

Parent Council AGM Minutes – 15th November 2021

Attendees: Sandra Dargie, Anne Scott, Rachel Liddell, Karen Souza, Geraldine Forsyth Mandy White, Emma McLoughlin, Stuart Lithgow, Fern Findlay-Greene, Kirsty Gallen, Neil Gibson, Mark Brown, Alison Lynas, Morag Morrison, Rachael Lynch, Carrie Lang, Charlie Goldsmith

Apologies: Gordon McIntyre, Elaine O'Donnell, Shabnam Hussain, Katie Campbell

1. Welcome and updates

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new members. Previous minutes were accepted.

2. Discussion papers

a. Newsletter contents

- We are delighted to confirm that Fern Findlay-Greene is our **new Treasurer**. Sandra thanked Fern for taking on the role and thanked Rachel for supporting the handover, and for doing such a great job over the last 2 years.
- The **pumpkin competition** was a great success at Halloween – thanks to all on the parent council who supported the event and to Geraldine for her help on the day, which was very wet! We are already keen to do this all over again next year.
- The **roads and parking issue** continues to cause concern, with some heated discussions over the last few weeks. There was a long discussion which drew the following conclusions:
 - School will be issuing a **reminder of rules** this week, reconfirming the road restrictions, and reminding children that the road does remain open to vehicles. Further reminder to parents to make sensible choices in getting children to school as very few parents need to bring cars. Clear direction will be included in the comms. to contact community policing / call 101 with any issues.
 - We will **reinstate our Junior Road Safety Officers** now that rules allow – parent volunteers to support this are welcome. This is a child friendly, visual reminder with regards to road safety for children and parents alike.
 - Councillor Brown continues to support all efforts to get our **road improvements** done to provide a safe space to cross outside the Munro Centre and was hopeful more resources from community policing would be available in the weeks ahead, as these have been very stretched in recent weeks.
 - Mandy keen for the parent body to “have their say” on their concerns and issues and so a **survey monkey may follow**, if the above communications do not have impact.
 - Geraldine keen to emphasise that the **actions already taken** in recent years such as road restrictions have made a significant improvement to the situation – the roads are most definitely quieter – but that further improvement is undoubtedly required.

- b. The group discussed Neil's paper on parent council options to **fund bikes to support Bike Ability** lessons. It was agreed that the Halfords options looked to be good (and we would also fund helmets) – plus availability at Halfords is good where there are shortages (globally) in supply of suitable bikes. The parent council funding allocation agreed at c£700. A huge thanks to Neil for all his research and efforts.
- c. Our P1s submitted a very cute **request to fund 2 fruit trees** – cue much discussion on pear trees amongst others – every day is indeed a school day! It was agreed in principle, though we may be able to get these donated via a council initiative and Mark will provide contact details to allow us to follow up.
- d. Mandy and Anne have been thinking ahead to next year and the next logical steps following the success of our painting and gardening days. We'd like to take this one step further, if supported, and tackle a **range of natural environment projects to improve the school playground and support nature education**. A very brief initial discussion shows there are lots of initiatives out there (Woodland Trust, as one example) who support all sorts of school and community initiatives. The parent council were enthusiastic to know more and to support this – Mandy and Anne to engage with the parents who showed interest and come back with some more solid proposals. Geraldine also agreed to follow up on status of **Eco Schools** which requires cross working in school, and which may benefit from Parent Council support too.
- e. A funding request for Christmas **books for nursery, p1 and p2** was approved at a cost of £170.
- f. A funding loan of £150 was approved for the **p5s for their mini-enterprise project** was approved whereby they “create a business” and need investment to produce items for sale. The parent council would love for their success to be shared across the parent body – not only great recognition for the children, but helps support fundraising efforts in future, where those who donate can see how appreciated and beneficial their support is.

3. Regular updates

- a. **Treasurer report:** Rachel shared her report and the group noted up to date accounts which would be adjusted to reflect the spending commitments discussed earlier in the meeting. Rachel noted an additional correction for the raffle licence and Geraldine confirmed the outstanding cheque for £490 had now been cashed. Balance of just over £5k noted.
- b. **HT Report:** Geraldine updated on the following:
 - i. Reiterated the point discussed earlier in the meeting regarding **parking and use of cars** around school;
 - ii. Mattie from **Active Schools** has offered to come and meet with the Parent Council to discuss the way forward – currently we are the only cluster school running these classes by funding. A survey is due to be issued and a request for parent volunteers and potentially an Active Schools rep. The parent council would like to invite Mattie to our meeting early next year.

- iii. Geraldine updated on the **music curriculum** taught in schools and advised details would be included in the newsletter. She reiterated that the choir is starting up again for p4-7 and that they are doing their utmost to be creative whilst staying within the 33-pupil limit. Hopefully, this will ease in the months ahead and capacity will increase. All details to be shared this week to parents.
- iv. **Replacement or refurbishment of the school fence** was discussed – whereby the CEC advised school that approval has been obtained for a quote and it is anticipated a replacement or refurbishment will be funded and works carried out in summer 2022 (4th July noted as start date). Karen noted ongoing issues with **cracked and misplaced paving slabs** in the playground, which has already been reported – Geraldine to follow up again and escalate as necessary. Sandra to share a link to allow parents to log and pester to support ACTION....
- v. Whilst **Christmas activities** will again be curtailed, Santa will pay a visit this year and the parent council will support activities where we can – funding needed for a virtual panto to be followed up.... school to advise how and where we can help.

4. Fundraising

- a. Kirsty and Mandy have now **established the fundraising group** which are 5 strong but very happy to have more support – do let her know if you are keen.
- b. The **Halloween fancy dress** raised a fab £220 and a **Crazy Hair Day** is planned for end of November with a similar donation format so hopefully a similar amount of support.
- c. The **Christmas Raffle** licence has been applied for, with contingency in place if required, given delays and lack of response from the relevant council office. The Raffle raised £860 last year, and our target is to beat that.... donations from school appreciated (the hamper is always a great prize) and parent council will also fund a prize to encourage entries. **Requests for donations** will go out via all the usual channels and parent council members encouraged to let their parent groups – WhatsApp or otherwise – know and encourage quality donations! Laura to ask the After School Club for a donation too.
- d. Charlie advised on a fantastic response to **Christmas Card orders**, and we are well on target to beat the £550 raised last year. Stuart Lithgow to engage some p5 elves to help distribution, given the restrictions we have on parents being in school.

5. AOB

n/a