

Draft Minute
of
Grange Academy Parent Council Meeting
6th October 2025 at 6.30pm

In attendance:

Kirsty Clelland, Laura Sommerville, Karen Rae, Morag Ross, Scott Robertson, James Adams (Councillor) left meeting approx 7pm, Jayne Sangster (Councillor) Jill Hendry, Nicola Hutchison, Shirley Curran, Julie Work, Aimee Alexander, Doville Conner, Neil Sommerville, Amanda McKinlay

Visitor: Brian Clelland

Apologies: Dawn Fulton, Alison Cravens, Peter Mabon

Approval of Minute

Minutes of meeting of 9th September subject to removal of Morag Ross in attendance proposed by NH and seconded by SC.

The minute of the AGM was proposed by AA and seconded JW

Amendments to Constitution

Discussion took place in relation to amending the attendance requirements for members as set out in the constitution. At present this states that member must attend at least 1 meeting per year. Following discussion it was agreed that we would propose to revise the constitution to states that members must attend a minimum of 2 meetings during the course of the school year.

New Meeting Format

KC outlined the rationale for streamlining the meetings in terms of numbers of meetings & format. There is a desire to encourage more participation in meetings and it was felt that reducing some of the content would allow this to happen.

LS raised the issue of AOCB (Any Other Competent Business) and questioned whether removing AOCB is the correct approach.

Discussion took place around whether AOCB should be removed from agenda. There is a concern that often the AOCB can be personal matters and these should be raised directly with the school. Alternatively if a parent raises a matter that does not fall within the remit of Parent Council business this can be raised by KC directly with SR in their regular meetings.

There was discussion around how meetings between chair and SR are recorded/minuted and it was agreed that going forward there would be a chairpersons report at meetings and such issues can be addressed in that.

JW raised the fact that if there is no AOCB then there is no obvious place in the agenda for a visitor to the PC to raise an issue.

It was noted that if a matter arises rather if it can be raised in advance, rather than being brought up as AOCB this gives the HT an opportunity to investigate the issue and have an answer/report available for the meeting.

The Council agreed to continue with the revised meeting format, with a review to take place in January and again in May. It was further agreed that AOCB will remain off the formal agenda. However, at the Chairperson's discretion, if time permits at the end of a meeting, the floor may be opened for AOCB discussion.

In response to JW's concerns regarding the attendance of a Parent Forum member at meetings, it was agreed that the Chairperson will advise any such parent/carer at the outset of the meeting that AOCB items must be school-related and not of a personal nature. It was also noted that their question may not be answered during the meeting if Mr Robertson requires time to investigate the matter, in which case a follow-up response will be provided after the meeting.

NS then queried arrangements around the setting of the agenda for meetings noting that if members have a reasonable request for an item to be added to the agenda members should be able to do this without feeling that there are barriers in place to raising a matter. A concern was also expressed that the changes were announced on the Whatsapp group chat before being discussed and agreed by the committee.

KC & SR advising that the intention is not to put barriers in the way of items being on the agenda but clarification as to the point being raised allows for a fuller answer to be put forward at the meeting.

PVG's

KC noting that we have had previous discussions in relation to PVG. KC advising that it is not mandatory for members to be PVG'd to attend meetings and take part in the business work of the PC.

KC noting that the majority of members are already PVG'd for other organisations. KC advising that Volunteer Scotland have explained to think of PVG as a membership. Members who have a PVG can request for Grange to be added. New PVG law talks about a regulated role. If you are in school and have unsupervised access to children then a PVG is required. The Christmas Fayre is a public event and therefore PVG's not required. KC's suggestion is that we all get PVG'd.

KR not clear what a regulated role is. Having a PVG for different organisations doesn't help. PVG for one doesn't cover you for the other. If you will not be in a place alone with a child do you need a PVG? For Christmas Fayre there should not be unsupervised access with children. SR commenting that members should not be putting themselves in this position.

NS noting that we do need to exercise caution here as there are potential penalties for over requesting of PVG checks. PVG protects the organisation and not the person. There are different levels of check. We also need to think about who would have the information and where the information comes back to.

Risk Assessments would be for the school. SR - not got Risk Assessment for PC issues.

KC noting that London Road will do the PVG's and East Ayrshire will hold the information. If a member is not going to help out at events then they don't need a PVG.

KC noting that questions had previously been asked around insurance for the parent council. Connect is an organisation that can insure PC. This is not, however, considered necessary for the events we undertake.

Update of Peripatetic Music Tuition

SR advised that there are 5.6 FTE music staff. The school doesn't "need" additional peripatetic instructors to put pupils through Nat5 & Higher music. A teacher will be appointed for percussion. A woodwind instructor has also been appointed. Hoping they will start after the October break.

HT Update

HT gave update on school improvement plan. There has been a focus on **Leadership**. SR updated on various aspects of leadership within the school and the progress that is being made in this regard.

The school will also be focussing on **Teaching & Learning together**. There will be a focus on Pace & Challenge, BGE assessment & consistent standards and teacher planning based on pupil assessment.

Wellbeing and Belonging - the school will be looking to do work on the school Vision, Value & Aims. There will also be a focus on attendance - at the close of last session attendance was sitting at 84%

Our Attainment, Destinations and Achievements - attainment and positive destinations will continue to be a focus. Mr Crosbie wants to come along to a future meeting to present how tracking & monitoring will be used to enhance attainment.

KR are the text messages and certificates having an impact in relation to attendance. SR commenting that it is too early to say. SR had understood that 100% attendance certificates would not be issued, however, members noted that children did get 100% certificates.

Treasurer's Report

There are no changes required to the treasurer's report submitted other than that we have received some payments for stall holders for the Christmas Fayre.

Resignation of PC member.

LS updated members that Nicola Newlands no longer wishes to be a member of this PC.

ARA issue

Beech Avenue will be closed for 2 weeks. Discussion around the impact of this for the school. The first week will be the school holiday but the second week will be when the school is back. Possible issues with emergency vehicle access. The Council requested if Councillor Sangster would be able to look at this with ARA.

SR noting that the information about the closure only came to him very recently. He will look into this and put communication out to school community in due course.

SC queried whether staff could park at Rugby Park while this work is on.

Athletics Vests

A request has been made to the PC from the PE department to fund the purchase of new athletics vests. The cost would be £630 for 60 vests. Rainbow Inc. would be able to meet an order of this size within 7-10 days meaning new vests would be available for the upcoming athletics meeting. Any vests purchased would not belong to the children and will be returned to the school after use. Members queried whether pupils could be required to sign the vests in and out.

KR asked if the school have any funding for this? SR advising current spending is only on business critical items and he does not think that there would be money to put to this.

SR advising that these vests could not be funded by the school .

JH are there children who need financial support that we should be looking to fund rather than buying items like these, particular where a lot of children participating would be in a position to purchase their own sports clothing. Should we be targeting spending to where the greatest need lies?

JW commenting that there will be children from all demographics participating in athletics who will use these vests. The PE department will need to be aware though that if this spend is agreed they have received a substantial amount and that will need to be taken account of when further funding requests come in.

Following a vote this request for the Parent Council to facilitate the purchase of athletic vests through existing funds was agreed by majority.

KC thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 17th November at 6.30pm

DRAFT