

Parent Council AGM Minutes September 2021

Attendees: Sandra Dargie, Anne Scott, Rachel Liddell, Karen Souza, Gordon McIntyre, Geraldine Forsyth, Emma McLoughlin, Stuart Lithgow, Jennifer Inglis-Jones, Rita Nogueira, Shabnam Hussain, Katie Campbell, Charlie Goldsmith, Mary Bisset, Laura Smith, Fern Findlay-Greene, Kirsty Gallen, Morag Morrison, Alison Lynas

Apologies: Neil Gibson, Mark Brown, Mandy White

1. Welcome

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Discussion Papers

- a. **Playground markings:** Sandra thanked all those involved and the school for their support in getting this done ahead of the new term. The playground is looking great, and we have had a really positive response from parents and staff.
- b. Plans are underway for our next **gardening day** – which will mostly comprise of painting benches and needs around 8 volunteers – the WhatsApp group will organise accordingly. Stuart queried if dinosaur boards were part of the plans – Sandra requested that we take offline, check costs and installation requirements and bring back to the council next month, for approval.
- c. The **school fence** is in a state of real disrepair, and this has been raised with our local Councillor for help/guidance to get fixed. Geraldine to speak to Elaine with regards to the recent H&S visit as this may have captured the issue. Either way, it needs resolved and if we are going to be on a 10-year waiting list for resolution, we may wish to fundraise and upgrade it ourselves.
- d. The group discussed plans for the outdoor stage, which the PC are keen to fundraise for. Gordon has a location in mind (back field beside the trees) and will ask Elaine about next steps on the application form. Sandra and Anne offering to complete the application as much as we can, if that will help to speed things up.
- e. Unfortunately, the **road improvement works** have been postponed until October, with even that date in doubt. Sandra is awaiting the outcome of a meeting due within the week and will advise the group following that. The team discussed measures ahead of those works going in and agreed that re engaging with community police and posting reminders out to parents (new p1 parents will be less familiar with the restrictions) as well as a firmer message for inconsiderate and dangerous parking would need to continue.
- f. Katie and Mandy are progressing with **positivity pebbles**, and it was agreed they need placed in an area where they are protected from vandals. Geraldine to ensure supplies available meaning all children can participate.
- g. Katie is keen to handover her **welcome committee** which is a lovely start to the new term at Clermiston. Fern is happy to get involved and will meet up with Katie to find out more about what she has signed up for! Sandra to recruit new p1 attendees through her Teams/WhatsApp channels.

- h. Changes to funding for **Active Schools** clubs is causing delays in the activities getting up and running for the children this term. Gordon to discuss with the coordinator who is due in school next week and update the parent council as to what role they may or may not need to fill. If funding is an issue, it was suggested we could apply for a community council grant.
- i. Sandra requested an update on **mental wellbeing support** for children, following a query from a parent. Geraldine outlined a number of resources and supports, including resilience learning and nurturing approaches for children in school. A Teams session for all parents on this important topic is planned.

3. Regular Updates

- a. **HT Report:** Gordon noted a positive start to term with new class compositions working well, playground shared spaces are back, and the gym hall is now in use, though outside exercise is still the default. The dining hall is slowly being transitioned back into use. P7s are just back from Lagganlia, which was a great experience for the staff and children. New/revised term dates were noted with parents directed to the council website for updates.
- b. **Treasurer report** was shared by Rachel and taken as read.

4. Fundraising / Funding

- a. There are no changes to restrictions this autumn meaning our school **fundraisers will again need to be virtual** and it was agreed parentpay would be utilised for collecting funds raised. A number of great ideas including pumpkin/scarecrow competitions, challenges for teachers, lotteries and Christmas raffles, cards and fairs. Kirsty noted **charity registration** has been delayed but is still planned. Kirsty to take offline and work with a group to take forward individual ideas. To be discussed at the top of the next agenda.
- b. **Tea towels** will be handed out to any siblings this week and others progressed in due course.

5. AOB

- a. Shabnam advised that **Young Scot** cards can be applied for through the library or via their website (flu vaccine letters can be used as proof of address). This applies only to p7s.