

MINUTES

Parent Council Meeting

Date | time Tuesday 10th May, 2pm | *Meeting called by* Donna Adams

Present

Donna Adams (Chair) | Clare Birkby (Secretary, minutes) | Julia Rickard (Headmistress) | Owen Birkby | Denise Gallon | Jane Hinton | Elaine Morrison | Angela Arnold

Apologies

Myles Conlon | Louise McPherson | Caroline Shearer | Caroline Taylor | Lorraine Brennan | Sue Brightman | Allyson Ironside | Ted Peters | Karen Riddell | Ian Taylor

Please note, dates for your diary are shown in red.

Item	Action
1. Welcome	
2. Old business & approval of last meeting's minutes No comments or amendments. Minutes were approved.	
3. Fundraising The Night With Annie Moon event was very successful and raised £657.50 for each of Primary School and Pre-School. Thank you to all the parents who helped organize, promote and attend the event and who brought raffle prizes, your help was very much appreciated. Rag Bag is booked for Friday 27th May and bags are ready to be sent out. The Garden Committee has organized a car boot sale and plant sale on Saturday 21st May at 10am – 12noon . Please contact Caroline Shearer at Playgroup if you wish to have a spot for the car boot sale. No further fundraising events are planned for the remainder of the 2015/2016 school year.	
4. School transport The school bus is free to children living within the catchment area but more than 2 miles from the school (as the crow flies). There are several families living on the bus route, but because they are within the 2 miles of school they are not entitled to free transport. The cost of the bus is approx. £100.60 per year per child, or £250 for a family of three or more children (this is a discounted rate to account for our not having an allocated crossing warden). There are concerns amongst parents and staff that, although Council guidelines state that children should be able to walk to school if they live within the 2 mile boundary, the roads around the school are highly unsafe (without pavements and with 60 mile an hour speed limits) and would not allow for this to be done safely. We also do not have use of crossing wardens. There are warning lights at either side of the school on the road but these do not seem to have the required effect and drivers are regularly seen driving at far higher than the 20 mile an hour	

restriction, and also have been seen overtaking those vehicles abiding by the speed limit. One parent was involved in a near miss last week and reported the incident to the police.

The issue has been raised with the Council previously without luck, however the meeting agreed that it is worth pursuing as it ties in with our concerns about parking at the school and also the speed of traffic passing school. Unfortunately no councilors were able to attend today's meeting, however Donna and Clare will contact them to see what can be done. Representatives from the Council did promise to conduct a traffic survey but we have not seen the results of this. Clare and Donna will chase this up.

DA/CB

One approach may be to enquire as to how we can get the signs which are designed by the children, and making the signage much more obvious and over a greater distance on the roadside. This would be part of a bigger picture, but may be a starting point.

If any parents have suggestions as to how this might be taken forward/supported by others outside the school, please let Donna, Clare or Mrs Rickard know.

ALL

5. **End of year disco**

This will be held on **Friday 24th June, at 6.30pm – 8.30pm**. Pre-school children are also invited. Lee Gallon has been booked to DJ, and the format will be the same as the other discos during the year with an entry fee and snacks/drinks provided free of charge in the P5-7 classroom.

Mrs Rickard will ask the P7 children to choose a theme for the night. Donna will ask a friend who is a photographer if she might be able to provide a "photo booth" facility.

JR/DA

6. **Chicken run for Crudie Chickens**

Donna has been looking at runs on Ebay and found several but it was thought at the meeting that these may be too big for our requirements. There is a gentleman in Auchnagatt who makes custom runs and Mr Jackson will be asked to investigate. Mrs Rickard will also speak with Colin from the Garden Committee with regard to him building a run for us.

JR

The P5-7 class has offered to donate the profits from their Coffee Morning (£36.93) towards the cost of the run, and the meeting agreed to fund the remaining costs.

7. **Parent-raised matters**

i) **Cost of swimming bus**

The cost of the bus in 2013/2014 was £3 per child, and was reduced to £1 per child last year as there were sufficient funds raised by the Parent Council to cover the balance. It was agreed that, as the Council this year has a different focus (laptops/IT equipment), the cost of the bus would be £3 per child and where there are siblings in the P5-7 class, the first child will be £3 and £1 for subsequent children in sibling groups, effective for this block of lessons.

ii) **Crudie £1 in P5-7 class**

This is a reward scheme devised in conjunction with the children whereby they can earn pretend money for working hard and achieving the School's values, and money can also be deducted for inappropriate behavior. They can then use this money to pay for a cinema experience and buy extras such as popcorn, drinks or an uninterrupted view. The children are encouraged to manage their own "money" and ensure it is kept safely, however some children have been upset as money has gone missing. Parents suggested piggy banks or a banking system to prevent money being misplaced. Children had been told at the start of the year that they could take in a purse or wallet or something else in which to keep their money safe. Mrs Rickard will speak to the children about a banking scheme and will reiterate the

importance of taking responsibility for their own money and keeping it safe.

iii) Loch Inch trip

Next year's trip will be partially funded by children raising their own money through initiatives such as bag-packing. The money raised by each individual child will be used towards that child's cost of the trip, so parents and children will be encouraged to organise such activities and will receive the full support of the Parent Council in helping with this.

Thank you to all the parents who have spoken with Donna and Clare about school matters, all communication and input is highly valued.

8. Headteacher's report

i) School values

These have been looked at with Pupil Parliament and staff and they had decided that "Happiness" is replaced with "Determination", as happiness is hopefully a result of the values rather than a value in itself. The Parent Council agreed this change.

ii) Self-evaluation

Pupils have been asked about how they have fulfilled the four capacities this session and came up with lots of ways in which they have been successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. A similar questionnaire will be sent home to parents to gather feedback.

iii) Improvement planning – cluster focus

The cluster has been focusing on health and wellbeing, and restorative practices. Most staff went on training at the in-service and Mrs Gallon and Mrs Young are taking this initiative forward in the school. Restorative Practice is a way of getting children to deal with incidents by talking it over together and coming up with agreed solutions. Both classes have implemented restorative circle times. Seasons for Growth will also come under the Health and Well-being improvement plan. Mrs Gallon and Mrs Whyte have been on training and will be setting up a group for pupils to take part in after summer. The course looks at dealing with change.

Staff will also be looking at improving numeracy for the school as a whole, particularly mental maths.

Mrs Rickard will be gathering views about homework via a discussion group.

9. Treasurer's Report

The bank balance is currently £2402.23 and the recent invoices for event advertising have been paid.

10. Any Other Business

None raised.

11. Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 30th August at 2pm**. Everyone is very welcome to attend, however if you are unable to attend and have any items to raise or questions to ask, please forward these via the School Office or e-mail clare_birkby@btinternet.com.

Distribution:

Parent Council

All parents

Staff

Crudie Playgroup

Councilors Findlater, Cassie & Partridge

Parent Council Committee Members' Contact Details:

Donna Adams, Chair

Mobile: 07817 549774

E-mail: d.onnada@yahoo.co.uk

Clare Birkby, Secretary

Mobile: 07791 706665

E-mail: clare_birkby@btinternet.com