

# INVERGARRY PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENT COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2013, 6.30 PM

Present: Mrs Jane Strachan                      Mr Clem Farnan  
          Mrs Julie Gilchrist                     Miss Maria MacRae (Chairperson)  
          Mrs Marion Riddle                       Mrs Irene Rodgers  
          Mrs Gayle Rand (Clerk)                Mrs Tracey MacCallum (Treasurer)

Apologies: Mr Bill Clark                      PC Tony Hannah  
              Mrs Lesley Doherty

### Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Minutes read and agreed.

#### Bank Accounts

Clydesdale Bank now up and running, balance is £603.85. Waiting for account closure confirmation from Bank of Scotland but all funds have been transferred to the new account. Gayle has written to Education Dept to notify them of new Parent Council account. However it is to be discussed at the next Highland Council meeting to reduce/stop payments to Parent Councils across the region.

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#### School Entrance

The new school gate is dropping on the two hinges. Maria to ask Donald regarding replacing existing hinges with three different ones.

The overgrown hedge/vegetation at the drop-off layby has now been cut back. Thanks to Bill Clark for his help with this.

Action: Maria

#### Eco-Thursdays

Help still desperately needed for all projects linked with Eco-Schools. Held on Thursdays between 1.30pm – 2.45pm. Help is especially required to finish constructing the greenhouse.

Action: Parent Help

#### School Benches

Alasdair has kindly agreed to build 3 new benches & only charge cost of materials.

#### Glencoe & City Trip Fund Raising

Maria successfully applied to the Glengarry Trust for a grant of £700 to help with the costs.

Next fundraising event, Lovely Teas, to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March which is also World Book Day. Donations of home baking from parents would be gratefully received.

#### School Handbook

Now on website.

#### Costume Making

Many thanks to Kirsty, Irene & Carole and all other helpers who made the Nativity Play costumes. Also thanks to Kirsty for the wonderful photographs.

## AGENDA

### Traffic Survey

PC Tony Hannah is working with the pupils on a Traffic Survey, he was in the school today and it is planned that he will attend on Thursdays to carry out 30 minute surveys to monitor usage of the A87. The aim of the project is then to present their findings to the school/Parent Council/Community Council – possibly ready in time for the AGM in May.

The school has also been given the results of a traffic survey carried out by TranServ. Statistics show that in September, over 1900 vehicles used the road past the school, with the busiest periods being between 3 – 3.30 pm and 11.30am – noon. There was evidence to show that traffic did slow down during those times when the 20mph flashing lights were activated.

It was noted that the 20mph flashing lights are not on during nursery times though – they go off shortly after 9am and are back on just before 12 noon. Jane to source contact for control of lights and Gayle to write to ask for an extension of the speed limit reduction during nursery drop off/pick up times.

Action: Jane/Gayle

### Nursery Snack Funding

Last year, parents of nursery children agreed to make a donation of £2.50/week to enable the nursery to continue the provision of snack time. A questionnaire went out to the parents of nursery children asking if they wished to continue with the snacks and comments were favourable to carry on. However, funds were short last term of £17.50; the Parent Council discussed the problems surrounding short-falls of funds. All parents should be aware that they are able to talk to Jane in confidence if funding any school activity is proving difficult because of financial constraints.

### GGASAC

Tracey successfully applied to the Glengarry Trust for a grant of £1,400. Along with £300 in the bank account and parent contributions (last year this was £10/family), this should cover the costs for this year. Julie has been in touch with Liz Proudlock, who in turn is waiting for service providers to get back to her. Brief discussion surrounding dates, although difficult for some, Fridays still seem to be best day. Activities usually held over 5 weeks in May & June.

Joan Flemming donated a raffle prize of a £50 Highland Activities voucher to the parent council. However, it transpires that this company has split into two separate concerns and efforts to contact Highland Activities have gone without reply.

### Fundraising/Funding for School Benches

Maria suggested a family fundraising event to raise cash for PC account (covering cost of timber for new benches). An ‘Easter Egg Hunt’ around the school grounds using orienteering clickers with teas and home baking and a raffle afterwards. Irene to ask Alex Campbell if he would be prepared to help with the orienteering side of things. To be held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm – just before school finishes for Easter holidays. Donations of home baking required please. Tracey will donate 2 boxes of Cream Eggs as prizes.

Recent fundraising events:

Christmas Hampers for P6/7 residential trips: £147

November Lovely Lunch for P6/7 residential trips: £253.70 (£56 of this from the toy stall)

January Lovely Lunch for P6/7 residential trips: £111.00

Christmas Nativity Play donations split between Cancer Care in the Highlands and Core Readers, £100 each.

Action: All for organising Orienteering Easter Hunt

### Skiing

There was a discussion around transport to skiing on a Friday with concerns centred mainly around lack of parents available to help due to work commitments. The fees for school transport to other activities, including swimming, was also included. The swimming bus alone costs £1,700, although family donations of £2/week are requested, the majority of the bill is covered by the general school budget which means other spending on school equipment (especially the Jolly Phonics software for the small class) has to be forgone.

The Parent Council suggested that this may warrant a grant application. Maria will apply for £2,000 from the Glengarry trust for general school transport.

Action: Maria

### Football/Basketball Area Resurfacing Idea

Maria put forward a suggestion for having the football/basketball area of the playground resurfaced with polymeric soft surface material, as Fort Augustus has for their outside courts. A sub-committee of Maria, Marion & Tracey too look into costs, contractors and funding.

Action: Maria, Marion & Tracey

## **AOB**

### Disclosures

Tracey mentioned that her disclosure is soon out of date. Jane will enquire as to renewal procedures.

Action: Jane

### Highland Games

The Highland Games committee have asked if there are any projects the school would like a donation towards. Jane suggested a small sitting bench for the playground please.

### Nursery Notice Board

Please can minutes of Parent Council meeting be placed on the Nursery notice board again. Gayle to send a copy of minutes to school for this purpose.

Action: Gayle

### School Dinners

The results of the pupils' School Dinners survey has been collated and sent to Norma Murray, Catering Manager. No response as yet.

### AGM

Gayle to write to all parents to remind them of the forthcoming AGM and to invite more parents to join the Parent Council.

Action: Gayle

## **DATE OF AGM & NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013, 6.30pm.

No further business, meeting closed at 8.00pm.