

**Parent Council Minutes 5th October 2016**

1. Apologies: Andy Edwards, Kirsty and Elaine Farrell

Present: Lisa Hazlehurst (chair), Kate Warburton, Gemma Smith, Jacqueline Wills, Laura Jones, Sarah Heather, Emma Johnstone, Rachel Allen, Cameron Glen, Fiona Burns, Michael Lapin, Sharon Cassidy, Anne Spencer.

1. AGM changes in committee.

Lisa nominated Emma for chair, Sarah Heather seconded. All other office bearers will remain the same. Lisa will step down after two years on the PC.

1. Acceptance of last year’s minutes.

Minutes accepted as accurate. Lisa asked whether children had written to the Kirkhouse about parking. Anne Spencer reported letters had been written but not answered. She will follow up with a phone call.

1. Chair’s report:

Lisa reported on the year and gave thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the last school year. A particularly huge thank you to Peter B for all his time and help with fundraising and welly days (report attached).

1. Fundraising report: Laura Jones

New fundraising team worked hard together and events were very successful with good community feel. Some parents fed back that they didn’t know about the fundraisers and felt overwhelmed by requests for fundraising money which has been taken on board by the new committee. Newsletter and flyers have been sent out this year. Bigger committee sharing out the organisation of discreet events. Looking into sponsorship from businesses. Cameron Glen’s company has sponsored the pumpkin event and bouncy castle. Own clothes days are easy to run and generate large amounts. Laura detailed and outlined planned events for the year. Thanks were given to the fundraising team for all their efforts.

1. Grounds Group Report: By Andy Edwards, Lisa read out in his absence.

We have converted the concrete tunnel to a raised platform which now is covered in mature grass and ready to have the fences removed. The willow den was trimmed and the off cuts were used to create willow fences. The Clyde tunnel was covered in rubber matting to enhance erosion resistance and safety. The greenhouse was reinforced to allow it to withstand the weather. An outside tap guard was installed in the nursery garden. Bark was topped up around the play equipment and the picnic tables were made less wobbly, sanded and painted.

A big thank you to Scott Carson and his men for their involvement in remedying the concrete platform. They donated time, material and a digger. It was a huge job. Thanks also to all of the volunteers over the year who have helped out. Thanks also to the Grounds Group for their hard work organising the welly days and to the PC for funding the various projects. Looking forward, a welly day will be planned in the Autumn to remove the fences around the platform, tackle the willow den and tidy up generally.

Lisa echoed thanks to the grounds group for all their hard work.

1. Treasurer’s report: Sarah Heather

Sarah presented summary of accounts. £5 555.33 raised over the last year which is a huge amount. £7,220.87 spent. Transport 50% for school trips, 100% events where children are representing the school. It was clarified that transport costs that are paid directly benefit all the children and make a big cost saving for parents. £3,594.72 currently in the bank. £1,500 committed to the 50th birthday celebrations. Christmas parties, school leaver’s ties, £500 to the grounds group, P1 book carriers and transport costs were all agreed by PC as costs they would contribute towards over the coming year.

1. Head Teacher’s report: Sharon Cassidy

After management met with members of community council, Margaret Vass managed to get donation via a grant for the cost of show so figure reduced to £900 needed from PC. Sharon requires to get school fund figures audited annually. Figures for 2015-16 were certified as accurate, the required certificate was shared with the PC. Sharon is happy to show the audited document to any parents. £2917.59 current balance of the school funds. In April will share how much money school is allocated in budget. School Improvement Priorities have been agreed and are on the school website on information page.

Ray Viola – new football goals. Pupil council raised this as a need. Consulted all staff and grounds group to ensure everyone happy with the location. 7 aside goals, 60 x 40 m. All happy with location and still leaves space for other areas to play in. Classes can take turns to use. Helpful for the school football team. £1300 for pair of goals. Hoped that Stirling Council Land Services will install them. It is thought money could be raised through fundraising from Steven McCooey. Laura suggested contacting Virgin Active, and Ray has looked at grants. Ray has been working with Neil Thompson (Active Stirling schools co-ordinator) and 7 match fixtures planned for this year. Mention of possible potential sponsors for kit, Cameron Glen’s company will look into possible sponsorship depending on the costs. Ray will look into costs. Peter Bendermachar has offered to paint lines. Ray was thanked.

Rachel Allen – ICT. Money given by PC last year has gone towards: additional memory into existing computers, New head phones, Computer trolley for the lap top for use in assembly, 7 chrome books. Stirling Council have 90 desk top computers from Calmac Ferries, £40 each to buy. 26 new desk top computers and 7 chrome books (like a lap top, runs through google chrome) = £1,080, requested from PC. £8,100 for 20 lap tops and trolley (long term plan) is going to be asked of the Community Council. 0 budget for ICT across Stirling Council. All down to fundraising therefore. Modern ICT is extremely important for the school to teach ICT. PC agreed all happy to donate the money for this in view of the grant acquired from the community council for the Strathblane Story show. It was questioned if networked system would cope with new computers.

The central heating system in the school and nursery has been fully replaced, with additional heaters added where required. The domestic water system has also been replaced. The cost of all work related to these upgrades was £70,000. School roll 173 / 175 potentially with two new pupils (capacity 217 w straight classes). 193 with preschoolers. 40 spaces therefore. Healthy school roll.

Big thank you from all staff to the work the PC has done over last year. Thanked Lisa for all hard work done as chair. Everything PC contributes is enhancements to the school. Testament to commitment of parents and PC that so much has been done and so much raised.

1. Nursery Update: Anne Spencer

Team is coming together well and he new changes have been working well. Current capacity is 20 children each session, once changing facilities on site, roll will go up to 24 full capacity. Staff are already in place for this and the children are benefitting from good staff ratios. Full day provision has gone very smoothly in spite of all the different start and finish times. Different resources and rugs have been bought for those children who are in all day. Staff have sensitively planned routines to accommodate the different needs and timetables.

Change to funding over summer. Entitlement starts the term after their 3rd birthday. If they want to start immediately after their birthday, sessions can be purchased in the interim period. After January, if space in the nursery, sessions can be ‘bought’ by parents in addition to their allocated funded space. £2.85 per hour. Standard letter will be issued from the authority to go out to parents. Fair access/allocation to these spaces will be worked out. There will not be a large amount of spaces available. ‘Parent Pay’ will be used to pay for this, and school lunches too.

Sarah Pirie has been working hard on a grant to build an outdoor classroom in the Nursery garden, Blane Valley Construction will build at cost price for £2000. Waiting for this to be approved. Door to directly access the garden through cupboard, estimated at £2500. Sarah Pirie will look into grants and fundraising for this. These adaptations will greatly enhance the nursery.

1. AOCB:

Rachel was thanked for being staff rep over last year. Staff have agreed to have a rota so every member of staff will attend a PC meeting over the course of the upcoming year.

1. Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 30th November at 7pm (not 7.15pm).