

Struthers Primary School



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 16th January 2018 at 7pm

Present: Kirsten Gallacher (Chairperson), Craig Dalziel (Clerk), Jane Houston (HT), Lucy Lockie (APT), Susan Kirk, Catherine Barclay, Andrea Baird, Gillian Garven, Julie Matthews, Clare Kennedy, Gail Whyte, Lucy Mullan, Cllr Peter Convery, Cllr Craig Mackay, Laura Russell, John Houston, David Strang (SAC), Elaine Rodgers (SAC) and Mark Hendry (Architect).

Apologies: Lisa Conetta (Vice-Chairperson), Fiona Armstrong, Janet Smyth, Eilidh McBean (DHT), Lynne Miller and Corrie Duncan.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Kirsten welcomed all those present thanked them for their attendance.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting were unanimously approved.

3. School Building – David Strang

Kirsten handed over to David Strang from SAC to open a discussion on proposed building works to the school. David explained that there had been a need to extend the school gym hall as there had not been sufficient space for some time. Changes to the school layout had been discussed as far back as 1996 to coincide with the new housing development at Earls Green but it had taken some time for the developers to start work on the land and as part of their planning conditions they are putting money in to upgrade Struthers and Marr. The main focus is on the changing the gym hall, staff room and reception area. The proposal is for an additional extension to be built on the car park beside the current hall which will include a new gym hall, reception area, changing rooms with toilets and staffroom. Part of the existing building will be renovated to include these changes. Mark Hendry who has been appointed as the lead architect gave an overview of the project. The new hall will be slightly more than double the size of the existing hall and the current hall will be renovated with one of the main aims to increase the amount of natural light available. Mark advised that the team were looking at a timescale of 10-12 months build time and should the project get the go ahead they would aim to be on site by June before the summer holidays start. Drawings were passed around for attendees to view the proposals and part of the proposed changes included additional car parking spaces being created by removing the grass hill on the right hand side of the car park to compensate for the loss of several spaces by building the new hall on the car park. Catherine asked about access for buses, Mark advised that this had been taken into consideration in the new carpark layout. It was also confirmed that community football groups would have access to the new building to use the changing rooms and facilities and it was likely that a Janitor/Caretaker would always be present for this. Jane advised that surveyors had been on site this week with regard to the football pitches at the rear of

the school; however this was separate from the council's plans. A couple of questions were raised regarding extensions to classroom areas; David advised that currently there was no timescale for any other work to the classrooms or the nursery. He advised that the council were aiming to submit a planning application by the end of February for the proposed project and asked for the Parent Council to provide feedback on the proposals.

4. Fundraising Update

As Corrie was unable to attend Andrea gave a brief update on Fundraising matters. £1200 has been banked for the Christmas Fayre and Cards but this has still to have the float money deducted and some costs for preparing the cards. The calendar money has still to be banked. Gail has taken over as treasurer and is having difficulty in being added as a registered signatory at the bank. Corrie is hoping to sort this fairly soon. The next disco will take place on the 1st March and the Marr ties have been ordered. There has been an issue with the hoodies as the supplier was too busy to fulfil the order. Corrie is looking to order online and has the template to provide when the supplier is finalised. As there is no manager at the Meadowgreen centre at present they are unable to take on the running of the breakfast club and Andrea has offered to continue buying and deliver the resources for the club in the interim. Finally a brief discussion took place as to what fundraising activities could take place in the next few months. It was commented that the bagpacking at Morrison's was a good earner but it can sometimes be difficult to have enough volunteers for this. Andrea felt the idea of the fashion show at M&CO was worth exploring. Jane advised that there would be a school show in the summer and was open to the idea of a summer fayre or barbecue.

5. School Updates

Jane opened this discussion by asking for feedback on the plans for the extension to the school. A brief discussion took place amongst the group and there were several concerns about the plans particularly with regard to parking. It was noted that the car park was often very busy with nursery parents most days and also for school events. It was agreed that there would be a significant loss of parking spaces and this was a major concern going forward along with issues with access for buses. Concerns were also raised at the appearance of the new building in comparison to the current school and the amount of disruption to pupils. Jane also commented that there was concern as to the shared use of the changing rooms by community groups as to who would clean these, particularly at weekends before school restarts on a Monday. This week saw P1 registration take place, the first session was today and another was planned for Thursday and Jane commented that it was extremely busy. She added that Primary 5 was full and P3 and P4 were near full capacity which would pose a problem for people who moved into the area.

6. Consultation on Anti-Bullying Policy

Jane issued a handout on the guidelines on anti-bullying from Respect Me. She has met with staff and pupils to discuss this and asked for members to provide feedback on this at the next meeting as tonight's meeting had run on following the earlier discussion topics.

7. AOB

Cllr Mackay advised that a grit bin had been installed at the end of the back path behind Staffin Road at the Deveron Road end.

He raised the issue of the change to the location of the school crossing patroller to the other side of Staffin Road towards Meadowgreen. He advised that the Ayrshire Roads Alliance had been out twice to look at the area and were adamant they were not changing their minds on the new location. He was happy to discuss this with them again and Kirsten advised him the Parent Council were in agreement with this. Jane had spoken to Jennifer Rodden at facilities management and expressed her concern that there was now increased risk to children crossing Staffin Road.

8. Date of Next Meeting- 20th February – 7pm in the Community Room

