

Parent Council Meeting (held online after AGM)

Thursday 1st October 2020

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Fiona Esson, Jan and David Watt, Laura Ferguson, Niall and Lauren Ferguson, Jen Dunbar, Gemma Wood, Joanne Reid, Angela Pond (Head Teacher), Jane Veitch (P1,2 Teacher)

Apologies: Rob Brookes

2. Approval of minutes – Meeting 10th June 2020 – see below point to note, no amendments as such, so approved.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

We voted to support the school by paying for Forest Schools training for Tracey Cheyne (PSA) in preparation for the blended learning model. Since the school did not return on this basis the training did not go ahead and so we have not paid for this.

4. Treasurer's Update (no report as no change to figures provided at AGM)

Charitable Status: application resubmitted to OSCR

Term cheques: The Parent Council supports the school with 'term cheques' of £200 per term in order to provide more flexible funding (funding from the authority must be spent through specified procurement system, which can be more costly). Jan Watt suggested the school may wish us to issue these cheques now (in anticipation of future fundraising) to provide the additional flexibility now. Agreed to discuss after Mrs Pond's report.

5. Headteacher's Report – see attached, plus additional points as follows:

Risk Assessment: an amended version has been completed and this will be uploaded to the school website – only minor changes.

Improvement Plan: Mrs Pond is creating an abbreviated version of this for parents and this will also be added to the school website.

PEF (Pupil Equity Funding): Mrs Pond asked those present if they had any suggestions for spending these funds to support learning – no response from those attending. The children have also been asked and have no suggestions.

Seesaw: Changes to regulations may mean this cannot be used beyond this year, and/or may need to pay for it. Agreed that it is a valuable tool, especially at present, but needs to be two way. Appears that P3,4 need QR codes reissuing to facilitate this, school to address. Mrs Pond may use remaining PEF to pay for this if necessary.

Whole school activities: children are generally happy but are missing these and not being able to get different year groups together has resulted in a disconnection between the youngest and oldest children which the school had worked hard to address last year. Mrs Veitch already looking at ways to address this. Use of virtual connections was suggested and will be looked into.

Absence: school will provide work if child off sick for more than a few days or required to isolate, but not if a parent chooses to keep a child at home.

Storage: Mrs Pond is looking for help from parents to build a store and shelter for outdoor equipment and learning. Craigievar Timber will supply timber but need to know exactly what is required. David Watt, Niall Ferguson and Jamie Dunbar volunteered, Jan Watt will co-ordinate taking this forward. Mark Paterson (builder) has also said he would be happy to help. Laura Ferguson will look into possible crowdfunding. Fiona Esson already progressing TESCO grant application to support this and additional equipment to replace that lost in the fire. Since funds are low at present Mrs Pond is looking for volunteers rather than funds at present and so no term cheques issued.

P1,2 gate: Please could all parents and carers try as much as possible to observe the social distancing guidelines.

6. Action Points

Constitution: no queries/amendments so no change as already using approved Aberdeenshire format.

Parent Questionnaire: Since school have just issued a questionnaire the Parent Council one will be held.

Policies: Numerous policies awaiting final sign-off but we previously agreed to review the 'Positive Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy'. Mrs Pond proposes a Positive Relationships Policy which will cover a wide range of topics.

Pupil Council: unable to meet due to restrictions, school will consider if there could be a virtual solution. P3,4 and P5,6,7 involved in Rotakids (Minimum age of 7).

Grant applications / Competitions – TESCO application covered already. A big thank you to Monymusk AFC for the £240 cheque we received from their fundraising. School are to issue a thank you from the children.

7. Events and Fundraising

Possible virtual / socially distanced events: Various options discussed (socially distant bake sale, car wash, sponsored event), cannot see how to do Bags2School. Decided to try Halloween themed treat box delivery, also sweetie cones. Mrs Veitch suggested children could deliver, Mrs Pond said the children would be delighted to get dressed up. Committee to take forward. Jen Dunbar has also suggested craft/decorations kit boxes.

Muddy Run May 2021: Further to discussions for this year's cancelled event Rob Brookes has agreed to take forward organising a Muddy Run in May 2021 – dates proposed 16th/23rd May (on the assumption that restrictions will have eased by then). Committee will assist where possible, volunteers will be needed to marshal etc.

Football Training: David Watt advises that he and Gary Evans have been in touch with Kerry from Active Schools regarding recommencing some form of school football training and Kerry will be issuing an email. They hope to be able to offer this to all year groups.

8. News, correspondence, invitations

Various pieces of correspondence received from Aberdeenshire Council regarding holding meetings and work that can be done just now. Also, annual insurance update from Connect (paid for by Aberdeenshire Council).

Useful websites/information for parents:

Scottish Government Guidance on Schools

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020-version-3/>

Parent Club guide to Coronavirus restrictions

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus/new-restrictions?age=0>

<https://www.npfs.org.uk>

<https://www.connect.scot>

<https://education.gov.scot> – scroll down to “subscribe to our newsletters” – various ones to choose from.

Facebook pages:

- National Parent Forum Scotland
- Connect (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council)
- Education Scotland