

Parent Council Meeting Minutes 15th January 2018

Attendees: Gordon McIntyre, Dawn Thomson, Melanie Ruxton, Emma McLoughlin, Anne Scott, Thomas Lynch, Jennifer Kirk, Kerry Courtney, Rachel Liddell, Leann Ramsay, Alastair Keil, Mark Brown, Andrew Ho, Geraldine Forsyth, Stuart Lithgow, Charlie Goldsmith, Eric Jackson, Karen Taylor, Jude Thomson, Katie Campbell, Eric Jackson, Ainslie Petty, Shabnam Hussain, Morag Morrison

Apologies: Orla Irwin, Jude Thomson, Neil Gibson

Minutes

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- a. Previous minutes were approved.
- b. Actions from the previous meeting were confirmed as completed.
- c. Attendees who were not at the previous meeting requested sight of the letter the Parent Council had sent to Edinburgh Council regarding the Cammo site development, to facilitate further canvassing. **Action: Dawn**

2. Update from Head Teacher

- a. **Staff changes:** Mr Donald-Hewitt is now teaching in the nursery following the departure of the previous teacher. Mrs Bryce is now teaching P2/3. Three new PSAs are due to start this term.
- b. **School show:** The school show is in March (20th, 21st and 23rd) and all year groups will participate this year, which is also the 60th anniversary of the school.
- c. **Fundraising:** There were a number of excellent fundraising initiatives undertaken by the children last term including the Festive Choir at St Kentigerns, Christmas Jumper Day, Clerry Come Dancing with over £1000 raised benefiting a number of charities. There was also a pre-Christmas Foodbank donation initiative. Excellent feedback from Mercy Corps was helpful in letting the children see what they are supporting and how their activities and fundraising can make a real difference.
- d. **Building work:** Two new classrooms are planned for the back playground (replacing the shed, which is being relocated to the end of the football pitch). This will provide some much needed additional space.
- e. **Digital communication:** the website has been refreshed and the school is now on Twitter (@clermistonps). The Twitter account is run through the website. It was noted that the main form of communication from the school remains through ParentPay.

3. School Communication

It was noted and discussed that not all parents know they should regularly check their accounts for new notices. It was agreed that it would be worth the parent council updating the Facebook account to let people know this.

4. Composite Classes

Some concerns were raised about ensuring that composite classes were included in the appropriate year group trips and topics, given some recent examples where this had appeared not to happen, including Christmas parties. Gordon assured the group that whilst it can be challenging linking trips to topics where there may be some deviance between the classes, a great deal of thought and planning does go into ensuring those children are included.

5. Attitude Blue Badge Drivers

Issues remain with drivers within the restricted area either driving there illegally or for those with blue badges failing to take care / drive slowly. Gordon advised that he reminds children at assembly that they need to walk on the pavement and not the road. It was noted that a school parking report goes to the Community Council and that we need to ensure this is raised there. Thomas also offered to contact the community police officer to get clarity on the rules and to help resolve what is a persistent issue.

6. Dens and behaviour

A number of parents had raised concerns about the use of dens in creative and collaborative play, as there have been some behaviour issues as a result. Gordon advised that whilst this has definitely captured imaginations and that the topic was discussed at assembly, there is no increase in behavioural issues across the school. It was agreed that this would be monitored ongoing.

7. Accommodation for Children with Packed Lunch

Questions were asked about space for those children opting to take a packed lunch as some parents had feedback from their children that they had been forced to take lunch outside due to lack of space. Geraldine advised that whilst children can opt to go outside, this was very much their choice and that space would always be made available where children wanted to sit inside. There was a proposal made by a parent regarding the design and build of a shelter, which Gordon agreed to follow up on. **Action: GM**

8. Fundraising Update

No updates this month.

9. Current Financial Position

Andrew provided the following update:

In -

Christmas Fair - £2633 net profit

P7s - £254.80

Christmas Cards - £149

School Uniform £56
Clothing Bank - £55.20
Stikins - £64.02

Out -
Cards - £1,114.20
Uniforms - £25

Current Balance - £11,115.83
Agreed Funding - £7,000

10. Requests for Funding

Given the playground art application was still delayed, and building work in the back playground would delay this further, it was agreed to fund the following:

- Expand the "living things" budget for P1 from £245 to £340 to cover ant, snail and spider homes
- Fund a weather station for the nursery at a fee of £192
- Fund a Frog bin following a very entertaining and well-developed proposal from the P7s (£300)
- Provide £100 for each class to allocate as they see fit following consultation and development of ideas from the children (£1900)

11. Updates from Pupil Council and Community Council

Eric Jackson advised that the Community Council sits every end Monday of the month and that all are welcome.

It was noted that Joyce (Crossing Patrol on Drumbrae) was returning to work on 16th January.

12. Newsletter Update

This had been on hold given development of the Facebook page but it was agreed a periodic updated remained useful for those not using that page. Any updates should be sent to Leann, along with ideas for topics to include.

13. Recruitment & Selection Training

Anne is registered for the course on 27th February.

14. AOB

- Dawn advised that a meeting (AGM) of the Scottish Parent Teacher Council was taking place on 8th February at 6pm for anyone who wished to attend.
- Lost property: Gordon will reiterate to the children the need to check all pegs in the cloakroom and surrounding area. Some parents are tackling the monstrous pile in the coming week in a bid to get items back to owners. Thereafter, items will be donated to the clothing bank.

- Gala: Mr Lithgow noted dates for gala fundraising and events and these are being sent home with children.
- Mel queried if P5 parents would be automatically reimbursed for paid lunches which could not be taken due to the late notice of a class trip. Gordon to check. **Action: GM**
- Eric suggested any dates for school events could be included in the community newsletter (eg Summer Fayre) and to advise by the second week in February.

Dates of Next Meetings:

12/3/18

30/4/18

30/5/18 - AGM