



PRESENT: M McNeil, L McCauley, M Fraser, J Currie, P Wilson, L MacKinnon, L Cowie, K Lennox, G McPetrie, G Redman, R Veitch, G Sutherland, S Smithers

APOLOGIES: J Boyd, V Stewart, F Thomson, V Anderson, D Wallace, M Slater

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

### Outdoor Learning

Mr Wilson introduced the topic of outdoor learning and acknowledged that SS had been successful with the nursery's application for Tesco's Bags of Help project, to help improve the outdoor space – the collection of tokens is ongoing.

In small groups, ideas were listed for how we might spend the funds, if successful, in the following areas:

- Nursery-P3
- A Wildlife Area
- P4-P7
- Art/Creativity
- Furniture
- The Wight's Wood (behind the old school, accessed from the footpath below the old School House)

Ideas were passed to SS, for the Outdoor Learning sub group to consider.

ACTION SS

When discussing the Wight's Wood, Mr Wilson explained how this area had been used in the past. It was felt that this area needed re-energising and that a clean-up could be organised, this month, so that the area would be accessible again.

Mr Wilson explained that Jill Birch is keen to work with classes, modelling lessons to the staff. Parents could also be trained in this.

A nursery playground clean-up is already organised for 16 March. It was suggested that a clean-up in the woods could be organised to coincide with this. This has only been requested of Nursery parents, JC to share on Facebook with the wider parent body.

ACTION JC

### Playground – Sub-Committee Update

SS reported that the remainder of the Nursery allocation has now been spent.

When discussing how to spend the £2000 reserved for P1-3 and P4-7, it was more difficult for the group to reach a decision.

The Playdale proposal was mostly dismissed, with the only desirable item being the climbing frame, which is an expensive item.

A decision was made to investigate the possibility of creating dens/hiding places, such as teepees /domes. These could be Willow Structures. Kits for these are not expensive, but would require proper installation. GR informed that, in the past, someone had worked with the children to build such structures, GR will check if this person would still be available.

The money will remain ring-fenced for this, allowing more time to fully investigate the options. Any left over money could be spent on the basketball nets.

ACTION GR

LC fed back on grants that she has requested forms for and stated that, as there are so many, some help in completing these may be required.

### James Gregory Road Update

JC updated on communications and progress with the road safety issues on James Gregory Road. Contact was first made back in October 2018 and Local Councillors have advised that, although our issues were raised at their meetings, the Area Manager was absent for a period of time, preventing any progress.

In the last week a Police Officer has carried out a survey and found no apparent issues with speeding traffic.

This afternoon, another visit was carried out, by the Council. Just before tonight's meeting, an email was received, informing that the Council still have a small list of items for Stewart

Milne Homes to address, before they will adopt the street. They hope to meet with the developer, in the next two weeks, to try to have these issues addressed.

The 20mph limit has been approved and temporary speed limit signs should have been provided by the developer.

JC will continue to pursue this and keep in touch with the Council, over the next three months, about their completion. JC will also investigate risk assessing the school entrance for an unofficial white striped crossing, as suggested.

ACTION JC

MM asked if GM had contacted the Community Council about the issues. GM confirmed that this had been done, by e-mail. MM will discuss this at the next meeting of the Community Council.

### Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan & Land for Banchory Academy

A meeting regarding the Local Development Plan is scheduled for 7 March, MM plans to attend and offered to represent the School Council on the issue of the land set aside for a future new academy, which is currently subject to a planning application for a residential development. Everyone was in agreement for this.

### Fundraising Update

LM thanked everyone who supported the Race Night, and LM was congratulated on her efforts, raising £2250.

The next event is the Fun Day on 18 May, 11am – 1pm – LM to arrange a meeting of the fundraising team to plan this. Additional helpers will be required on the day and in the lead up.

ACTION LM

This Friday's film night may not go ahead due to lack of interest. Reminders will be sent out and a decision made, later this week.

ACTION PW & GM

LM informed that she will step down from the School Council, at the end of this session, and that she has hopefully found a replacement for fundraiser.

### Treasurer's Report

The current balance is a very healthy £8366. Of this, £2350 is ring-fenced for the playground, £200 is required for Techfest and £450 for Scottish Opera, leaving an available balance of £5300.

LC commented that the March Newsletter acknowledged the Parent Council's contributions. The majority of cash raised at recent fundraisers has been banked. However, LC realised that the bank charges 2% for cash withdrawals, which we need regularly for floats at events. To avoid these charges, Lyn has held on to a sum of change, and has stored it in a safe, so that it can be accessed for floats when required.

### Head Teacher's Report

The School Coffee morning is scheduled for 27 March and home bakes will be required. It was agreed that entry would be £2.50. Helpers are required 9.30 – 11.30 am. GM to email and arrange a list of helpers.

ACTION GM

Funds were requested for:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| • Music Festival Entry                     | £200           |
| • Sports Day Medals                        | £200           |
| • Homework Diaries                         | £200           |
| • Chicken & Egg Project                    | £245           |
| • Buses                                    | £700           |
| • P7 Gifts                                 | £150           |
| • Forest School – Morning sessions for all | £1000          |
|  | <b>= £2700</b> |

Most of these had been approved before and all were in agreement, with the exception of Homework Diaries. A decision was made not to purchase the diaries as most of the upper stages homework is now communicated electronically, and the lower stages only use the diary to note reading pages.

This was Mr Wilson's final School Council Meeting. PW thanked JC and GM for taking part in the selection of a new HT and commented that he was delighted that Mrs Service will be taking over. Mrs Service will be in school, next week and will lead next Friday's assembly. They will continue to liaise and hand over, during the Easter holidays, ensuring a smooth transition.

Mr Wilson thanked the School Council for their efforts and input over the years, which he has valued very much.

### Correspondence

Ongoing correspondence regarding James Gregory Road, discussed above.

Susan Cantley e-mailed about an initiative organised by Mary's Meals – The Backpack Project. This involves families donating a school bag, filled with second hand school items. Susan is happy to organise the collection. Everyone was in agreement for this to go ahead. GM to let Susan know.

ACTION GM

### AOCB

LC shared some suggestions from parents:

- A Walking Bus (recently in the Press at Cults Primary)
- Donating £1 or £2 per family and the children deciding how to spend it on items for a food bank, learning about budgeting as they do so.

It was agreed that these suggestions would be discussed at the next meeting.

GM updated Drumotters

**Next Meeting – Tuesday 7 May, 6.30 pm**