

Struthers Primary School



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 8th November 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: Craig Dalziel (Clerk/Acting Chair), Jane Houston (HT), Morag MacKenzie (DHT), Cllr Peter Convery, Catherine Barclay (P4), Corrie Duncan (P3), Lynne Miller (P6) Susan Kirk, Angela Boyd, Lucy Mullan, Claire Kirk, Andrea Baird,

Apologies: Chris Mullan (P3), Kirsten Gallacher (Chairperson) Lisa Conetta (Vice-Chairperson), Lindsey Bonellie, Carole Rankine, Claire Bell, Jacqueline Fyfe

1. Welcome and Introduction

As Kirsten and Lisa were both unable to attend, they asked Craig to chair the meeting and he welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were unanimously approved.

3. School Updates

Jane opened this discussion by advising that a new Depute Head had been appointed following interviews on 25th Oct. Miss Eilidh McBean will be joining from Heathfield Primary where she is currently Acting Depute. She has previously been a Principal Teacher at Straiton and Kirkmichael primaries. She will be visiting the school this Thursday (10th Nov) to meet with staff and begin the handover process from Morag who retires at Christmas. The school are currently undertaking a quality assurance process including self-evaluation and Jane and Morag are visiting individual classes. A number of staff meetings are taking place to assess pupils' progress in all years including the nursery and discuss/share new ideas. Jane commented how it was great to hear and share all the ideas from all staff in this process. Jane will also be attending an authority twilight meeting which is linked to the National Improvement Framework and the issue of consistency of expectations across literacy and numeracy will be discussed. In the school the children are preparing for Children in Need next Friday and Mr Crookston the PE specialist is running a ragball event in conjunction with Children in Need. The children are also preparing for "finance fortnight" in the run up to the Christmas Fair on the 2nd Dec.

A core focus over the coming months will be reading and Mrs Love is running a "reading for enjoyment" programme this will include visits to the school from local authors and possibly book groups/clubs. Jane is to ask Mrs Love to attend the next meeting to provide further information on this. There will also be a reorganisation of the library and Lucy agreed to help some of the pupils with this. Jane concluded her update by advising that there are currently some students in the school on work experience, the school has gained an additional 0.2 teaching time and both Jane and Morag will be meeting with the pupil committees over the coming weeks.

4. School Travel Plan Update

Craig gave an update on the School Travel Plan. He advised that 47 responses had been received from the parent questionnaire that was issued prior to the October holidays. The highest number of responses per area came from Meadowgreen (13) and from the Mactaggart & Mickel/Wimpey site at Coxswain Drive with 12. Craig highlighted the importance of the responses from the Coxswain Drive area as these properties had not been constructed when the last travel plan had been compiled. 3 respondents advised that they have moved to the new "Earls Green" development and another respondent had plans to move there. This is important in identifying safe routes to the school from the new development. The surveys have highlighted that slightly more children walk from school than walk to school but a large number of pupils also travel by car. Respondents also stated that travel methods differed depending on the weather and other factors. Concerns raised by parents included traffic driving too fast, too much traffic and dangerous parking near the school. However 36 respondents out of 47 stated that they felt their route to the school was very or fairly safe.

Craig advised that a resident's questionnaire was also issued to surrounding streets. A total of 156 were distributed and there were 24 responses received, the highest being 5 each from Garry Place and Leven Road. Issues that were highlighted included dangerous parking near the school including parking on pavements, traffic driving too fast and generally too much traffic. All of this data will now be collated into tables and graphs. The next step will be to collate ideas for the action plan section of the travel plans, this included measures that the school were already participating in such as Bikeability, Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO) and other road safety promotion. Craig also advised that he had met with the JRSO pupil committee in October and the pupils are going to help produce a noticeboard for cycling promotion as the school seeks to achieve the Cycle Friendly School Award of which the travel plan is also a requirement.

5. Fundraising Update

Claire Kirk opened a discussion on Fundraising by asking what the school would like to buy with the funds that are currently available. Jane advised that possibly backdrops for school plays would be very useful and also some new books for the library to link in with the "reading for enjoyment" initiative. Claire has asked Carol-Ann Power if the breakfast club needs anything and it has been suggested that some new games and activities would be good, Carol-Ann is to confirm to Claire. Claire advised that there is possible grant money available to Parent Council/Fundraising groups for health and wellbeing activities, the fundraising team will look into this further to find out if it is possible for Struthers. Jane added that a priority for fundraising funds would be a new football strip for the school team. In terms of Christmas activities, the fayre will be held on Fri 2nd Dec 2pm-4pm and the team are looking for donations for all stalls and helpers to manage stalls and set up. A dress down day will be held on Tuesday 29th Nov and the group are asking the children to bring a donation for the fayre on this day. A discussion then took place regarding raffle prizes and it was

suggested that in addition to prizes already donated such as afternoon tea for two, that a Buzzworks voucher be purchased and this was unanimously agreed. On the 16th Nov pupils will have their photo taken for the school calendars, it was agreed that more calendars should be ordered this year to meet demand and a figure of 120 was suggested compared to 80 that were ordered last year. Currently only 5 businesses had requested to advertise on the calendars due to this it was suggested that they each be given an ad on two months rather than one. Christmas cards are on site and Claire, Angela and Susan will assist with this. Jane will confirm with the team the dates for the Christmas trips for the pupils including the P3-P7 outing to the Odeon in Ayr. Finally Claire asked for helpers for the Troon Round Table Santa's Float as last year numbers were very poor and Struthers missed out on additional funds. Lucy advised that on the Round Table Facebook page the facility to register to help was now set up. If there were any problems with this method interested parents could contact the school. A fuller account of what was discussed is available on the Fundraising section of the School Website.

6. AOB

Cllr Convery advised that another planning application had been submitted by Stewart Milne/Bellway for the next phase of the "Earls Green" development and this will be looked at by South Ayrshire Council in mid-December, however he was unsure if this was related to the social housing element of the development or the next phase of the private housing development, he added that further trigger points of money to the local community would be triggered over the coming months. A general discussion took place in relation to how pupils would walk to school from the new development. Lucy commented on how Deveron Road was much busier recently, particularly with the opening of the Café at Meadowgreen and that traffic was also driving fast with parking also becoming a problem and children had to take extra care in this area.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 10th January at 6.30pm**

