

Struthers Primary School



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 13th September 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: Kirsten Gallacher (Chairperson), Craig Dalziel (Clerk), Lisa Conetta (Vice-Chairperson), Jane Houston (HT), Morag MacKenzie (DHT), Cllr Peter Convery, Catherine Barclay (P4), Lindsey Bonellie (Nursery), Corrie Duncan (P3), Gordon Wilson (Staff), Melissa McKay (Staff), Lynne Miller (P6) Susan Kirk, Angela Boyd, Carol Rankine, Claire Bell, Jacqueline Fyfe, Claire Kirk, Andrea Baird

Apologies: Chris Mullan (P3), Lucy Mullan (P3)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Kirsten welcomed all those present and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the May meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Merger of Parent Council and Fundraising

Following discussions between Jane, Kirsten and the Fundraising committee it was agreed that the Fundraising committee and the Parent Council would merge due to low numbers of people attending the individual meetings and it was hoped that this would raise awareness of the shortage and encourage others to assist at upcoming events. Claire Kirk outlined the events planned for this year, the first being the sponsored bounce on 15th September followed by the school disco's on 29th Sept. Helpers are required for the discos – particularly the P4-P7 disco. Other fundraising activities planned for this year include the Christmas Fair which is likely to take place on 2nd December, Christmas cards, calendars and a possible summer fair. Kirsten agreed to help with the Christmas cards by collecting/dropping off materials at Copy Stop in the town. A discussion took place regarding the breakfast club, it currently costs £2 a day and Jane had asked if this could be reduced. The Fundraising group now covers all of the overheads for this, having taken over from the council. Angela advised that at present it was not financially viable to reduce the costs due to insufficient numbers of pupils attending.

A fuller breakdown of what was discussed in relation to fundraising is available on the fundraising section of the school website.

4. School Updates

Jane opened this discussion by advising that it had been a very positive start to the new term. One particularly positive aspect this year was that a number of staff have been retained for the new term. New members of staff include Miss Wylie in Primary 2 who is a probationer and she will be mentored over the course of the year by Mrs Brearley, Mr Crookston who will be working 3 days a week is the school's new PE specialist and will also be involved in running after school clubs and Mr Hill is the Music Specialist who will visit the school on a Tuesday. In addition Jane advised that the school will be entitled to one further class teacher. Staff will be taking on various leadership roles this year and Gordon Wilson will be working across the authority rolling out the "Number Talks" maths programme. Jane added that this term will see a continued drive in the Curriculum for Excellence programme.

Jane also asked if the Parent Council would be able to liaise with the new P3-P7 committees which are due to start on 22nd September. These include the Rights Respecting Committee, Junior Road Safety Officer Committee and House Captains amongst others. Kirsten advised she would be happy to attend and asked if the dates of the meetings could be passed to her.

Jane closed her discussion by advising that even at this early stage of the term; lost property was already a big problem. As a result on one Friday afternoon each month the AV room will be set aside for Parents to come in and look at the items, if there were no names on items Jane was happy for them to be taken if they were suitable. Any remaining items left will be sent to charity.

5. School Travel Plan/Safer Routes to School

Craig opened a discussion on the School Travel Plan. The Travel Plan/Safer Routes to school document had not been updated since 2004 and was now in need of refresher. This was a good time to refresh the document as the changes to the catchment area had been approved which takes in the new Stewart Milne/Bellway "Earls Green" development off Kilmarnock Road. In addition the Travel Plan pre-dates the construction of the school nursery and also the housing in the Coxswain drive/Milton Crescent area. Craig outlined the successes of the previous "Safer Routes to School" document these included campaigning for a "20s plenty" in Staffin Road, an upgraded school car park and a request for a bike shelter. In addition a 20 mph flashing sign had been installed on Deveron Road and painted 20 mph signs installed in Staffin Road. However despite these positives there are still problems of congestion and inconsiderate parking around the school.

Craig then outlined the content of the Travel Plan, this included background information about the school such as access points, school roll etc., existing road safety/active travel measure already in place and an action plan setting out targets of how to encourage more children to walk or cycle to school. As part of the upgrade to the Travel Plan a travel to school questionnaire needs to be completed by parents/guardians, Craig issued copies of the questionnaire to those present and

commented that we would be very appreciative if these could be returned as the more responses we receive the better. The questionnaire will be attached to the weekly school bulletin and would be issued shortly. Craig advised that the school was also hoping to become a “Cycle Friendly School” with Cycling Scotland and one aspect of the criteria to become a Cycle Friendly school is an up to date Travel Plan. Cycling Scotland have visited the school on two occasions, most recently on 1st June for a Bikeability Quality Assurance visit and have encouraged the school to apply for cycle friendly status. Craig added that the school bike shelter had been vandalised over the summer and he had contacted the Ayrshire Roads Alliance to ask if it could be repaired and also if there was a possibility of additional bike storage. Cllr Convery added that as part of the housing development at Earls Green Stewart Milne/Bellway are required to contribute to active travel and the first trigger point for funding had been reached in late August and funding had been passed to SPT to upgrade Barassie railway station. Funding is also to be available for Struthers from the Earls Green development as part of the conditions of building; however Jane is concerned that it will be sometime before it is available to the school.

6. AOB

Catherine raised a query regarding the school dinners and she claimed that the Primary 4 composite class had been forgotten/called in late for lunch a day this week and as a result the children didn't get the lunch they were hoping for. Morag advised she didn't think the children were late and that all lunch orders were taken by the class teacher first thing in the morning and they were given a “hot and cold” option. Jane advised that new lunch menus had been introduced and that if anyone had any complaints regarding lunch options they should contact Hillary Iannotti at Facilities Management as she doesn't have any jurisdiction over this matter.

Jane is to ask Kirsty Neil's father if he is able to help out again this year for photographs for the school calendar.

Jane announced with great sadness that Morag would be retiring in her role as Depute at Christmas after 17 years at the school. Morag felt it best to make an announcement as her job had already been advertised on the council website but the children would not be informed until nearer the time.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Due to the October holidays the next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th November at 6.30pm**

