

Monymusk School Parent Council Meeting (held online on Teams)

Thursday 4th November 2021 (after AGM)

MINUTES

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Fiona Esson (Chairperson), Jan Watt (Treasurer), Angela Pond (Head Teacher), Joanne Reid (joined halfway)

Apologies: Laura Ferguson, Gemma Wood, Jen Dunbar, Lauren and Niall Ferguson

2. Approval of minutes – Meeting 17th May 2021 – no comments and so approved

3. Matters arising from previous minutes – MarvellousMe/ Seesaw progress/update? – see HT report and below. All other points covered elsewhere.

4. Treasurer's Update (see report at AGM of same date)

Funds in since last meeting:

£500 from Thrift Shop, £123.60 from Bags2School, £45.60 from end of term photos, £997 from Tesco Community Grant

Cheques issued to school for Tesco £997, Maths No Problem £1251.00, Thrift Shop £500.

£2,500 remains in account from Onefamily (see below) leaving available funds of approx. £400.

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

Seesaw – looks like this will be available soon and the school will have funds to cover the cost.

Bikeability – will be rolled out across all classes over the rest of the year.

6. Action Points

Homework Policy and Positive Relationships Policy – to be carried forward for discussion with the new HT.

Pupil Council - still to elect in P5 with delay due to absence.

Grant applications

Onefamily grant – £2,500 remains in bank account. Unfortunately, the reality is that we can't manage to buy and get installed the type of shelter we had hoped, so Mrs Pond was getting quotes for a bespoke shade sail, would also like additional fireproof storage and the children had asked for more seating. This is on hold at present - agreed that we would discuss this with the new HT before proceeding. Onefamily have been very understanding and patient but will require evidence of our purchases in accordance with the stated purpose.

TESCO community grant application (for storage and various outdoor items to replace those lost in the fire) – this was approved in June and £997 received in July. As we had already identified items these were purchased by the school and a cheque issued by the Parent Council. Fiona to obtain evidence of purchases from Mrs Tice and complete the return to Groundwork (who administer the grants). Post meeting addition – storage not due to arrive until February and Completion report requires details of how the project has made a difference so Fiona will follow this up next year.

Thrift Shop – £500 received towards Big Cat reading books series to plug gaps. These have now been purchased and are in use.

Textile fund – Following the successful application to Tesco we can now look at other projects which the textile fund could support. To be discussed with the new HT.

7. Events and Fundraising

Past

Bags2School – £123.60 raised from this bag collection. Thank you to everyone who donated old clothes, etc.

End of term event – Thank you to Carrie McIntosh for taking photos in the park and for supporting the Parent Council with commission, this raised £45.60. Thank you to everyone who took up this offer.

Future

Muddy Run 2022 – Post meeting addition – Rob Brookes has confirmed he will take the lead on organising this event in 2022 which is great news. More volunteers will be needed nearer the time (usually held in May).

Christmas – Jan still has presents purchased last year and will arrange for these to be delivered to school, with a possible (surprise?) visit from Santa and his pony.

Coffee morning – Jan proposed holding a coffee morning in the village hall and will send out email to parents (via school) to arrange a meeting to discuss and take forward.

Choirs by Candlelight – Mrs Pond would like to hold an end of term event in the school playground and requested Parent Council support / assistance. This would be instead of an end of term assembly. All parents would be invited. Discussed singing carols, toasting marshmallows, hot chocolate, mulled wine, burgers? Jan to take forward along with coffee morning. Mrs Pond to speak to staff about dates to ensure they can all attend. Jan suggested that Playgroup could join, and Joanne advised they were already practicing Christmas songs. Mrs Pond to contact Kay Conway (Playgroup Manager). Post meeting addition – date of 17th December 5-6pm.

Raffle (carried over from last year) – to drawn at one of the above Christmas events

8. News, correspondence, invitations

Fiona has joined Parent Council meetings with other chairs and shared information from Aberdeenshire Council with parents as requested.

Topsoil was gratefully received by the school to grow potatoes. Thank you to the Strachan and Mitchell families.

Useful websites/information for parents:

Education Scotland - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/covid-19-education-recovery/>

Scottish Government Guidance for Schools

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/>

<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