



PRESENT: M McNeil, L McCauley, M Fraser, D Wallace, S McGregor, J Currie, P Wilson, L MacKinnon, V Anderson, L Cowie, H Watt, M Slater, K Lennox

APOLOGIES: J Boyd, S Smithers, V Stewart, F Thomson, J Johnson

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

Internet Safety/Digital Parenting – Susan McGregor, Community Learning & Development

SM provided some background information about the structure of the CL&D team and the services they can provide. This included information about free Family Learning sessions, offered in the school holidays, including activities such as:

- Family Fortunes (exploring how to introduce young people to financial literacy)
- Come Dine With Me
- Returning to Work
- Learning Together (aimed at supporting families with English as an additional language with understanding educational literacy about schools and the curriculum)

SM left behind leaflets which anyone is welcome to view.

On the topic of Digital Parenting/Internet Safety SM explained that a 5-week course, 'Getting ready to live with teenagers' can be offered. However, a one-off session can be tailored to meet specific requirements.

SM sought ideas from the group – Cyber bullying, online chats/messengers, online gaming and tips for discussing issues with youngsters were suggested.

SM will pull together a presentation/workshop for parents, to be held in the school on 5 February, 7.00-8.30pm. Crathes and Durris parents will also be invited – PW to liaise. SM asked to be informed of numbers for the event, PW to issue parents with a return slip to advise of attendance. SM will also bring materials to the evening, for parents to take away, and will advise of useful websites.

Banchory Academy are hosting a Social Media Evening in February – it is likely that P7 (and possibly P6) parents will be invited to attend, and an invitation may be extended to School Council Members.

ACTION PW
ACTION PW

Playground Update – Sharing of Plans and Fundraising for This

The proposal from Playdale (plans and quotation), which had been previously shared by e-mail, was displayed and discussed. The total for the proposal was £30000 + VAT.

LC updated on information gathered about available grants and the criteria attached to these:

- **National Lottery – up to £10000**
We meet the criteria of being 'a school' and requesting 'equipment'.
The proposal must enable people to fulfil their potential by working on issues at the earliest opportunity.
If sport focused – the equipment must prioritise engaging girls/engaging young people with additional support needs.
- **Royal Society of Chemistry – unlimited**
Must be used to enhance equipment that cannot be purchased through the teaching budget, but would enrich opportunities in any aspect of Science.
- **Sport Scotland – up to £250000**
Funding for the provision or upgrading of sports facilities to increase the range of physical activity and sporting facilities (for use of the community).
Closing date 1 April.
- **Woodland Trust – up to 420 free trees**

LC explained that there was a website, with a £99p/a subscription fee, which provided regular newsletters to update with upcoming grants to apply for.

MM suggested an organisation called KDP who offer a similar service as well as support with completing applications – details will be passed to LC.

ACTION MM

The Playdale proposal looks to be impressive and of good quality. However, concerns were raised that it perhaps does not cater enough for the interests of the P5-7 pupils and that the P7 area needs further consideration. Also the shelf-life of the items needed to be considered. It was agreed that a sub-team would join Susan, to share ideas on the way forward, with LC continuing to look into obtaining grants:

ACTION LC
ACTION SS

S Smithers, K Lennox, L McCauley, V Anderson & L Cowie.

The group will initially come up with suggested items for spending the £2000 already set aside, to be shared between P1-4 and P5-7) and allow the pupils to vote for their preferred items.

ACTION DW

DW will talk to Mark, about installing the basketball hoops, as previously discussed.

New picnic tables are required and DW shared photographs from Marmax, of recycled plastic ones, instead of wood. It was agreed that these would be longer lasting.

Fundraising Update – Race Night & Family Cinema

Race Night tickets now on sale, all to encourage people to come along on 23 February.
LM explained the format of the night, costs involved and other fundraisers which will be organised for the evening – whisky bottle, gin hamper, heads & tails.

ACTION ALL

GM and MS offered to help, Jane Lawson will also assist.

KL will organise the pizza order.

ACTION KL

Cinema for Sunday 27 January is in hand, supplies have been purchased. PW will attend and support with the set up of the projector etc. Some additional helpers would be useful – GM, JC and MS so far.

A date for the next Cinema has been set for Friday 8 March at 6.00 pm.

The date for the fun day is Saturday 18 May.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance is very healthy, especially with two major fundraisers still to come (Race Night and Fun Day).

Current Balance £6686 (with £4336 remaining when the money set aside for the playground comes off).

Recent Income:

£340 Deeside Photography

£715 Christmas Prize Draw

£137 Teas at Enterprise Evening

£290 Aberdeenshire Council Funding

LC advised that no invoice had been received from Tarland Toy Shop, for the Christmas gifts.

PW will follow this up with the school office.

ACTION PW

Head Teacher's Report

Positive feedback was received from last week's Quality Insurance Visit, as well as some areas to develop in the future. This has been a positive experience.

PW expected that the announcement of his retirement may have come as a shock to many.

Family circumstances led to his decision to retire a year earlier than planned. PW explained that his decision to leave at the end of the Spring term, was to allow the new head teacher the summer term to settle in and get to know the setting, ahead of starting the new academic year. The recruitment process is underway with JC and GM involved as part of the interview panel. The post was popular, attracting several applicants and the authority are confident that someone will be appointed later this month.

PW shared a wish-list for upcoming events in the school:

£242 – Chicken & Egg project

£400 – Scottish Opera Workshop

£700 – buses and excursions for all classes

£150 – Techfest Science Workshops

£600 – Forest School Sessions

£200 – Music Festival Entry Fee
£200 – Sports Day Medals
£200 – Homework Diaries for 2019/2020
£400 – Bins

All were in agreement to release funds for the above. It was suggested that additional Techfest workshops could be looked into, to allow more classes to participate – PW to investigate.

ACTION PW

LC requested that the above is broken down into spring and summer terms, and then funds can be released for this term.

ACTION PW & LC

Correspondence

n/a

AOCB

GM has yet to hear back from local councillors about whether the school entrance crossing had been tabled. VA will check if any James Gregory Road residents have contacted the council regarding this issue which affects them. MM suggested requesting that the Community Council push this issue also – GM to email.

ACTION VA

ACTION GM

P7 Hoodies – the children have requested that they may be allowed to wear these earlier, this year. PW requested that a P7 parent may wish to organise this, as has happened in the past. JJ has since offered to do this again.

ACTION JJ

JC fed back on an Aberdeenshire Council meeting for Parent Council chairs, which she attended in Stonehaven, last night. Presentations were given by Laurence Findlay (Director of Education), the Parental Engagement Strategy team and the Quality Insurance Manager for the Learning Estate. Topics covered included:

- The Empowerment Agenda and the challenges this poses.
- Attracting new teachers to the profession and the national shortage.
- Moderation and improving attainment.
- Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and the various agencies who contribute to this – links to websites can be sought if required.
- Schools in Disrepair - a full study of the condition of all schools is to be carried out.

Anyone wishing to have more information on the above can contact JC.

GM shared the updated constitution with Aberdeenshire Council, all were in agreement with the small changes advised. GM will re-send the amended constitution.

ACTION GM

Next Meeting – Tuesday 5 March, 6.30 pm