



PRESENT: Marion McNeil, Leah McCauley, Malissa Fraser, Donna Wallace, Jenny Currie, Louise MacKinnon, Lyn Cowie, Kirsty Lennox, Gillian McPetrie, Vicky Anderson, Susan Smithers, Claire Stutter, Lynn Service, Vicky Stewart, Marion Slater

APOLOGIES: J Boyd, J Johnson

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by email, in advance of the meeting.

Apologies and Welcome to Mrs Service

Mrs Service was welcomed to the school council, introductions were made.

Wider Community Engagement

JC introduced the topic, which had been touched upon in the previous year.

LS reported that, in developing the Curriculum Rationale, staff had discussed what makes Drumoak School unique, exploring the school setting and whether they were tapping into community resources to provide the best experiences for the children. The obvious connections continued – Mains of Drum, Drum Castle, SSPCA, Bowling Club. The oldest children had visited the Friendship Club, at Christmas time, this had been a success and could possibly be expanded. LS already has plans to get in touch with Jean Boyd, and will discuss this then. LS explained that opportunities come up from time to time, unexpectedly, and schools are flexible and can quickly adapt to incorporate these.

KL suggested tapping into skills of community members who are not connected to school families. This was discussed further and it was suggested that an appeal could be put in the next community newsletter, examples such as gardening, sewing/crafts, baking, music/choir could be given, in the hope that a variety of experiences could be opened up to the pupils.

GM to pass on newsletter contact to LS.

CS shared Durriss School's 'Masterclass' set up – pupils sign up for activities run by staff, volunteers or older pupils, instead of traditional Golden Time. This works in a cycle where they have 2 weeks of Masterclasses, followed by 2 weeks of pupil committee meeting times. Everyone felt that this was a good idea and worth exploring in the future.

ACTION LS

ACTION GM

Committee Roles for Next Session

JC (Chair), MF (Vice Chair) and LC (Treasurer) are all willing to continue in their roles, next session. They will be up for re-selection at the AGM, after Summer. The constitution states that office bearers will stand down after three years in any role, therefore GM will stand down as Secretary at the AGM. JC will advertise the role via the School Council Facebook. LS to advertise in the next School Newsletter.

LM will stand down as fundraiser, DW has already agreed to take on this role.

With some members standing down, LC requested that more members become signatories on the bank account – DW, LM & SS agreed to do this, LC will issue appropriate forms for this.

ACTION JC &
LS

ACTION LC

Playground – Sub-Committee Update

SS updated on the work that had taken place, since the last meeting – the outdoor carpet in the nursery playground had been brushed and power washed but the appearance of the area is still not acceptable. The council have contacted the company who laid the surface, they requested before and after photographs, which have been taken. The company advised that maintenance instructions had been given to the school on completion, but Mr Wilson was not aware of any such information. Parent volunteers had carried out a clean up of some of the nursery equipment/garden areas and had completed some painting, to brighten the area. The Tesco Bags of Help appeal has now closed, we should find out the outcome in approximately one month, it would appear that Drumoak Nursery had been in the lead for this.

All agreed that an outdoor tap would be useful, to allow maintenance of the garden over Summer holidays and for use by the nursery staff for water play, and further up the school for gardening also. LS will contact the Clerk of Works to investigate the possibility.

ACTION LS

Heather Dale has planted the Willow Structure and has given some advice on a nature garden area, below the pitch, including a hedge for shelter/plants to attract wildlife etc. The planting season is now passed but it is hoped that preparations for this can be completed in time for next year's planting season.

The playground committee will meet again to progress this further. The remaining £2000 continues to be ring-fenced for spending on these developments.

JC reported back that one of the things which was highlighted by the 'Parent Council Health Check' was that we do not collaborate with the Pupil Council, and suggested that they could be consulted on this as it progresses.

MM shared information about the Community Payback scheme, where sometimes highly skilled people can provide free labour for some of the work that may be involved. MM will share the details of this.

ACTION MM

Fundraising Update

Helpers are still required for the Fun Day, 11 am – 2 pm, Saturday 18 May.

LS will include again in Mondays e-mail and request that teachers send out appeal via See-saw.

ACTION LS

Gillian will provide roadside signs.

ACTION GM

School will be open from 9.45 am, for setting up.

VA will organise freezer storage for ice creams.

ACTION VA

CS will ensure P6/7 parents are reminded about bringing in donations before they depart for the residential trip.

ACTION CS

LM explained the Lucky Envelopes stall – KL will put this together. GM suggested school based prizes, LS liaise with staff about ideas for these and e-mail to GM, to create 'vouchers'. KI will put together the envelopes.

ACTION LS &
GM

If won by children who are not Drumoak Pupils, they will be offered a voucher for free candy floss or similar, to be used at the fair – GM will create these.

MF will purchase juice and water.

GM and SS will meet in school on Friday afternoon, to label the tombola bottles.

School will organise 'Adopt a Teddy' with the pupils.

ACTION LS

JC will purchase strawberries.

ACTION JC

Treasurer's Report

LC reported that the current balance is over £7000. Of this, £2000 remains ring-fenced for spending on the playground, and nursery have £139 remaining from their allocation.

This leaves an available balance of £5295.

Recent spending includes £283 Music Festival fees, for the recorder entries, £450 Scottish Opera (which was very well received), £200 for Techfest workshops and a small spend on sundries for events.

LC continues to investigate available grants, as part of the playground sub-group.

The Woodland Trust Grant has been spent but specifics are still required regarding tree species etc (at the last meeting, it was mentioned that trees planted near the football pitch would lead to problems maintaining the all-weather pitch – this would need to be taken into consideration when selecting).

LC wishes to discuss some of the other grants with the school staff and will liaise with LS to arrange – these include Royal Society of Chemistry, Potato Council, B&Q and a Charitable Trust.

ACTION LC &
LS

The deadlines for the majority of grants are September/October.

LC commented that it was good for the school to share with parents, the events/items that had been paid for/subsidised by School Council, to encourage support with fundraising events.

Head Teacher's Report

LS thanked the school community for the welcome she has received and discussed the key activities that had been carried out in her initial weeks at Drumoak – Getting to know staff

and pupils, auditing and reviewing teaching practice, collegiate activities with staff, engaging with parents and identifying strengths and areas for development.

Initial observations are that children have a positive outlook and come to school ready to learn, the staff are dedicated and committed in their roles, parents are engaged and supportive and the school facilities are excellent.

Initial areas for focus will be reviewing and updating the School's Curriculum Rationale and Vision & Values, developing Curriculum Planning from P1-7 and the Nursery Improvement Plan.

LS will be issuing parents with a questionnaire to help inform some of these developments and issued School Council members with a SWOT analysis to help identify some priorities.

These should be completed and returned to Lynn by Monday 13 May.

ACTION ALL

LS is currently putting together a calendar for the coming year and intends to share this at the beginning of the new session, with all major dates for the year ahead.

Organisation of the Library area is in the pipeline.

LS and the staff have been discussing how to re-energise the reward system in school, some equipment has been requested for collecting 'tokens', which it was agreed School Council would fund.

For assemblies, LS will look into cost for a wall-mounted screen in the hall, and discuss at the next meeting.

ACTION LS

Correspondence

Connect are offering a free workshop – Engaging All Parents, on Wednesday 14 May. KL may be able to attend, GM to forward information.

This led to a discussion on ways to recruit more helpers – suggestions included representative at P1/Nursery induction meetings and parents evenings.

AOCB

School Council Health Check – JC carried this out, using a resource supplied by Connect. Most areas were covered but a couple of suggestions were highlighted:

- Representation at events, as mentioned above
- Including School Council e-mail/facebook page in the school handbook.
- Occasional free events.
- Policies – Social Media, Data Protection and Child Protection

JC will share a social media policy for approval. Data Protection was deemed unnecessary as we do not hold anyone's details, and communicate with the parent body via the school.

JC had been given information about 'Plastic Free Schools' from a local councillor. Jenny is awaiting a reply from a representative from 'Surfers Against Sewage' who may be able to talk to the School/School Council about reducing waste.

On the topic of reducing waste, it has been suggested that the School Council purchase a set of crockery for use at smaller events. JC will compare prices and purchase, everyone was in agreement for this.

ACTION JC

KL stated that £100 had been donated by John Lennox's company, for science equipment. CS reported that she has been looking into gaps in resources. So far, a need has been identified for magnets and possibly prisms. CS had also seen some science games that were a possibility.

Following a recent reminder about school uniform, DW asked if school cardigans were acceptable, as an alternative to the school sweatshirt. LS agreed that school cardigans were acceptable school uniform, the issues observed by staff had been mostly relating to wearing of bright colours and hoodies (apart from the approved P7 Leaver Hoodies) as alternatives. It was suggested that a cardigan, with the school logo, could be added to the school uniform order system. LS will investigate this.

ACTION LS

Next Meeting – Tuesday 11 June, 6.30 pm