



Netherlee Primary School and Nursery Parent Council

MINUTES of Meeting on Wednesday 5 June 2024, 7pm at Netherlee Primary School Hub

Attendees

Parent Councillors: Harriet Boyle (HB) [chairing], Gillian Gray (GG), Victoria Pearson (VP)[minute taking], Michelle Borland (MB), Mike Law (ML), Rory McCoy (RMC), Conor McCarthy (CMC), Fiona Edward (FE)

PTA: Katie Docherty (KD)

Parent Forum: Fhionna Robertson (FR), Drew Moffat (DM)

School Staff: Yvonne Donaldson (YD) [Headteacher], Julie Roberts (JR) [Depute Head], Lynn Sweeney (LS) [Depute Head]

Apologies

Parent Councillors: Adam Capek

East Renfrewshire Council: Councillor Kate Campbell

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

HB welcomed everyone to the last meeting of this school year. Apologies were noted as above.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting on 17 April 2024 (taken by MB) were approved (proposed by HB, seconded by ML).

3. Parking and Roads Update

Linnpark Avenue Crossing Patroller – VP noted that CMC is helping with this. As agreed at the last meeting, the Parent Council has replied to East Renfrewshire Council's letter, noting disappointment and concerns about their plan to replace our Linnpark Avenue crossing patroller with a zebra crossing. We have asked to see a copy of the Strategic Transport Service's decision, risk assessment and any data relied upon (their letter to us had referred to low volumes of traffic and pedestrians and low speeds). The Education Department have referred this to the Roads Department and we await their reply. Agreed that VP and CMC will review the further information once received and progress the dialogue with the Council and update the rest of the PC after summer. VP also noted that some parents/carers have expressed concerns directly to East Renfrewshire Council and anyone affected by the decision is encouraged to do this.

Clarkston/Muirend Active Corridor – VP updated that she emailed East Renfrewshire Council's Roads Team following our last meeting, asking them to please carefully consider the safety of our children going to and from school and nursery as they are devising their plans. They have acknowledged this and confirmed that there will be a second round of community engagement over summer with further opportunities for changes based on feedback. The Parent Council agreed that CMC and VP will review the initial concept design proposals once these are available and make any comments relevant to the safety of school and nursery children. KD raised that children having to cross a cycle lane could be hazardous so we will look out for how this would operate. Also agreed that we will mention that there is Scottish Government guidance stating that speed limit around schools should be 20mph and find out whether this is included in the plans.

4. Headteacher and School Report

YD provided the following update:

- For the next school year there will be no reduction in teachers and no composite classes. Four P7 classes are leaving and there are three classes of P1s starting. Overall the school roll will reduce a bit. There are three streams in P1 to P5 and 4 streams in the P6 and P7s year groups for next year.
- Two of the new P1 classes have already been in for their inductions and the third is to come on Friday
- Staff member Marissa Centola will be leaving the school in June to go travelling abroad, which sounds very exciting. Her plans include some time working in a school in Italy. Other staffing news will be communicated in the school's Friday newsletters.
- The P7s had a great time on the Lochgoilhead residential trip and it was lovely to receive feedback about how well behaved they were. The school has made a provisional booking for the P7s to go there next year.
- The school are currently compiling the draft School and Nursery Improvement Plan for next year. The Young Leaders of Learning have been involved and have made a video asking parents to contribute what their priorities are. This will come out with the Friday newsletter.
- The family version of the standards and quality report and improvement plan is to be done at the start of next year.
- Thanks go out to all the parents, carers and other relatives etc that have given up their time to help with various activities throughout the school year. A coffee and cake afternoon will be held on Monday 24 June and all volunteers are welcome.
- Thanks to the Parent Council and PTA for all their activities and support throughout the year.

5. Parent Council Chair meetings update

HB shared the following from the last parent council chairs meeting:

- Carolside Primary Parent Council had raised the issue of mobile phone use. Education Dept representatives present were challenged on the use of mobile phones within some schools. Parents of high school pupils were complaining that there are not enough tablets etc in classrooms for all students to complete tasks, so

they are encouraged to use personal mobile phones at times. FE sought to clarify whether mobile phones are therefore required at high school. HB responded that currently that seems to be the case but that there should always be an alternative

- The Behaviour in Scottish Schools report has been issued and ERC are drafting a new policy following from this.
- Parent Council Chairs received a presentation on ParentsPortal, which was developed to enhance how schools engage with parents and provides a digital way of doing this. This is no longer 1 parent 1 child so better now for parents living separately as both may be linked. Reminder that ParentsPortal can be used to apply for children's free bus pass. Possible further uses for ParentsPortal in the future are being considered.
- The East Renfrewshire Poverty strategy was discussed and how parents can be accessed so that support may be provided to those who could benefit. KD suggested that What's App is a good way to contact parents. RMR asked if Parents Portal is of any use in this regard? YD explained that it is all set nationally so can't influence this much. HB will feedback ideas.
- The Council's employability service "workEastRen" was shared. It was agreed that this link will be included in the next PC newsletter.

<https://www.workeastren.co.uk/>

MB updated that she had attended a Parent Equalities Forum meeting on behalf of the parent council. There was a speaker present from Children in Scotland who shared information about their services for children with additional support needs (ASN). They have a website with information, a national helpline and they provide mediation. MB suggested that these contacts may be useful to the recently set up ASN parents group at the school.

<https://childreninscotland.org.uk/>

6. PTA Update

KD (PTA Chair) noted that the P7 dance and colour run are coming up, funded by the PTA. The other event will be the summer fayre. The bank balance is around £750 at the moment and the summer fayre will generate more income for the new school year. They have local businesses sponsoring the fayre and police, fire service and some local football clubs will be involved. Inflatables are planned which should be fun for the kids.

KD advised that two members of the PTA will be leaving due to their children moving to high school but there are still a few members there to keep things running and one of them will take on the Chair role as KD herself is one of the members who will be leaving.

KD confirmed that the PTA will meet the cost of the Connect membership (which includes insurance) to cover the PC and PTA for the year ahead. It was agreed that the PC and PTA can liaise to ensure this renewed before it expires in July and the payment can be made directly to Connect rather than via the school. Once membership is renewed, evidence of this should be sent to the school for their records.

7. Any Other Business

Communications from School

FR raised the issue of the school's communication strategy, noting that parents are sometimes confused about what communication will be coming out where (eg emails, Parent

Portal, Google Classroom etc) and referring to a recent example where information explaining a p3 trip seemed to be missing. YD noting that she will look into that specific example as something may have gone wrong in that particular instance. YD also explained that Google Classroom would not be used to communicate with parents & carers – although adults may support with logging in etc, especially for the younger year groups, Google Classroom is for use by the children themselves. Information comes out to parents via email with the necessary links.

Advance Notice of Local Trips

FR also commented on the difficulties that can be caused when trips in the local area requiring outdoor clothing (eg to Linn Park) are only notified the day before. She feels this can be challenging especially where parents live separately and may not have the required items within their home (eg child might be staying with dad but wellies been left at mum's house). YD understands this challenge and will have a think about it but it is tricky. They usually only put out short notice because parental consents for walking in the local area have been signed at the start of the school year and according to the applicable rules, if they notify about trips more than 24 hours in advance, then yet more consents have to be sent out, completed and returned in order for children to be able to participate.

Community Council Proposal for Pump Track at Overlee

VP shared that the PC have received information from Netherlee & Stamperland Communitiy Council who are trying to ascertain whether there would be community interest in a pump track at Overlee Park. If so, this would support with future funding applications. There is a webpage with further information and a survey which VP will circulate. Agreed that the link can also feature in the PC newsletter.

Information at <https://longridgepumptrack.wixsite.com/clarkstonpt>

Survey at <https://forms.office.com/e/Qfq6iHCJbJ>

8. Close of Ordinary Meeting

HB thanked everyone for their participation and advised that we would move on to the AGM section of the meeting

Annual General Meeting

1. Current and New Membership

It was noted that Felicity Rose was previously a longstanding member and her youngest child has now moved on to high school. Emma Anson has had to step down at present due to other commitments. Thanks to both for their contributions to the parent council.

Current members were confirmed as:

1 Harriet Boyle

2 Gillian Grey

3 Michelle Borland

4 Adam Capek

5 Rory McCoy

6 Mike Law

7 Victora Pearson

8 Conor McCarthy – previously volunteered and to be formally added to list

9 Fiona Edward – appointed within this meeting

VP noted that the maximum number of members is 24 so many vacancies remain if anyone else is interested to join.

2. Election of Representatives

It was agreed that HB and GG will continue as co-chairs for another year (proposed RMC, seconded CMC). On this basis, no Vice Chair is required.

It was agreed that VP will continue as Secretary for the year ahead (proposed HB, seconded GG).

It was agreed that MB and RMC will continue to lead on Communications (proposed VP, seconded HB). The constitution is yet to be updated to include the Communications roles.

3. Meeting Dates planned for year ahead

HB proposed the following meeting dates for 2024/25 and no objections were raised:

Wednesday 4 September 2024

Wednesday 20 November 2024

Wednesday 15 January 2025

Wednesday 26 March 2025

Wednesday 4 June 2025

(All Wednesday evenings because this is when the Hub is available)

4. Close of Annual General Meeting

HB thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

ACTION POINTS

Meeting date	Action	Assignee	Notes
05.06.24	Approved minutes of last meeting to be sent to school with updated member list	VP	
05.06.24	Newsletter	MB&RMC	
05.06.24	Review further info about crossing patrollers and progress	VP&CMC	
05.06.24	Review Clarkston-Muirend Active Corridor plans and comment if/as appropriate	VP&CMC	
05.06.24	Renew Connect membership and send confirmation to school	VP&PTA	
05.06.24	Update constitution to include comms roles		
05.06.24	Room booking for next year's meeting dates	VP	
31.01.2024	Email ERC re pitch maintenance	HB/VP	outstanding
31.01.2024	Leaflets	Office bearers	outstanding
17.04.2024	Email ERC about instrumental music service	MB	outstanding