



NETHERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
Minutes of Netherlee Parent Council
Meeting – 16th February 2022 @7pm Google Meet

Attendees

Parent Council Members

Adam Capek (Acting chair)	AC
Jane Thomson	JT
Tennant Stevenson	TS
Jane Thomson	JT
Felicity Rose	FR
Harriet Boyle	HB
Emma Gibson	EG
Justin Haccius	JuH
Joanna Haw	JoH
Mike Law	ML
Victoria Pearson	VP
Carole Chambers	CC

Apologies:

Lynn Sweeney (Depute Head)	LS
Richard Owen	RO
Fizza Kaneez	FZ
Martin Whitehead	MW

Opening

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees

Apologies were noted from Parent Council members: RO, FZ, MW and school staff LS
Alistair Haw was an observer.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair asked if there were any comments on the previous minutes dated 15.12.21. There being

School Staff

Yvonne Donaldson (Head)	YD
Julie Roberts (Depute Head)	JR
Angela Kerr	PT

East Renfrewshire Councillors

Cllr David MacDonald	DM
Cllr Annette Ireland	AI

Observers

Alistair Haw	AH
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none, the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, proposed by TS and seconded by ML.

Artificial Sports/Play Pitch

AC opened by advising the meeting needed to come to a conclusion about the way forwards and the PC stand on the pitch. Discussion centred on three options for the PC:

1. This project is outside the remit of the PC and no further action be taken.
2. The PC should assume a lobbying position to ERC, where we lobby for improved outdoor all weather facilities for Netherlee Primary School & Nursery.
3. The PC take ownership of the project as per the current approved planning application and source finance, contractors.

AC sought a PC volunteer to undertake option 3, none was forthcoming and this option was removed from possible outcomes.

VP volunteered to take the lead on option 2 – advising lobbying was a strong word and her stance would be to state the position to ERC and to seek what action they are going to take, VP would like to ensure that improvement at Netherlee was not forgotten about. VP was clear that she felt the PC were not the decision makers on the issue of the pitch but should be strong advocates for improvements given Netherlee is one of the few school in ERC without an all year outdoor pitch.

TS spoke that if the PC took stance 2, you never knew what may happen in the long term. TS also questioned why other ERC schools had been chosen for investment in outdoor pitches ahead of Netherlee. TS also suggested the planning approval as it stands is very grandiose and how is it possible to be trimmed to reduce expenditure and get earlier approval for funding – cut the pitch size, use for the school only means no requirements for changes to the pavilion or requires flood lights. TS concluded in his opinion it would be a benefit to the school to get a plan for an outdoor pitch for use by the school only on the capital expenditure plan.

YD spoke in support of the Education Dept, advising they would like to provide a pitch for Netherlee and it would be looked at once / if funds are available. The Education Dept do not disagree on the benefit to children and acknowledge it is wanted by the school and parents. AI reiterated YD's point, advising that even if the pitch was on ERC capital expenditure plan it could be years before funding was secured.

JuH questioned if option 2 supported the planning application as it was already approved? VP clarified that any lobbying would be in support of an outdoor all year facility for the children of Netherlee, rather than in progressing the planning application as it stood.

AH questioned via chat if the issue was the drainage on the pitch why were we not pursuing that option, that the council consultation showed 96% community opposition to the scheme as it currently stood. AC clarified this % should be taken in context.

DMc spoke of the community resistance, particularly around the areas of light pollution, evening use. DMc reinforced any new plan would need better community engagement.

AC clarified there was no more input and a vote was taken on the PC pursuing option 1 or 2. PC members then voted. Bar one vote, option 2 was confirmed as the route the PC would pursue.

AC thanked members for the discussion and the positive forward thinking, rather than dwelling on the history of the project.

School Report

Covid (YD)

Whilst the school was hit with a rise on cases earlier in the year, things have now settled again. YD commended the school team, in their commitment to the children and getting on with the job despite difficult circumstances in school, home or both.

Cluster school review / inspection (YD)

Strengths identified from the visit:

- Welcoming warm ethos of the school.
- Strong culture of professional development within staff team.
- Benefit to the children of the wide variety of experiences they have within school.
- The children's understanding and knowledge of their rights and how they can make a difference to the school and community.

Consideration going forwards identified

- Extend the opportunity for children to become more involved in their own learning.
- To enhance peer to peer and self-assessment approaches.
- To challenge the most able children...This consideration has already been looked at during the February in service day where staff looked at and discussed reading.

ML by chat said "well done" to the school on the visit feedback.

AK updated on the Family Friendly Accreditation programme, which is a self-evaluation programme. The school and nursery have successfully navigated bronze to silver and are hoping to get Gold family accreditation this year. This success has been despite a lack of carer / parental involvement in the last two years because of covid restrictions. AK seeks parent / carer volunteers to work together to achieve the gold award and take part in creating the school and nursery charter.

JT confirmed the next PC newsletter would seek volunteers to fulfil this request.

Equality update (JR)

Meetings have taken place with the pupil group in school, focussing on "the cost of the school day". JR advised it had been interesting working with the children and expanding their knowledge of costs. JR sought additional volunteers from the parent body as this is an ongoing project and more volunteers would mean it was a less onerous project. FR advised via the chat that she was happy to help but it would be via email / online.

JT advised we could also include this in the next PC newsletter.

Improvement Plan (YD)

YD advised work was starting to take place on the SNIP (improvement plan) for next year, whilst it

wouldn't be finalised until June, ongoing consultation was required to make it meaningful. Given the covid restrictions of the last two years and the inability for parents to visit the school/ nursery, parental involvement is identified as a priority – JT had already had a brief meeting with YD on the role the PC may play in this.

Involvement	Parents visiting the school for assemblies, information evenings, classroom visits, helping with discos etc.
Engagement experiences of together to address homework tutorials.	Parents working alongside the school/ nursery to improve the the children – parents / teachers collaborating identified issues eg: behaviour management,

JT will liaise with YD on progressing this and the role the PC could take in supporting the school.

PC role (YD)

YD outlined two potential roles the PC could take going forwards, both of which she was happy with.

- PC involvement in planning and feeding into the SNIP and then the SNIP is implemented by the school.
- PC involvement in joined up thinking for implementation – PC holding events, eg: discussion groups to clarify what parents are looking for, clarifying how and what information is needed e.g. interactive workshops.

FR stated she was keen for exploring but expressed a desire to ensure a hybrid approach was maintained rather than moving everything back into school as this approach would include a broader group of parents. AC supported FR.

TS highlighted how inspirational people / parents being brought into school could feed into increased parental involvement. FR advised not only inspirational people who were older but past pupils from Netherlee who were presently at Williamwood. JuH supported FR by advising those children who have overcome educational challenges themselves could also inspire the children.

YD confirmed these ideas were part of the planning process but it is sensible to be cautious yet optimistic in planning additional events at the moment. YD mentioned preplanning for sports fortnight when the school hopes parents maybe allowed to be involved / invited. YD will advise when further visits are possible and it was agreed the PC would support in taking action at this time.

Chaperone crossing – Linnpark Avenue Patrol Officer

There has been no success in securing a replacement for the crossing patrol officer at Linnpark Avenue. Discussion was had on a parent volunteer system, but this was deemed a monumental task and fraught with complexities. JT asked local councillors present if they knew why recruitment was so troublesome. DMc advised this maybe due to the wage / hours but he will check with ERC. DMc also suggested that it is maybe sensible to leaflet the local surrounding houses and would propose this to ERC as another recruitment method. AI supported the thoughts of DMc and advised crossing patrol officers featured heavily in the recruitment fayres held by ERC. JT reiterated we would recirculate on the platforms available to the PC. JuH requested the issue remain on the

agenda for future meetings given the importance of road safety to our children.

Health & Wellbeing Census

JoH attended a meeting on the census and updated the PC.

- National census – although some councils have opted not to run it, ERC plan to send to children P5 – end senior school with modifications (running two surveys P5-S1, S2 plus).
- ERC used the meeting to advise why the council was running the survey to ensure they were meeting the needs of the local community and children.
- ERC confirmed data collected would be used for research purposes.
- Issues surrounding the census include:
 - Storage of data – questions will be included on sleeping routines, bullying, diet, homelife plus others
 - How long information will be stored for
 - Link to younger children's SCN (unique number to identify the child), thus meaning the data collected will not be anonymous. There is unlikely to be action taken on information submitted unless there is a child protection issue identified
 - Automatic consent implied for children, unless parents opt out
 - Connect (the representing body for PC's) and the Children's Commissioner oppose the census

YD advised the role out has been delayed due to the issues above and it was understood it may now be in June.

It was highlighted that if any issues were raised in June that school would be nearing the end of session and pastoral care support may not be available for vulnerable children.

AC suggested we needed as a PC to take a position.

ML suggested the PC should let the process run, parents would see the questions before the children were asked to complete it.

FR felt there was insufficient information for parents and was concerned that consent was assumed.

JuH confirmed the Connect stance, of which the PC is a member opposes the census.

JoH felt there was more clarification required on how long information would be stored and how.

YD advised ERC would send information prior to the census given feedback and the contention already expressed.

HB suggested it was an issue we should raise to parents as information, including where to find more information.

JT questioned if the census was completed if consent could then be withdrawn, JoH advised once completed information could not be withdrawn.

YD highlighted she had not previously been asked to distribute anything of this kind to children without parental knowledge and wouldn't break this going forwards.

DmC highlighted his objection to the census and highlighted the parental option to opt out.

AI highlighted at the latest Education Committee meeting of ERC, the chair had reported on the meeting of the PC chairs (attended by JoH) and that ERC would review the meeting prior to further steps being taken.

AC concluded that as a PC we would supply information to parents via the newsletter.

School communicating with parents

YD confirmed that communication from the school was via the weekly Friday bundle, google classroom was the children's tool, twitter was a supply of information of activities and may include a reminder of upcoming events. YD requested if this wasn't the case that parents inform the school so it could be rectified. FR thanked YD for the clarification.

YD also highlighted that the refresh to the website was ongoing and hopefully the calendar section of the site would be very useful – highlighting events on the day, eg: house events, school trip etc. YD thanked JT for her involvement in the website update and praised the office staff for work being undertaken.

AC highlighted the need to ensure the refreshed website would work across all mediums of android, laptop etc. YD confirmed this was a priority and that a roll out would hopefully take place next term and parental feedback would be asked for after a few weeks of use.

Road Safety

VP updated that we have heard nothing from ERC about the committed road markings. AI has a meeting with the roads department and agreed to chase. VP will follow up in a couple of weeks if we have still yet to have a response.

HB highlighted a Brake (national charity) campaign for road safety and agreed to forward details to YD. AI requested information was also sent to John Shelton, Active Roads for ERC.

ER classes at Netherlee

AC advised we had a response to our query put to ERC about classes taking place at Netherlee. It advised that on reopening after covid sites were prioritised on access, size and ease of use, Williamwood has been identified as a hub. As things open further this may change and we may want to push the council further. No additional action required atm.

PC chair and secretary search

AC clarified he was currently acting chair and would not be seeking permanent election as Chair. AC sought for volunteers amongst the PC members on the call for nomination.

AC clarified the role of secretary and minutes should perhaps be two separate jobs, it was highlighted again by JT that minutes should be on a rota system. AC thanked HB for undertaking minutes of the present meeting.

JuH stepped forward advising he would be happy to take up some role but would prefer for this to be August onwards.

JT via the chat function suggested a joint role of chair / secretary given the work involved and other peoples' work / family commitments.

AC agreed we would seek further input from the parent body for the vacant roles but if none were forthcoming discussion would be had between JuH & AC on the way forwards.

AOB

Parent Council Bank Account

AC had received communication from Royal Bank of Scotland asking about tax residency status for the PC. It was confirmed that the PC closed their bank account in 2019 and remaining funds were transferred to the school for use for benefit of the children.

Next meeting date 27/4/22

A decision if the next meeting would be virtual or in person will be made at the beginning of April depending on restrictions. YD reminded the PC that a room would need to be reserved through the lettings department of ERC and they may suggest we meet at Williamwood given this is the cluster hub.

PC members thanked AC for acting as chair.

Actions

Action	Assignee	Notes
Volunteer request for Equality Group / Family Friendly Accreditation scheme volunteers in next newsletter	JT	
Pitch follow up – write to council stating PC position and desire to improve outdoor facilities for children of Netherlee and bring Netherlee into line with other school facilities	VP	
Parental involvement / engagement follow up with YD as to role of PC and action required	JT	
PC discussion required on level of involvement as requested by YD	AC – to add to agenda for next meeting	
Linnpark patrol officer – vacancy to be recirculated via the avenues available to the PC	JT	
Crossing patrol officer – Linnpark to remain on agenda	AC – to retain on agenda for next meeting	
Health & Wellbeing Census – information to be included in the PC newsletter for parents to make their own decisions on consent	Comms group	

Road safety – Brake Campaign. Details to be forwarded to YD.	HB	Actioned 17/2
Appeal to parent body for PC Chair position and secretary via available communication channels	AC / JT	