head Teacher), Natalie Pinnell (Chair Person), Lindsay Thompson (Treasurer), Becki Redmond, Sara Henry (fundraising), Eilidh Connolly, Sarah Sargent, Mairi MacDonald (Secretary).	
ONLINE	Councillor Sarah Brown. Councillor Geva Blackett. Councillor Anouk Kloppert.	
AGENDA		ACTION
1.0	<p>Chairs Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Natalie Pinnell: Welcome everyone to the meeting. I'd like to outline the objectives of the parent council to work with the school to benefit the pupils. To engage and support activities for children.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
2.0	<p>Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes</p> <p>Any comments from the minutes of the last meeting. No comments. Two people to approve those minutes. Approved by Eilidh and Sarah.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
3.0	<p>Head Teacher Update</p> <p>Good to be back. The parent council are getting to grips. I have a good relationship with Natalie. Look forward to the rest of my time. I'd like to discuss the inspection which took place, although I'm not at liberty to discuss the feedback. The report is under inspection. It's working through that process and is with Susie Duff. Intense and demanding process for the whole school and nursery. Broadly positive feedback from staff. Publicly record thanks to every member of staff in the run up to the inspection and for the inspection themselves. Many gave up personal time during the Christmas holidays. Important to share their efforts. Thank Natalie for her and everybody who took in part with the parent council.</p> <p>Great to welcome parents back to the school for the Christmas concert. Lovely to see the children perform in front of them. Delighted to facilitate. Keen to develop more of these in the not too distant future. Learning centres starting again in the not too distant future. Information will be sent out on a class by class basis. Sharing their learning. Class newsletters sent out today. Overview of what's taken place in terms of learning. Homework is back. Have had positive feedback from parents on homework element.</p> <p>Appeals sent to parents on parking. Something we want to monitor going</p>	



	<p>forward so. Congested car park. Having issues with the accessible parking bay being used. Will keep appealing to parents to be considerate with parking.</p> <p>Have been thinking about Scottish week celebrations. Asking parents back in to show our poetry, keen to do something along those lines. Looking for our feedback on this. Also want to engage and discuss any charity events we could be running and fundraising working with parent council.</p> <p>NP: Scottish week celebrations, we will look into what we can do to get involved. Thank you Colin for your commitment and communication.</p> <p>Open door policy. Get in touch with school office and meetings will be facilitated. Parent evenings coming up March time, around 6 weeks away, where progress can be discussed with teachers.</p> <p>Thanks again. Any questions welcomed.</p> <p>NP – asks about strikes. CH – In light of no agreement being reached yet, school will be closed on Monday 30th Jan.</p> <p>SS – Parking, following on from last year. With reference to Safer Routes to schools, discussed last year. Sewing seeds and getting pupils involved in the discussion. BR: Voluntary arrangement being discussed: with cars approaching up Morvern and accessing the school car park, and out onto Ladywood to keep the traffic moving.</p> <p>CH: Suggest parents park a little bit further away from the school.</p> <p>NP: Councillor Sarah Brown looked into this with the council. One of the issues is that the road isn't council owned. Whose budget does it come out of?</p> <p>Discussed the idea of Chevrons/lines painted direct on the road. NP: asks CH "Did you manage to find out who DOES own it?" Maybe this is something we should look into for funding by the parent council? However, we're not volunteering our budget for this, if we can get somebody else to fund it! SH: This impacts directly on children's safety, and there's an issue with the roundabout in the school car park, people parking ON the roundabout, and in front of it. Kids manoeuvring around the randomly parked cars.</p> <p>BR: commented that she has seen some schools spray paint children on the ground, or put school jumpers on there, to give the parents a fright. There are other visual options. Bollards? A Sign?</p>	PARENTS
AGENDA		ACTION
4.0	<p>Treasurer Report We've had a few events in terms of fundraising.</p> <p>We are still in the process of transferring the permissions from Julie Reid to LT and NP. In limbo phase. Julie has done an amazing job and we're</p>	



	<p>thankful to her for that. We have a bank balance of £20,385.79 at the moment. A reduced amount of this is available, the rest in ring-fenced for use. The Winter Festival money will be available for outdoor learning.</p> <p>In terms of fundraising at the moment, the merry go round raised £691.00 which is going towards the playground project.</p> <p>£150 per class goes towards incidentals and class trips. £180 for nursery. Money for p7 leavers calculators and then the money for the Christmas parties.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Playground Development Update</p> <p>BR: Quick summary. The playground was brought to our attention about 4 years ago saying there's something they want improvement on. Council said they don't have budgets. We took it upon ourselves. Raised £10,000 from the parents. In that time we've spent some of the money. £500 spent on playground chalks etc. £2,000 for a company to paint the games in the playground.</p> <p>We received £2,000 from the Arnold Clark community fund. £690.00 from merry-go-round sale and Shell has donated £1,000 via the community fund. So the balance is sitting at £13,300. Our plans have been by covid.</p> <p>There was a decision made in September 2022 that we would make a decision at the next parent council meeting. The original plans would now cost £150-180k to do, so not realistic. Spoke to company who did the original design. The current funds will provide ONE item for the funds we have.</p> <p>Discussed the complexities of sourcing child certified products. We're looking to put something into the space which had the climbing frame in it. We could try and make it up to 15k. Use money from the bank account and top it up. Don't need an instant decision on this. BR will contact previous company and see what we could do for both amounts of money, so we can see the difference. It will be important for the current p7s to see something happen as they were heavily involved in raising funds.</p> <p>CH: there's been a lot of discussion about what's missing from the playground. Kids have said it's some kind of stage area missing, where they could do outdoor productions.</p> <p>BR: original plan had outdoor stage area. The kids drew their dream playground 4 years ago. There were stages in there. BR will ask the company if it would be possible to include a stage.</p> <p>CH: Also discussed the option of having grass. BR: the problem was that in the past any grass has become a mud garden. If we put grass round anywhere, it has to have special matting underneath it, which costs around 4x as much as bark. MM: What about approaching AJC. He has</p>	



	<p>been approached previously, but it is agreed that it would be worth contacting AJC again.</p> <p>NP: We need to put it to a vote as to whether we top up the playground fund. Sarah fundraising seems to be becoming more challenging. NP: We want to support Becki putting something in place. However, if we do use funds from the balance, there needs to be a fundraising effort to replace any funds.</p>	
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AGENDA		ACTION
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Fundraising Update</p> <p>SH: Advent calendar in December was popular. The recent Quiz Night at The Boat Inn went well, raising over £1,000. The raffle brought in a lot. Shame there wasn't enough room as we could have had more tables. Next plan, Valentines Day in February.</p> <p>BR: March 25th merry-go-round sale. Need to change the date. We will need 12-15 Volunteers for the Friday night setup. Current helpers are experienced, so things run smoothly. CH: Are the children are ever involved? SS: No. This was the first one in two years. EC: in terms of effort is it worth £600? BR: Yes, they normally make more than that. SS: If we don't take it on, it will still happen, but the right to arrange it goes out to somebody else. BR: They've given to lots of different charities. Whoever is taking it on, it's their responsibility to provide volunteers, so they should be from the school in this instance.</p> <p>SH: In May hoping to do a May Fair, with a focus on 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'. No point in doing it unless the school is behind it 100%. It's a lovely thing to do. EC: Will there be food? SH: Yes.</p> <p>SS: To give us a rough idea of what they've done before. For each class, the children are given a small startup grant, from the parent council budget, roughly £20. They get to decide what they do with that money by way of designing their own stand. The class that makes the biggest profit from their stand, gets to keep their profit. The children design posters, decorations, and set up their stall.</p> <p>Great to see as many as possible. Setting up and running of stalls in shifts. It is entirely up to the children to run their stalls. An issue was identified with PVG system which is now in place. In previous years staff have been a great support. However, in the past parents didn't need to be PVG checked. Will that be the case now? Do their need to be school assured PVG, or personal PVG? All parents will need to be school assured PVG.</p> <p>There will also be a Chocolate Tombola, and a Raffle. CH: Has this been opened up to other stall holders, local crafters etc? SS: No as the kids fill the playground. Aoyne Ice Cream van is normally there.</p> <p>NP: there's the opportunity for P7 to get involved with selling raffle tickets.</p>	
<p>6.0 cont.</p>	<p>Discussion re the proposed date. TBC. Some point in the month of May.</p>	



CH: indicates he's happy to be involved. SS: Parent council runs three stalls and there's lots of behind the scenes work setting up floats for kids and making sure it runs smoothly. SS: kids can do whatever they like to make their money, obstacle course, Beat the goalie. CH: This is part of the childrens' learning, so not a problem, the school will support it. Date in May for the May Fair. To be advised by the school.

There's also an end of term disco in June. However, there may be an issue this year with parent helpers needing a PVG to work via the school. SS: highlighted that some parents have gone completely independently and set up disco and donated any funds to the school.

If anybody wants to do something outside of the parent council but donate to the council, that would be great.

Discussion regarding contacting The Seed Box. SH will try to get hold of them and arrange for us to sell second school hand uniforms at the local farmer's market.

NP: can we try to coordinate dates for the dress down days? These are a simple way of collecting funds. CH: encouraging make 'a donation' rather than being £1 so people don't feel they're under stress to donate. NP: it has always been a voluntary day, but yes, good to highlight that it is voluntary. SS: just before summer holidays we've tended to do dress down day. BR: For Valentine's Day, 'wear a touch of red'. NP: are you happy for use to send you a list of dates for your approval Colin? CH: approved, but indicated that he doesn't want too many dates.

NP: In terms of fundraising, the more people we have involved, the easier fundraising becomes. I would encourage all parents to do this. If you can't give time and energy, if you could make a financial contribution.

Nat: Glossy box, thank you to everyone involved. Bryce Heslop sourced all the raffle prizes, a huge thank you to him.

NP: Before we finish, has the drainage in the playground been completed?

CH: not really. The drainage was inspected. Nobody has been this session that I've been informed about. It becomes a bit of problem by the bark area. Everyone is aware that the ice in the playground hasn't been great. Has hit a brick wall with Aberdeenshire policy with regard to clearing playgrounds. Councillors, this may be something that you might be able to get involved in. Geva: Suggested that she and Colin could have a discussion about this. Lawrence Findlay is coming to see her. She will discuss keeping our children safe. SH: Torphins is having exactly the same issue and nothing is being done about it, other than by volunteers. Thank you Geva for raising the safety issue.

BR: If we're looking at this issue. 6 hours inside, no hours outside when there's ice. No ability to be outside. CH: there was almost an entire week where the children couldn't play outside. The academy is aware of our concern, they have a little mini tractor available, can't use the grit, can only use salt. NP: While we wait for the powers that be, could we look into parent volunteers, for the sake of our children?

6.0 cont.



AGENDA		ACTION
7.0	<p>Class Rep Coordinator Update NP: Class rep coordinators; were removed from the parent council after a discussion with CH and myself. Due to legal ramifications, it wasn't appropriate for parents to have access to the information they did. Because of that change, any parents who would like to give feedback, feel free to email or contact us. As a result we need to update the constitution for parent council. Natalie proposes that we do that. EC: Can we also ask that any existing class reps, or past class reps delete ANY and ALL data Immediately with regard to class information. That request was missing from the communications that's went out from the school. The Constitution has been amended.</p> <p>Unfortunately the online link timed out at this point. So we were unable to reconnect with those who joined us online.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
8.0	<p>Any Other Competent Business BR: Zebra Crossing update. We have a date of mid march for the installation of a zebra crossing. No update on Bridge View Road, but there will one being installed on Ballater Road.</p> <p>Touched briefly on the Road closures, treacherous conditions for children travelling to the school. Some of the new paths aren't under council ownership yet and are still under AJC ownership. Touched on ice in the playground, and also the routes through the woods. There are various hazardous paths. It is disappointing that on several occasions with recent snow and ice it has been unsafe for children to get to school.</p> <p>Lane between Loch Kinord Drive and A93. Unfortunately the path is owned by the houses, private property, so there's nothing we can do about that land. All the water runs off the house, as there's no gutter. Do we need the community to do something about this? It is treacherous for school children in icy conditions. Someone should discuss putting some guttering up with the owner. Does anybody know who lives there?</p> <p>NP: Councillor Sarah Brown has been advocating on our behalf with the private contractors regarding the Tarland Road closures.</p> <p>NP will send links to the info so we can share information regarding road and travel. School roll forecast – NP to insert.</p> <p>PVG – CH: can we encourage as many people as possible to get one. Nice way in the future for parents to come in and interact with the children. Can't happen without PVGs. EC: what was the barrier previously? SS: parents were supporting teachers previously, without PVG requirement, but policy has changed and now everybody needs to be PVG checked.</p>	NP?



	<p>EC: I've tried to volunteer several times and discouraged from applying for a PVG as there's a backlog. BR: we need to work out how the school manages it as there's a lot of pressure on Lynne and Pauline. The parent helpers need to go through school, not parent council disclosures. We need this to start moving so that parents can get involved. CH: he understands that the schools involvement is minimal.</p> <p>Discussion continues re the complexities. Highlights the importance of streamlining the PVG process. School is keen for lots of people to get it. How do we do this? It's a free process. Communication and guidance required. CH will follow up.</p> <p>NP: call to parents to encourage more communication. Nothing in response to the call for the meeting. Some people aren't getting the newsletters, or not able to open them. Probably user error. CH: Not everybody has a smart phone. EC: would it be an idea to send a text file? Solution: If you add in the email, 'please contact us and we'll send you a text version'.</p> <p>Leadership groups. Is there any capacity for purchasing gardening equipment? Parent council set it up. There's money coming from the COOP for the sensory garden, via Mrs Smith.</p> <p>Encourage children to write to parent council to request funding for leadership projects. What their project is, how much money they need. We then discuss and make a decision based on their requests.</p>	
AGENDA		ACTION
9.0	<p>Date of Next Meeting The next meeting has been set for 21st March 2023</p> <p>Thank you everyone. Meeting concluded.</p>	