



Muckhart Primary School Parent Council - Meeting Minutes

Monday 27th January 2020

Location: Muckhart Primary School

7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

In attendance: Lesley McGlinchie, Mike Wilson, Becky Graham, Susan Stephen, Alex Monaghan, Deby Caskie, Sarah Smart, Val Whyte, Jayne Price, Alison Coppock, Sarah Jarvis

Apologies: Jen Campbell, Liz Logan, Ruth Stewart, Cindy Onken Glimm, Eilidh Wallace, Clare Davis, Nicola Tayler, Michelina Johnstone, Kirstie Nelson, Meriel Cairns

Welcome & Introduction

Becky welcomed all parents to the meeting and made a special introduction and welcome to Mike Wilson.

1. Minutes of meeting on 4.11.19

2. Zebra Crossing update – Mike Wilson, Secretary of the Community Council

Mike Wilson started by referring to the Muckhart Community Plan, from which the most important area is the infrastructure improvement plan; this involves traffic management, road safety and improvement of paths. In August 2019, updates were proposed which included a safe zebra crossing as well as other measures, all to promote and support 'safer routes to school'.

A key cause of delay from the council in response to any applications or proposals is the absence of personnel; two key contacts left the employ of the council as early as August 2018 and haven't been replaced. There is no one to directly engage with in the council.

MCC has been working on proposed path improvements; proposed new paths; proposed new, safe pedestrian crossings; and a Muckhart-wide speed limit reduction (40mph to 30mph) with great success. So far these proposed path improvements have been approved by Alan Murray (Head of Roads – Clackmannanshire).

Through talks with the police, the police agree that the zebra crossing is poorly placed, however there is no safer alternative.

Another consideration was how best to improve driver behavior when approaching the village, and the crossing. With this in mind, this led to considering the option to change the zebra crossing to a traffic light controlled crossing, however the Council took issue with the expense.

Though proposals have been approved, as members of the community and parents of the school, we need to remain active and vocal. Any issues or concerns regarding road



safety need to continue to be reported to Mike Wilson so that he can log these as evidence to support current and future arguments to keeping our roads safe.

Please e-mail any reports of dangerous driving at the zebra crossing or any other issues or concerns regarding road safety to Mike Wilson at Sec.muckhartcc@gmail.com and to Mrs McGlinchie.

On 16th December the Council revised and authorized the following measures to be taken, once the weather improves:

- Repaint the road,
- repaint the signs and
- replace rumble strips,
- replace welcome sign with a 'new village gateway' sign,
- flashing warning sign VAS (vehicle activated sign) ,
- add red paint around the 30 markings on the road,
- put in more high friction surfaces at the crossings (potentially raise the surface before the crossing).

In the meantime, the police have been consulted and see no issue with us using 'Pop up Police'. Thanks to Kirstie Nelson for suggesting the idea of using them as a temporary measure until the other permanent improvements are made and for researching their successful use in other council areas, as well as finding out suppliers and costs. As yet we don't know when they will be arriving.

Mike Wilson will be meeting with Alan Murray for a follow up meeting on Wednesday 26th February at 10.30, Kilncraigs, to address all the road safety and speed management plans. Becky Graham will attend to represent the parent council along with Mike Wilson and Jonathan Bacon, both representatives from the MCC IWG (Muckhart Community Council's Infrastructure Working Group), and maybe Kirstie Nelson who has also been invited to attend as a concerned parent and member of the parent council.

Children to write letters to the council and make a video of the road safety issue at the crossing (an action of the School Travel Plan).

MCC to continue to push for VAS which indicates oncoming vehicle speed.

Parent body to report any road safety concerns to Mrs McGlinchie to then be forwarded on to the Muckhart Community Council

Deby to inform the Parent Council of this course of action on Facebook

3. School Travel Plan – Mrs McGlinchie

The school's travel plan (draft) was shared with the attendees of the meeting. The WOW monitors are looking into what to spend money given by the council as part of a travel initiative.



4. Accounts – Susan Stephen/Alex Monaghan

Susan talked through the healthy accounts. £5374.75 – ring fenced items = £2844.11
Scotia books has £203.11 still to spend for the library.

Susan Stephens is stepping down as Treasurer. The Parent Council agree that Dawn Hodgson and Melanie Rafferty will be removed from the banking mandate. The future statements will be addressed to Alex Monaghan, as the new acting Treasurer (see minutes from the AGM held on Monday 4th November: point 2 Election of Office Bearers), as well as receive authorization to access the internet banking. Becky Graham, as Parent Council Chairperson, will be added as a signatory to the account.

Becky Graham to visit the Clydesdale Bank branch in Dunfermline with supporting documentation to authorize these changes.

5. Matters arising from minutes: new sports kit – Deby Caskie;

We need to audit the kit that we have and research suppliers, such as Scotcrest, for kit. It would be helpful to set up a steering group to work on this project. Some funds have been ring-fenced in the PC accounts however an additional fundraiser would be necessary.

Deby to put the feelers out for helpers.

6. Fundraising – Soup and Sweet (Saturday 7th March) and any new ideas welcome – Becky Graham

Beetle Drive is a promising idea.

Meriel Cairns has offered to host a buffet lunch and a treasure hunt (as hosted in June 2019)

Cindy Onkem Glimm to check for a date for the Beetle Drive

Becky Graham to contact Meriel Cairns to discuss possible dates and help.

7. Curriculum focus – Family Learning – Mrs McGlinchie

As a school Parental Engagement is a strength, variety of volunteers, good involvement. Moving forward, the school needs to develop the Family Learning element.

Family learning involves establishing sound home school links and empowering parents to support their children's learning at home. The school is looking to provide opportunities to present/share activities with the parent body which are specifically designed to enable parents to learn how to support their children's learning. With this in mind, the school plans to host twilight teaching workshop sessions once a term (varying times and varying days each term to best accommodate all parents). These workshops will be relevant, inclusive and provide the support the parent body need.

Following a discussion among the Parent Council members it was determined that there is a demand for 'Tablet Academy' training (Pam Currie could come in to lead a workshop: £250 at the school's expense), numeracy, reading strategies.



Parents to contact Mrs McGlinchie with any suggestions of areas of the curriculum or learning that they would welcome further support with.

8. Developing the Young Workforce and STEM – Becky Graham

Two valuable lessons have been led which is raising the profile of STEM and the distinction between 'soft skills' and 'hard skills'.

The third session will be on Thursday 27th February, supported by 11 volunteers (more volunteers are welcome) from 1.15 – 3.15pm. The focus is on soft skills – the soft skills they'll need in their personal life and in working life.

Becky Graham to put out the feelers for volunteers for future STEM sessions.

9. Community Council, Former Pupils – Val Whyte

The monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th January at the Coronation Hall at 7.30pm. Val Whyte to let the council know that the Community Council supports the concept of the outdoor nursery still and see if the funding is still available for this initiative despite the development no longer going through.

Ardean Forestry project – may cause issues with traffic for the school. Please refer to the attached document, Ardean proposed planting map, provided by Val.

10. Parent Council Chair Forum Meeting Feedback

Becky Graham attended a Parent Council Chair Forum last Tuesday. Plans around School Empowerment (involving parental engagement and funding/devolved school management)

11. AOCB

Sarah Jarvis suggested advance notice for the Golden Days would be good to increase volunteer numbers. Ideally looking for 8-10 volunteers.

Deby to advertise on Facebook and e-mail around the Parent Council 2nd April and 24th June to contact Sarah Jarvis.

Date of next meeting

Monday 27th April 2020