



DRUMOAK SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
21st January 2020, 1830  
MINUTES

**1. Apologies** – Donna, Vicky, Janine, Leah, Lynn, Marion, Vicky Stewart, Kirsty Lennox

**2. Chair's report-**

**Road safety**

JC did a risk assessment along with Pupil council and sent it to roads development manager at council. They have no objection to crossing, but don't think it's required. They would want a further survey of any confusion and numbers of cars. If we want to do a survey will need to be longer than a day, EW will email whole school council to arrange shifts. EW also mentioned new houses getting built on JG road.

Drop off spaces/ cars- seems to be working better since signs have gone up.

TS mentioned broken fence- LS will log with maintenance. Also LS will ask them to cut fence lower for crossing.

Adoption of JG road- still believe that builder will finish snagging and then there will be a one year maintenance period and then council will take over.

MF mentions that some of the crossing areas are badly lit and wonders if safe road crossing can be re-visited with pupils, LS will do this.

Action- EW and LS

**School Buffs**

JC also discussed getting school buffs as a fundraiser. Our school uniform supplier can't supply these, but JC will show DW to look into more.

Action- JC/ DW

**Posters**

JC has made small posters for around school so parents know dates of meetings and who to contact.

**3. Parent workshop**

JC been in touch with Gwen Robertson who is happy to do a workshop for parents on understanding children's emotions. Has given dates 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 17<sup>th</sup> March , all in agreement that this would be a good workshop to run and so JC will arrange for 25<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Action- JC

**4. Playground update**

SS has been with LS to look at playground plans. There is an area below astroturf that belongs to the school but this would need a lot of work and would be a big job. LC has applied for two grants to use on outdoor area. The willow is also not taking well, and so SS and Heather will spend time looking at this. TS mentioned wind protection and concerns about children keeping warm. LS has spoken to clerk of works and janitor, concerns about shelters attracting vandalism/ people out with school hours. Also has been discussed previously and Drumoak has looked at other schools, other local schools have got rid of their shelters because of problems with them. Parents should also ensure that children come equipped for outdoors. Children do get to stay in if it is very wet/ unsafe. Gym hall can't be used after eating as it needs cleaned after children have eaten. Also difficult from a staffing point of view as teachers need their break. Still £2000 in pot for playground, but a lot of the playground

equipment is very expensive. LS has got a list of smaller items that would be useful- eg. footballs, bouncy hoppers, chalk, outdoor basketball stands, skippers, chalkboard picnic table covers, friendship bench, bug city, etc. All in agreement sounds great. LS will order and school council will reimburse and can deliver to assembly/ advertise that we had bought.

Action- LS

### **5. Race night**

DW asking if it can go in school newsletter- to forward poster to school and they can put in Friday's newsletter. Still requires some volunteers to help on night- to appeal in newsletter. Will be bar available but bring your own nibbles. Is looking for a compare. Will also check if DW requires people to help set up and clear up at end- JC will confirm. Will discuss fun day and fun run at next meeting.

Action- DW

### **6. Head teacher's report**

Staffing- welcomed Elaine Ingram- senior early years practitioner- looking after Crossroads and Drumoak nursery. Nursery now in GP room, should be back in at Feb long weekend. Also Intervention Prevention teacher in cluster, comes to Drumoak one afternoon a week. She has suggested a 'meet the ITP session' on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2pm, during the day, requesting people to do teas and coffees- JC, GM and TS can manage.

School roll has dropped and nursery roll up, 116 pupils in school, 27 in nursery.

Scots verse event this term, theatre today- 'Donald far's your trousers'. Curling competition, Scottish assembly. World book week coming up. No volunteers from local community to come and read to children, LS will go to friendship group/ church. EW will d/w MMc re any thoughts. Scottish opera also coming later in term. Durriss will be joining Drumoak also. Pupil groups starting again, pupils will be changing groups if they want to. This is done four weeks a term on consecutive weeks.

Ongoing work in improvement plan- maths, five minute boxes showed good improvement. Meeting end of January around five minute boxes. As a school looking at 'big maths' and Stephanie Grieve is part of maths mastery group, will be doing a programme in a few weeks led by SG- talking about how you get to an answer, different levels depending on child's confidence. Tracking system in place- maths, numeracy, pupil engagement, wider achievements. Cluster development on writing, making good improvement in writing. IBA club has started- four p7's come, invite eight children (p2-4) in to do a little bit of reading and number work over lunch.

Inservice day focussing on maths developments and moderation and assessment.

Library development- looking for team of parents that would be keen on making library digital. Mrs Wands, Aberdeenshire library lady, and new librarian from Banchory Academy are helping, but would be good to have a group of parents to help also. Can add to school council Facebook and LS will add to school newsletter with date and time for meeting.

Action- EW, LS

### **7. Treasurer's report**

LC not present but reported that had applied for 2 grants in Nov / Dec for outdoor – B&Q Community and Robertson Trust – haven't heard anything from either so suspecting we haven't been allocated anything. Current cash position – we have £6,732 (including the £511 relating to the tea towels still to be banked). We need to have a think of how to sell more tea towels – we are currently break even. (£2,000 ring fenced for the playground) so roughly £4,700 'free' cash

Potential grant applications identified:

- Royal Society of Chemistry – small grants £2,000 and large grants £2-10k – towards chemistry based events – enrich chemistry education and not just deliver the curriculum, provide opportunities to students to explore chemistry, provide opportunities to students not normally accessible. (May deadline) – initial thought might be to come up with school workshops similar to maths boxes for next session? Maybe identify a teacher to help me come up with ideas.
- School Library Improvement Fund - closing date 3 Feb – I've got all the details if needed – if the school hasn't already applied?
- Barrack Charitable Trust – small grants £500 , up to £5000- main categories – Advancement of Education / Advancement of the Arts and Science / Provision of Recreational Facilities (Aberdeen based trust)
- Free tree pack (delivery Nov 2020) – Lots of diff options from hedge, wild harvest, year round colour, wild wood, wildlife
- Baily Thomas Charitable Trust – below £10k and above £10k relating to 'intellectual disabilities' towards sensory equipment / laptops etc to help

LS will speak to CS re costing of science kit, LC to liaise with CS. School library improvement fund would be really useful as cost implication of digitalising library. LC to send to LS. Barrack trust one to keep in mind, but need to think of innovative idea. JC has looked at the free tree pack and awaits response from them particularly for reducing wind in astroturf, mentions screening that can be put onto fence of astroturf. Baily Thomas trust- LC to send to LS.

Action- LC, LS.

## **8. Charity**

?worth formalising charity plans for the year- ?charity group at school but pupil council do run some of these events. Some schools do local charity, national charity and world charity. Discussion re not asking too much from parents. Could do more that kids can get involved in rather than asking for money, eg. kiltwalk, making things for local organisations, going to care home. JC will speak to parents who have shown interest to come to school council meeting to discuss ideas. GS happy to come and do assembly and then a clothing drive.

Action- JC, GS

## **9. Correspondence**

Connect newsletter- EW will forward round.

## **10. AOCB**

GMcP brought up possibility of a paypal account for school, which would be easier than bank transfers/ cheques, she will look into this and report back.

Action GMcP

Cinema night cover sorted with adults with PVG, seats going out Fri am.

Applications for nursery/ school places- the school handbook needs updated with email address for school council and Facebook group.

Action- LS

