



PRESENT: G Robertson, P Wilson, L Mackinnon, S Smithers, G McPetrie, R Hutcheon, K Warren, J Johnson, M Fraser, J Currie, M Slater, R Glansbeek

APOLOGIES: F Thomson, V Stewart, M McNeil, V Anderson, N Reith

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

Banchory Academy Parent Council – Update on New Banchory Academy Campaign - Rebecca Glansbeek

Banchory Community Council identified a new academy as its number one priority in their action plan. However, pushing the agenda is up to the community, not the community council, although they are very much supporting the campaign.

A key individual involved in the campaign learned that a new academy is not in Aberdeenshire's plan for the near future.

Aberdeenshire Council is currently putting together the Local Development Plan (LDP) for 2021-2031. As of 31 March, planners had the option to request for land (RG will forward this link to GM to share). In the last LDP, Banchory Academy Parent Council fought for land to be reserved for the new academy, this was allocated on land adjacent to Raemoir Garden Centre. However, in the current proposals, this land is now being requested, by the landowner, for housing and the site could be lost, should this be approved.

A meeting of Marr area councillors, and the community council, will be arranged shortly, Banchory Academy Parent Council are drafting a letter to have their views shared at the meeting and will contact us to let us know when this is to take place.

The condition of the school has been graded B and C grades. In 2015 members of the Academy Parent Council carried out an audit of the school facilities and were given funding to repair items/areas deemed unacceptable.

A learning plaza is due to be built on the area occupied by the current swimming pool, when the new sports village has been completed.

Connect - Parent Council Essentials Workshop

GM and JC attended this workshop recently and found it interesting and informative.

The Connect website has a wealth of information to support the school council, such as job descriptions for roles within the council, risk assessment forms etc.

Gillian has paper copies of some of the relevant information and will distribute to the appropriate members.

Jenny shared examples from a true/false quiz about the roles of the school council, head teacher and parent forum.

GM and JC will attend a further workshop – 'Helping to Improve Your School'. This is open to all members, as e-mailed.

A facebook group has recently been set up for Aberdeenshire Parent Council Chairs, GM has emailed information about this to GR.

ACTION GM

Developing the Young Workforce/Career Evening Planning

The three main government priorities for education are Curriculum for Excellence, GiRFEC and Developing the Young Workforce. Children should experience a curriculum where they develop skills for learning, life and work. The document can be found online, at Education Scotland.

A career event for the cluster schools will be hosted on Friday 28 September, 9.30 am – 12.00 pm, with approximately fifty children attending.

The format will be like 'speed dating', following a model already implemented in Alford.

P6/7 will also participate in a Junior Award Scheme, building up hours taking part in various activities such as volunteering or keeping active.

Fundraising Report & Fun Day Update

- PW will e-mail parents to request help with stalls and donations of bottles and teddies. ACTION PW
- PW to check that all is in order for screening the royal wedding. ACTION PW
- School will be open at 9.30 am, for setting up.
- An external company offered to hold a stall, GM to reply to turn down this offer. ACTION GM

Treasurer's Report

The balance continues to be a healthy sum of £5954.20, with £210 still to bank and £150 from the recent cinema event.

PW reported that the school had been given an additional photocopying bill of £1400, which continues to highlight the need for fundraising to help provide basic materials, as well as additional or 'extra' resources. Costs continue to rise but there has been no increase in the budget for 7/8 years.

We hope to purchase mini cookers/cooking materials for next session.

PW suggested labelling items provided by the school council, highlighting the fact that such items are only possible when everyone works together to raise funds.

Head Teacher's Report

- The time has come to conduct the biennial survey of the parent forum, using questions similar to those used by school inspectors. Previously, Fiona Thomson has put this together. MF offered to assist with this and is going to liaise with FT, to find out if she is willing to do this again and if she still has copies of the previous questionnaire. The questionnaire should be issued late May, allowing time to gather feedback to inform the next meeting. ACTION MF
- The last questionnaire highlighted that parents wanted more information about how to support learning at home. The school responded by creating the learning leaflets, which are shared and distributed at Sharing Assemblies. These have been well received. Feedback from the questionnaires helps to identify some items for the SIP (School Improvement Plan), the feedback will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Film nights will now be held only between October and March, due to the light entering the hall.
- At the next meeting, we will look at the calendar for the coming year and review events.
- Car parking continues to be an ongoing issue. PW suggested that a leaflet could be created to remind people of the expectations and that signs could be put up at the drop off spaces.
- At the next meeting, we will look at succession planning, with three key rolls becoming vacant – Chair, Treasurer and Community Member. Gillian to approach Community Council and Community Group to publicise the Community Member vacancy. ACTION GM
- The next meeting may be a slightly longer one, it was suggested that we bring the time forward to 6.30 pm.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 19 June, 6.30 pm