

INVERGARRY PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2014, 6.30 PM

Present: Ms Wendy Scollay Mrs Tracey MacCallum
Mrs Julie Gilchrist Miss Maria MacRae
Mrs Marion Riddle Mrs Lauren Grant
Mrs Irene Rodgers Mr Gary MacKay (Sports Co-ordinator)
Mrs Gayle Rand Mrs Dee Collins

Apologies: Mr Bill Clark PC Tony Hannah
Miss Catherine MacPherson Ms Soraya Barreno

Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Minutes read and agreed.

Bank Accounts

PC Account balance £891.37 as of 21/01/2014.

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School Benches

Construction hopefully underway soon.

Nursery Snack Funding

Some nursery parents have donated to PC Fund in lieu of donations for nursery snacks. The donations have been handed to Treasurer Tracey for banking.

With the restrictions surrounding nursery snack funding now, there have been problems with sourcing and paying for fresh food and ingredients. To help resolve these issues, Maria will speak with Wilson Girvan with the hope of setting up an account at the garage in Fort Augustus for nursery staff to order food to be put on account. Funds from the PC bank account will be made available to pay the garage.

Action: Maria/Tracey/Nursery Staff

School Meals

Provision for school meals at Invergarry is hoping to commence after Easter, some updating to the school kitchen is required beforehand.

Playground Resurfacing Project

Ecosse Sports who carried out a site visit before Christmas responded with a quote of £29,351 plus VAT. This is much more favourable than quotes from other companies. Gary MacKay, the new Sports Co-Ordinator, told the PC that he has previous experience of using the Ecosse company and had been happy with their service.

Maria has been in contact with the Glengarry Trust regarding funding and they have responded favourably with the condition that the area be made available for community use outwith of school hours. Maria will also be attending the next Community Council Meeting with the view to chase funds currently held by the Highland Council (Playground Forum) for playground/community use (a donation by a building firm).

Wendy has been in contact with Hugh MacLeod from The Highland Council regarding any issues surrounding community use. It has been confirmed to him that there are no problems in the playground regarding access for sewers etc. Wendy to chase up.

There were questions regarding the VAT element of costs, Wendy will look into this and confirm how invoicing could work re VAT.

PC all in favour and enthusiastic about continuing with the project. Maria to contact Ecosse to confirm price of quote and hopefully go ahead as soon as funding can be sourced/approved.

Action: Maria/Wendy

P6/7 Trip

Has been confirmed to take place with P7 pupils from Banavie Primary School to Edinburgh on 28th, 29th, 30th May 2014. P6/7 Pupils and their parents have worked very hard with various fund raising activities, raising £540.97. The bank holds a balance of approx. £1,600.

The transport arrangements have still yet to be finalised, but accommodation in the city is now booked.

Adverse Weather

Following the recent storm before Christmas when the school had to be closed for the day, it still transpires that the best updates are via the Highland Council Adverse Weather Telephone Information Service.

Highland Games Donation – A thank you letter from the school has been sent.

Christmas Concert

A fantastic production once again. Thanks to Tracey, Lesley and Anne for all their efforts in keeping everyone supplied with refreshments. Apart from funds being raised for the Edinburgh Trip, the school also raised £169.10 for the MacMillan Cancer Charity this year. They wrote to thank the school and a certificate is displayed at the school.

AGENDA

Current Teaching/Staffing Provision

Following from the last meeting, the advertisement for the P1/3 Tuesday cover & P4/7 Friday cover was placed quickly after being chased up. However, no suitable applicants applied for the position. It has now been advertised nationally, but it is proving extremely difficult to fill the vacancy. Mrs Rhona Grindley will hopefully teach on Tuesdays, but there is no staff provision for Fridays now.

Wendy is attending an Area Meeting on Friday and will bring up the situation with Hugh Fraser.

Parents are now requesting a meeting with Norma Young (before the Easter Holidays) to discuss the current and future staffing and management provision at Invergarry Primary School. Gayle will email her to ask for her available dates.

Action: Gayle

Winter Road Maintenance on School Bus Runs

Alison Donald has contacted the Parent Council for support after learning that the Glengarry Road has been 'downgraded' to a secondary route for winter maintenance (salting/gritting) despite this being a school bus route. Other parents on the council who also live along affected roads were not aware of this change. It seems that although children from these areas are transported to school using contracted vehicles & drivers, because the school transport has less than 9 seats – it is no longer classified as a 'school bus route'.

Gayle will email Michael Leary from the Highland Council, The Community Council, Hugh Fraser & Cllr Bill Clark on behalf of the Parent Council to express our concerns.

Action: Gayle

Clearing School House

Dee spoke about the general untidiness and how the old school house has become a 'dumping ground' for broken equipment. Part of this reason is that the council no longer provide the visiting skips to the village on a monthly basis.

It was agreed that a volunteer parent workforce could be arranged, perhaps on a Saturday morning, to help clear this all away. Dee will speak with her husband about sourcing a skip, if this can't be done, then PC to contact Bowmans for a price/day availability.

Action: Dee

AOB

PE Transport Donation

The pupils recently went to Kilchuimen for PE on Thursday morning, it is hoped that this could become a regular event. Transport was undertaken by the Kilchuimen school bus/driver – Maria asked Wendy if PC could help costs by making a donation towards the fuel. Wendy to get back.

Action: Wendy

Parent Council Fund Raising Event

Discussion around this year's fund raiser, and it was decided to hold a Beetle Drive on 22nd March, with teas/coffees/raffle. Suggestions of a £1 entry fee with chocolate trophies for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places, and a possibly 'booby prize' too. Dee to source 'Beetle Drive' kit, Gayle to check dates with hall, Tracey to produce posters.

Action: All Parent Council Members

DATE OF NEXT MEETING & AGM

Thursday, 15th May 2014, 6.30pm.

No further business, meeting closed at 8.25pm.