

Struthers Primary School



Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting 5th November 2019 at 2pm

Present: Craig Dalziel (Clerk), Lucy Mullan (Acting Chairperson), Gail McKellar (HT), Gail Whyte, Gillian Garven, Paul Murray, Eilidh McBean (DHT), Lucy Lockie (APT) Lisa Conetta, Duncan Sturgeon (Active Schools), Aileen Valenti (SAC) and Helen Hogg

Apologies: Darren Haniford (APT), Sarah Green, Cllr Convery and Cllr Pollok

1. Welcome and Introduction

Lucy welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Early Years Expansion – Aileen Valenti (SAC)

Gail introduced Aileen Valenti from SAC, Aileen had previously come out to a consultation on early years expansion and but asked to come out to the PC to explain the proposals for expansion. Struthers has been identified as an area in need of nursery expansion and funding has been provided from the Scottish Government to South Ayrshire Council. One idea that was discussed was to expand the existing nursery but this would have limited impact on increasing capacity and it was therefore identified that the preferred option was to build a new nursery at the rear of the school between Leven Road and the new housing development. The design is based on the nursery recently completed at the Cherry Tree facility in Ayr and Aileen displayed photographs of this, Gail and the nursery staff are due to visit the facility this week. It is a portakabin style which is built off site and then delivered which minimises disruption to local residents. A road link will be built between the new housing site and the proposed building with the aim of reducing congestion at Staffin Road and Tay Road. This would mean parents would drive in from the Loans end of the road in to the back of the school grounds with parking created. A bus bay will also be implemented which the school will use, again with the idea of keeping buses away from Staffin Road. Within the building itself a kitchen is included to prepare meals for children who will be attending all day. It is also hoped the building will be made available to the local community for use in the evening and at weekends. In addition an all-weather sports pitch will be constructed and fitness equipment placed along the new path being created at the perimeter of the swing park to link the new building with the bridge at Tay Road. Planning will be submitted before Christmas and the hope is this will be approved in January 2020. It remains unclear if planning is permitted whether the new facility will be operational for the new term in August and it may be that the existing nursery will still be in operation with this room then being handed back as a classroom to the school. In the event that planning is rejected the focus will then return to extending the existing nursery.

3. Annual General Meeting – Election of Office Bearers

Lucy has agreed to stay on as Chairperson as no other nominations were received. Paul Murray agreed to take on the role of Vice-Chair as there were no other nominations and Craig continues as Clerk.

4. Head Teacher Report

Mrs McKellar opened her Head Teacher's report by confirming the current role was 309. P4/6 and 7 are full with one space left in P5. There are 6 spaces in P1, one in P2 and two in P3 which are reserved for children in the catchment area. There are currently 12 classes, two of which are composite and all of the classes in P1-3 are below 25. The current staff allocation is 16.7 which is an increase from 14.2 last year. The 0.7 is equivalent to 3 and a half days. 2 staff are also delivering STEM and Drama and Music lessons. The new Janitor is due to start later in November taking over from Matt Hood and Gail thanked Matt for his service. Gail advised that parents evening had went well and the most positive feedback received was that appointments ran to time and another positive was that £700 was raised at the book fair. Finally Gail advised that the parental engagement calendar was due for publication shortly and this would give parents the opportunity to come in and take part in a lesson with their children such as music, writing or maths.

5. Fundraising Update

Gill gave a brief update on fundraising activities which was mainly about preparations for the Christmas fayre on 29th Nov (4-6pm). There will be a pop up uniform stall and the Christmas cards were all in hand and this year funds were being raised through the sale of tea towels rather than calendars. Finally Gill confirmed the fashion show was due to take place tomorrow (6th Nov) at M&Co.

6. AOB

NIL

7. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 4th Feb 2020 at 2pm.

