



## **PARENT COUNCIL**

Email: [bpspc.facebook@gmail.com](mailto:bpspc.facebook@gmail.com)  
[bpsparentcouncil1@gmail.com](mailto:bpsparentcouncil1@gmail.com)

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BEARSDEN PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL AND FUNDRAISING GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7pm IN THE SCHOOL HALL**

#### **Present**

Stuart Dickson (Chair)  
Mr Paul Meehan (Head Teacher)  
January Morgan-White (FRG Chair)  
Wendy McLaren  
Neil Cochrane  
Claire Turner  
Natalie Devine  
Lynne Stewart  
Debra Macfarlane  
Damian Guthrie  
Jennifer Shearer  
Gillian Lennon  
Gavin Moran  
Elaine Russell  
Lorna Mitchell  
Andrea Glass  
Cllr Keith Small

#### **Welcome & Apologies**

Stuart opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Apologies were noted from the Councillors (apart from Cllr Keith Small), due to a clash with a Community Council meeting, and also from Tara White and Julia Andersen.

#### **Minutes of last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Head Teacher's Report - Mr Paul Meehan**

Paul updated on the school roll - we are full though it was noted that there is no composite class this year for the first time in a while. P3 has 2 classes of 31; the limit is 30 but due to exceptional circumstances, they are allowed to go up to 32.

There are no changes to the staff and Paul referred to the Teacher/Class letter which was issued just before the end of last term. Mrs Park has however confirmed her retirement and is expected to leave towards the end of October. The new Deputy Head Teacher will be Miss Janice Thompson.

There are changes to Parent's Evening, with this being done in a single evening, rather than over 2 days. The number of hours is unchanged however.

Paul gave an update on IT. All classes downstairs now have an interactive TV thanks to the generosity of the Fund Raising Group, and there is one upstairs too. The new AV system is a fantastic addition and great for assemblies and rainy lunchtimes. Finally Class Dojo is

proving extremely popular. At the moment it is a window into the classroom and allows parents to see what their children are doing, as well as helping parents and teachers communicate directly. Going forward the role may change to allow things like the tracking of the pupils' learning.

The school is cleaner, more spacious and the staff and pupils have regained pride as a result. The playground is also much better thanks to the efforts of the FRG and the playground committee. And the school now has shed full of bikes for PE and class trips.

The hall floor was not completed during the summer due to the amount of the other work going on, and the same is true for the hanging of the new curtains. These should be completed during the October break. The downstairs boys' toilets did not get a replacement shower, however one may be installed in the medical room.

The school budget remains very tough.

The follow up inspection by Education Scotland in June was recently published and covered in local newspapers. Paul thanked the staff, pupils and parents for all the hard work in the past 18 months, which resulted in Education Scotland concluding that BPS had made 'significant progress' in the time between their visits.

Paul discussed staffing and there were no changes to the letter issued to parents at the end of last term.

Paul thanked all the staff, pupils and parents once again for their hard work and for the generosity of the Fundraising Group.

#### **Fundraising Group Report/Financial Report- Mrs January Morgan-White/Mrs Claire Turner**

January introduced herself as Chair and presented the Fundraising Groups Report/Financial report for 2015/16. January explained why the FRG are so important. The school receives approximately £30 council funding per pupil each academic year to cover resources such as books, materials and equipment. As this is insufficient to meet the needs of pupils the the FRG's funding assists the provision of facilities for education at the school.

The FRG support activities that promote the general education and welfare of pupils and the group and its activities enables parents, staff, pupils and the local community to work together and have fun. The FRG foster a welcoming and inclusive ethos by supporting key school events, such as welcoming new P1 parents and Christmas and Leavers concerts.

There are 10 current members all of whom are Trustees. These are Julia Andersen, Gillian Craig, Andrea Glass, Gillian Lennon, Karen McGregor, Lorna Mitchell, January Morgan-White, Fariel Rahman, Claire Simpson, and Claire Turner. There is also a large group of volunteers willing to help with events and activities. The FRG have recently lost 2 key members of the Committee and Natalie Devine and Jennifer Shearer have just joined.

Office bearers were listed as:

Chairperson - January Morgan-White  
Treasurer - Claire Turner  
Secretary - Gillian Craig  
Uniform - Gillian Orr, Laura Robertson, Shahana Rashid

Draft copies of the accounts are submitted by March of the following year, but these draft ones are due to be approved at the next FRG meeting and are available to view on request.

#### **Financial Overview**

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	
Total Income	31,141	34,842	
Total Expenditure			
(including school donations)	43,261	20,434	
Net (Deficit) / Income	(12,144)	14,408	
Closing Reserves	25,749	37,893	2

**The key events / activities from which our income in 2015/16 was derived were**

	Net Income (£)	2014/15
Uniform Sales **	5,442	3,915
Christmas Fair & Calendars	2,470	3,400
Readathon	2,601	2,589
Summer Fair	2,489	2,751
Bake Sales	2,126	-
Calendars	1,308	1,186
Disco	971	-
Gift Aid	944	-
Ladies Night	836	857

**Key Donations to BPS**

Donations of £32,608 were made to BPS in 2015/16. A further £10,824 comprising a donation for further iPads and 2 interactive TVs was approved in 2015/16 but paid in the new financial year. 2015/16 donations were as follows:

Interactive TVs and iPads	-£19,152.79
Hall Projector and Sound System	-£6,500.00
Playground equipment	-£2,422.40
Pantomime part payment	-£1,500.00
Pearson Phonics subscription	-£1,125.00
Enjoy-a-ball	-£504.00
Story phones	-£495.99
Numeracy & Literacy books	-£291.00
Gym equipment	-£192.75
Orienteering & Outdoor Learning	-£179.09
Dance Troop Supplies	-£125.50
Knitting Group	-£100.47
Leaf Blower	-£49.00

**Current Financial Position**

Closing Reserves as per 30 June 2016 accounts	£25,749
Income since year end:	
Gift aid reclaim	£435

Cheques raised since year end:

Gilmour Sports	£4,165
Donation to school - iPads & Interactive TVs	£10,825
Donation to school - Hall curtain	£927

(£15,482)

Current reconciled bank balance	£10,267
Restricted funds - Enjoy-a-ball	(£936)
Available funds	£9,331

### Financial Report Commentary - Mrs Claire Turner

Net income for 2015/2016 was just over £31,000 and spending was just over £43,000. Our donations were small last year - £10,000 or so but this year the reserves this year have been brought right down - though are still around £25,000 as at 30th June 2016. However there have been a number of donations which have brought these down to around £10,000 at the moment, such as 2 interactive TVs, 16 iPads, and 6 iPad airs. We also bought the curtains and school uniform. The uniform works as follows: the orders come in before summer, but invoice comes after year end (we have accounted for this).

We are not here to have a big balance - everything we earn is going to be spent on pupils.

Key sources of income include uniform sales (£5,400, profit £1,400). This is on the decline as we think parents don't realise that the FRG makes money from organising and selling the uniforms and the long lead time to get new uniform - looking at both these issues.

Christmas fair and calendars still good, but down £1,000 year on year as it was a week later so think it clashed with other events, plus the fire alarm cut the time it was open. All set for this year. Calendars £1,300. Read-a-thon is doing well again, and a sponsored run has been introduced this year. Summer Fair continues to be good and bake sale helped too.

The FRG would like to keep parents appraised of their fundraising efforts and their donations on a more regular basis and anticipate that a part of the monthly newsletter will be allocated to them to illustrate amounts raised to date and also key donations made in the year. They have also re-launched their Facebook page - parents should search for this on Facebook and 'like' it.

January thanked the Fundraising Group for all their work during 2015/16 along with staff and volunteers who have helped them greatly.

### Parent Council Chair's Report - Mr Stuart Dickson

Stuart began by providing some definitions for anyone new to or not familiar with the Parent Council. He explained that the Parent Forum is made up of all parents who have a child at an education authority school. The Parent Council is a group of parents selected to represent all the parents of children at the school. The type of things a Parent Council could get involved in include:

- Supporting the work of the school.
- Gathering and representing parent's views to the Head Teacher, Education Authority and HMIE.
- Promoting contact between the school, parents, pupils and the local nurseries and secondary school and wider community.
- Involvement in the appointment of senior school staff.
- Fundraising. Stuart noted that at our school we are lucky enough to have our own FRG who are responsible for that.

### PC Session 2015-16

The group welcomed several new members this session and Stuart noted the current members:

- Paul Meehan (Head Teacher)
- Rotating member of staff
- Tara White
- Stuart Dickson
- Claire Turner

- January Morgan-White (FRG Chair)
- Chris Dorman
- Wendy McLaren
- Debra Macfarlane
- Neil Cochrane
- Douglas Lambie
- Lorna Mitchell
- Up to 4 local councillors

### Thanks and Congratulations

Stuart started by thanking Chris for his hard work in recent years as the chair of the Parent Council and the years as a member before this. He noted Chris was extremely sad to have to step down but work commitments overseas meant that it was no longer possible to continue. Stuart said that Chris had worked extremely hard, given the enormous number of challenges faced by BPS in the past 3 years, but the school is now on a really firm footing and is all set for the future. Stuart hoped the next couple of years would be really boring.

Stuart also said that all the parents were extremely sad at the retirement of another previous Parent Council member, Mrs Park, whose teaching skills, wise counsel and dedication would be hugely missed. To prevent her receiving 450 boxes of chocolates, it was agreed that the next school newsletter would publicise a central collection at the school office which Wendy McLaren would coordinate.

Finally, Stuart congratulated Mr Meehan and the entire staff of the school for the amazing series of improvements achieved in a remarkably short period of time - which are discussed in more detail below.

### School Session 2015/16

Stuart noted that the past 12 months have seen a huge amount of improvement in 4 main areas.

The fabric of the school is much improved. The interior has been completely repainted for the first time in a couple of decades; the toilets have been completely replaced on the ground floor; works to improve the roof have been undertaken; the playground has been cleared of clutter and the pupils have much more space; break times have been staggered allowing a better experience; the shelters have been knocked down and put to practical use. Thanks to all who got involved and helped bring about these improvements.

The activities of the fundraising group have been fantastic and allowed the pupils access to extra activities and materials which simply would not have been possible without their hard work to raise funds and their generous donations to fulfil funding suggestions for the school. Thank you to all who organised and took part in the activities.

The communication between staff, pupils and parents is much improved with the arrival of Class Dojo. The new website is far easier to look at and update and has a high degree of pupil involvement. And the Facebook page of the Parent Council has also been successful with 160 followers.

Finally, the HMIE report. This time last year we were all still slightly reeling from the critical report of the inspectorate. 12 months later, they came back and noted huge improvements in the school. Stuart read the following extracts:

‘Significant progress has been made under the new head teacher. Children are benefitting from the challenges set by staff through high expectations and taking greater responsibility

‘They are actively involved in their learning and enjoy positive relationships with the staff.

‘High quality teaching approaches are now more consistent. Across all stages of the school, we are pleased almost all children are now making strong progress overall. The increased

expectations and improved planning for learning has led to very good progress in numeracy and literacy.'

Stuart further noted comments received from parents in recent weeks - 'ecstatic at the changes and improvements to the school'; 'the new toilets are wonderful and there are no bad smells any more'; the pupils are really enjoying the choice of new extra-curricular activities, including the music choices and the cycling; parents are pleased so many other parts of the community have chipped in to help, including the Baptist Church allowing us to use their grounds for nature walks and the carving of a tree into the shape of a Roman warrior.

The Parent Council would like to thank all who have helped bring about these changes and well done to Mr Meehan and all the staff!

### Session 2016/2017

Recognising the tremendous progress made to the educational standards and the fabric of the school, we discussed the main areas of concern to focus on this year. The roof remains leaky in places, and the ceiling tiles are in a poor state in several classrooms. The gutters also do not seem to be cleared regularly.

One issue which has cropped up before (first raised in 2010) is road safety. The parents present expressed concern about 3 particular places - The Cross, and the 2 crossings on Manse Road.

The Cross was bedevilled by motorists jumping red lights or the junction getting blocked and taking time to clear, meaning motorists were sometimes driving across the pedestrian crossings against the Green Man. Furthermore, the junction seemed badly designed - the crossings were well back from the corners, meaning pedestrians and motorists couldn't see round; and whilst there were sturdy metal fences on 2 sides of The Cross, there were none on the South West and North West corners.

The 2 crossings on Manse Road were also worrying. The one by New Kilpatrick Church has a crossing guard, however cars often took the blind corner just before it at great speed. A speed survey was undertaken here in the summer of 2015 and a temporary warning was installed (in the form of a flashing 30mph warning sign) for a few weeks.

The junction from Manse Road leading on to Drymen Road was also described as 'terrifying', 'a nightmare' and 'the most poorly designed junction I've ever seen'. The attendees were aware of many injuries and close shaves over the years. The main concerns are:

1. Motorists entering Drymen Road from it can't see pedestrians and other cars because of the gate post. Can this be removed?
2. No one really understands what the red pavement is - is it the pedestrian's right-of-way, can motorists stop on it - there is no signage to help with this.
3. The junction is simply too wide. To cross it in one go is a huge leap of faith.
4. Motorists travelling south on Drymen Road and entering Manse Road, don't really treat it as a junction, but rather as a curve - they cut the corner, often barely slowing down. As a result the pavement is worn away and there is no real delineation between the standard pavement, the red pavement and the road.

Suggestions designed to address the concerns over this junction, included: pulling down the gate post to allow better visibility for motorists and pedestrians; some guidance in the form of signage and general publicity as to what the red pavements actually mean (technically I guess motorists can't enter or leave a junction if there's an obstruction e.g. a pedestrian - you'd be brave and foolish to try this out at this junction); put an island halfway across the junction to allow it to be crossed in 2 stages.

It was also noted that the recent resurfacing of Thorn Road was excellent, however the speeds of motorists on it seemed well in excess of the 20mph limit indicated.

We resolved to discuss these concerns further, possibly starting by attending a Community Council meeting to see if we could get this on their agenda. Stuart accepted this action and will update at the next Parent Council meeting.

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Stuart thanked everyone for attending and participating, and the room agreed that having had meetings every 4-6 weeks due to the high level of interest the Parent Council would revert back to having them every 8 weeks. As a result, the date of 10<sup>th</sup> November was agreed as the next Parent Council meeting - in the staff room of the school at 7pm as usual.

*Signed by:*

*Chair BPS Parent Council*

*Date:*