

Clermiston Parent Council Minutes – 10th October 2022

Attendees: Sandra Dargie, Fern Findlay-Greene, Karen Souza, Gordon McIntyre, Geraldine Forsyth, Emma McLoughlin, Stuart Lithgow, Suzanne Gilhooley, Kirsty Gallen, Morag Morrison, Mary Bisset, Rachel Liddell, Roshni Main, Jon Lofthouse, Charlie Goldsmith, Rachel Heffill, Laura Smith, Aayan Mohammad, Marian Cruikshank, Shabnam Hussain, Cllr Euan Hyslop,

Apologies: Anne Scott, Mandy White, Alison Lynas, Cllr Ed Thornley, Eric Jackson.

1. Welcome and updates

Sandra welcomed everyone to the meeting. Previous minutes were accepted.

2. Regular updates

- a. Treasurer report:** Fern presented the report and noted a balance of c£5k. Since previous report, P1 bags invoice has been paid and £30 for first aid kits for football team. Football tuition cheque has been given to Joshua Walker but not yet cashed. Invoice required from Gordon/Geraldine to pay for Steve the Drummer for the P7 trip to Lagganlia.
- b. HT Report:** Gordon and Geraldine updated on the following:
 - i. Shed – situation, replacing bikes, future security**

Lock for shed is to be reinforced by council security team before October holidays. A bolt through lock with reinforced steel is to be fitted to increase security of shed. All bikes have been removed to a more secure location. Security light and/or alarm potentially required, this will be investigated by council security team. PC to help with costs if necessary. CCTV cameras are all being assessed and repaired as necessary. Police are looking at CCTV footage available. The bikes were not insured as is Council policy. The school was planning to replace all stolen bikes from school funds. PC agreed that we would prefer that school funds be used more effectively for the school. PC committed to helping organize a future fundraiser/ Crowdfunder /community bike amnesty to replace bikes with the support of Euan Hyslop. Stuart Lithgow, with the potential help of the PC, needs to make an inventory of the bikes we have and what we need to replace. Suggested that signs saying “CCTV in operation” should be displayed on shed as a deterrent.
 - ii. School improvement plan/Attendance Strategy PC focus group**

Gordon had recently met with the QIO (Quality improvement officer) to discuss the school improvement plan. Keen on views of PC on improving school attendance. Gordon has asked 4 to 8 PC members to volunteer to attend the Attendance strategy focus group date tbc.

Gordon also asked for 1 to 2 PC members to attend an equalities meeting to be held on Tuesday 1st November.

iii. Black history month plans

Dana Henderson is the lead on the equalities group which meet every 2 weeks. She regularly signposts to events on Teams page. Resources are available and lessons are not partitioned to one month rather they are continued throughout the school year.

- c. Councilor update:** Euan has updated on roadworks. They have been postponed to Christmas holidays and he will keep pursuing council. He commented on the security in the community and has been assured by the Police that crime rates for the Drumbrae ward are low at the moment.

3. Discussion Papers:

a. Clermiston clothing boutique and lost property

Fern updated on progress. Anne, Mandy, Sandra and Fern have been into the school and sorted out the lost property and established a distinct uniform boutique area where the uniform and coats have been donated and cleaned. Parents can take any items that they require, they do not need to return. PC will maintain both lost property area and boutique area once a term or as required. At the end of the term any lost property that has not been reclaimed will be either donated or rag bagged. Communication has been sent via parent pay to all families with a plea to label all items and reclaim lost property.

b. Divide and Conquer

Mary updated on progress. Poster is ready to go with 10 possible places to rent around the school. It was decided that it is too busy at the moment and we should hold off on advertising this until mid-November and if there are no takers then will readvertise in the Spring.

c. Increasing inclusivity in communications via WhatsApp groups

Sandra updated go say that 18 families had been in contact with PC to be added to their relevant year Whatsapp group.

d. P1 Welcome letter & HW bags/P1 "Stay & Explore request"

P1 bags have been handed out with welcome letter. There are 'stay and explore' sessions planned for P1 parents and carers, the first in November. Request has been made for PC helpers for coffee and mingling.

e. Clermiston Football Update

Emma updated on football. Football matches have started, there is a p5 team and p6/7 team. New strips have been obtained with a sponsor. Josh Walker is happy to continue with coaching alongside parent volunteers. PC will no longer be funding coaching. There will be a £2.50 charge per session paid directly to Josh. There has been a good mix of girls and boys attending training.

f. Wee people bollards

After October holidays Stuart Lithgow plans to get the 'Wee People' out again on Mondays and will be putting out letters to class. Sandra is to speak to previous volunteers to arrange a rota.

g. Drumbrae Crossing job Ad

There has been a few applicants and they are progressing to interview. Sandra thanked Karen for her promotion of Job Ad on social media.

4. Fundraising Plans

Kirsty updated on fundraising plans for the future term.

- Crazy hair day has been planned for 14th October with a suggested donation of £1 to be paid via parentpay.
- Halloween dress up day is planned for 28th October with a suggested donation of £1 to be paid via parentpay.
- Ragbag collection day is planned for 25th November. They no longer provide bags. Reminder that no loose items should be put into bin. Everything needs to be bagged.
- Charlie is organizing Christmas Cards: deadline 28th November. This is her last year and needs a volunteer from PC to continue organizing this yearly fundraiser.
- Christmas fair is planned for 10th December. Kirsty/Gordon to organize let. Asked for Hall, GP room and Dining hall to spread out fair. Would like to book Choir to follow up with Miss Henderson. Still require a Santa. Problem is we need PVG or someone present that has PVG, this is to be investigated. Fern has volunteered her husband (who has a PVG) for the role *if* no one else can be found. Karen asked if anyone knew the whereabouts of velvet chair covers and Christmas decorations for the grotto. Charlie suggested looking in the large grey unit outside dining hall. Planning to do the egg box challenge, collection of Christmas cards, raffle, P7 games stalls with money going towards their leavers night. PC funds will be required for expenses and volunteers needed to help organize and for the day. Get in touch with Kirsty if you are interested in helping.
- Beetle drive or Bingo event planned for the new year.

5. AOB

It was discussed that the AGM in May be in person.

The next meeting is on Monday 21st November at 6.30pm on MS Teams.