**Crossmichael Primary School Parent Council (PC)**

**Minutes - Monday 6th March 2023 at 7pm at Crossmichael Primary School**

Minutes taken by Larissa Wheeler

1. **Apologies** – Natalie Richards, Emma McCracken, Derek Kernahan,
2. **Attendees** – Ben Wild (Chair), Lucy Wilson (Treasurer), Larissa Wheeler (Secretary), Mary Cruickshanks (Headteacher), Jackie Kernahan, Shani McMiken, Debs Nelson, Richard Middleton (Chair of Crossmichael Community Council), Ed Hex (Chair of Crossmichael Community Trust), Jane McCarthy (Crossmichael Community Trust).
3. **Approval of minutes of last meeting** – Ben proposed the minutes, seconded by Larissa. They were accepted as an accurate record of the last meeting.
4. **Crossmichael Community Council (CC) and Crossmichael Community Trust (CT) –** Richard – Knowledge of what both the Community Council (CC) and the Community Trust (CT) do is low. Every community has the right for a CC. Richard iterated that the main function of the CC is to represent the views of the community and, where appropriate, take issues/concerns raised to D&G council or even national government. Some projects include The Wee Book Hoose, purchase of the Old Herse House and work in the community woodland. Grants have been gained from Black Craigs. He spoke about the agreement in principle to have 20mph speed signs implemented in the village. Recently the CC have been working on a survey to investigate the impact of traffic noise on the wellbeing of village members. Finlay Carson said he will discuss the issues raised in the survey with appropriate bodies. The CC is about to run a bi-election and has various vacancies if anyone is interesting in joining the CC.

Jane – there is a lack of younger people/parents involved in both the CC and the CT. Does the PTC have ideas about how to get younger people involved? Jane is hoping that 2 parents would be able to take on the running and maintenance of the Wee Book Hoose.

Ben – suggested promotion on the school facebook page regarding the CC bi-election and the encouragement for parents to volunteer to take on the Wee Book Hoose.

Could the CC and CT have a stall at the summer BBQ fundraising event to promote their projects and encourage parents to become members?

Richard – Feels there could be more collaborative work between different community bodies, i.e the CC and the school/PTC. Having more parents on the CC would help with this.

Ed - The CT have maintained a good relationship with D&G Council. The CT is also needing more young people to be involved. CT was set up because the CC can’t own land. There are currently 55 members of the CT. Ed described the idea to get parents and children involved in making more paths in the community woodland.

Lucy - suggested inviting parents along to help on a specific woodland project.

Ben - this could be whole school event that collaborates with the CC and CT.

Ed – have sought funding from the Galloway Glens to get non-slip mats for the walkway, help to lay those down would be good too.

Richard - There is discussion regarding the development of the marina.

Mary – will share the school email and facebook page with the members of the CC and CT.

1. **Chairperson’s Report** – Nothing significant to report, see below for specific agenda items. General positive feedback regarding the Scottish night in January. There’s an invitation to a meeting regarding a consultation on the School Estate in Dalbeattie on Tues 28th March. Ben and Mary will be attending this.
2. **Head Teachers Report:**

**A brief update since 16.01.2023**

**Vandalism**

We have an update on the vandalism that was done to the outdoor classroom during the Christmas holidays. A teenager was charged with the offence and the family are paying for repairs. In addition, the ‘fairy gate’ that leads from the top of our playground into the community woodland has been kicked and the wood is split. This has been reported to the Police too. We are contemplating padlocking the gates to secure the school grounds but are not yet at this stage.

**Staffing**

Today, we appointed two successful candidates to cover the four days of Learning Assistant hours at Crossmichael. We decided to appoint on a temporary basis rather than a permanent basis to give us the flexibility to find the right person/ people for the job. These days will be used to support a child with medical needs until July.

We welcome a new third year teaching student into the P4-6 class. Her name is Bryony Carson. She will be with us until May. Mrs Glover is a teaching fellow with the UWS so she will be a wonderful mentor for Bryony too.

**Resources**

Our Council need to save £61.5 million in the next five years. This will inevitably have implications for everyone, especially in schools. Therefore, we have been finding ways to save money whilst also improving the learning environment for our children and staff.

I have removed a built-in unit from the P6/7 classroom, patched a hole in the floor and plastered a small portion of wall. Mr McWilliam and I have painted the P6/7 classroom and I have hung new blinds in P6/7 and in the library. Teachers and Learnings Assistants have tidied out the library and it is organised into sections.

The next step is to arrange book banding so that each book is organised into ‘PM Benchmarking’ colour coded levels to coincide with the new D&G Developing Balanced Literacy Frameworks that will be launched next session. This means that our reading books will be organised according to reading level rather than by reading scheme. Our current reading scheme is Oxford Reading Tree (Biff, Chip and Kipper). Different texts will be slotted in as children’s fluency and comprehension improves helping them to have experience of reading a greater range of texts. Mrs Glover has bought some PM texts for pupils with a reading age of 10yrs-12yrs as we desperately needed to replenish this level.

Mrs Clifton and Mrs Jennings have started to sort through story sacks. We are hopeful that parents can come and help run a lending service where pupils can borrow story sacks and CAPER (Children & Adults Enjoy Reading) library books. It has taken time to get resources sorted out.

Pupils have been helping to prepare our outdoor area so that it looks more appealing. Soon, we would like to ask parents to come and paint the three sheds.

**This Term**

I have included details in our monthly newsletter. I have summarised these below:

* **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from Tuesday 28th February to Thursday 16th March** - P4 Curricular swimming lessons for three weeks (excluding the 28th Feb and 1st March as stated above).
* **Monday 6th March** - Crossmichael Parent Council at 7pm in person at the school. Please contact Chairperson, Ben Wild if there are any agenda items that you wish to raise - crossmichaelparentcouncil@gmail.com
* **Wednesdays from 8th March - 29th March** - Bikeability sessions for Gelston P7s at Gelston Primary School. (We plan to run Bikeability training for Crossmichael P7s at Crossmichael in Term 4.)
* **Tuesday 14th March** - Scottish Opera for P5-7 pupils - 'The Curse of MacCabbra Opera House'. Parents will be invited to Castle Douglas Town Hall to watch the performance. Details will follow separately.
* **Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th March** - Parents Evenings. (Please note that Crossmichael will have appointments available from 15:30-17:30 on 14th and from 18:00-20:00 on 15th. Gelston will have appointments from 18:00-20:00 on 14th and 15:30-17:30 on 15th.)
* **Wednesday 15th March at 4pm** - Rotary Quiz in Castle Douglas Primary School for eight senior pupils - two groups of four pupils.
* **Thursdays in March until June** - Gelston P4s, P5s and P6s participating in Feis Rois musical activity.
* **Friday afternoons on 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th March** - Gelston Primary School's Wider Achievement Programme where pupils will participate in a short programme of life skills organised by Mrs Martin (Principal Teacher).
* **Friday 17th March** - Stewartry Rugby Festival open to P5-7 pupils.
* **Monday 20th March at 7pm** - Gelston Parent Council at 7pm to be held online. Please contact Chairperson, Pam Shuttleworth via email to receive an invitation to the online meeting - gelstonprimaryschoolparentcouncil@outlook.com
* **Wednesday 22nd March at 6pm** - P7 Gateway Evening. All P7s and their parents are invited to Crossmichael Primary School to listen to a presentation from Castle Douglas High School and to ask questions. Mrs Alison Cook (Depute Headteacher) will be delivering the presentation and answering your questions.
* **Tuesday 28th March -** Stewartry Cross Country event open to pupils in P5-7.
* **Friday 31st March at 2pm in Crossmichael Village Hall** - Easter Service for parents/ families with Rev. Judith Huggett- in attendance. (***Gelston Easter Service - time TBC****)*
1. **Treasurer’s Report** –

Balance on the account is £1,561.95

Money raised from the Scottish Night came out at £219.70 after all deductions – hall rent, tea and coffee etc.

We have had only one expense, £386.33, for the First News Subscription.

1. **Fundraising**  - The summer BBQ event was discussed. The specifics of this will be worked out at the next PTC meeting in April. Mary will propose dates for the BBQ so that it can be put in the calendar asap. An Easter drawing competition will be organised in the school. The winner will receive a prize at the Easter service.
2. **Bikeability –** hopefully this will be happening in the summer term, do we have parent volunteers to help run it? To be further discussed.
3. **P7 Leaver’s Hoodies –** Kim Glover is happen to organise this again this year. Shani will check the timescale at Banks and Braes. Discussion was had around a P7 photo. There was positive feedback from the P7 dinner that was organised last year, it would be nice to do this again with the current P7s. The PTC will buy high school ties once the children have confirmation of the houses that they will be in.
4. **Agenda items carried forward to next meeting:**
* Summer BBQ fundraising event.
1. **AOBs** – None
2. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 24th 2023, 7pm.