

Sgoil an lochdair Parent Council – Minutes
19:00hrs Thursday 30th January 2025 @ Sgoil an lochdair

Present: Mel MacDonald-Butler (Chair), Phillipa Rewaj (Secretary), Martin Butler (Treasurer), Bellina Currie, Joan MacDonald (Head of School), Louise McBride, Kay Marie MacInnes, Sarah MacIntosh, Margaret Campbell



• Agenda Item	Summary	Action
• Chair position	Morag Ann MacAulay has stepped down as Chair – call for replacement Chair at meeting unsuccessful. Mel MacDonald-Butler to step back in as Chair in interim, volunteers for position welcomed.	
• Treasurer's update	<p>Treasurer reported a total of £3806.53 in bank as of 30/01/25. Louise requested some funds for football club to cover costs involved in the football festivals.</p> <p>Earlier this month Parent Council bank account was changed to a 'Community Account' by Bank of Scotland. Now incurring £4.25 charge per month plus transaction fees – Treasurer estimates this will cost around £75 per year. Proposal put forward by Treasurer to change banks. The Coop Community Direct Plus account suggested as an option: no fees, no transaction charges, online banking, and can use Post Office for transactions. Present members voted all in favour of exploring options.</p> <p>Three signatories needed for any new account – Joan MacDonald, Martin Butler and Bellina Currie named.</p>	<p>Martin to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • open account • arrange signatories • transfer funds • close BofS account.
• Playpark/ • Ball Park update	<p>Mel MacDonald Butler and Joan MacDonald, Harry Luney (lochdar Saints) and Anne Bird (lochdar Community Council) met with Callum MacKenzie and Mo Murray from Technical Services at Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar (CNES) (28.01.25)</p> <p>Callum confident that they can put out to tender soon for ground works needing done to playpark. Discussion around minimising long term/maintenance cost, but may come at an immediate higher cost (e.g. using larch wood, which is more expensive, but requires less maintenance).</p>	<p>If we receive no word re tender process by end of February, Joan to chase for date.</p> <p>ICC to approach Sgoil an lochdair</p>

	<p>Ballpark – Harry of lochdair Saints has been in discussions with Parent Council re improving “Cage” surface. ICC to approach Sgoil an lochdair agus a Choimhearsnachd (Playing Fields association) to find out if they are willing to add the “Cage” to the leased land adjacent to the school that they already lease. The agreement would need to allow the school to use during the school day and lochdair saints to use for training. Luney’s willing to resurface the tarmac to ensure it is level and suitable for football and also basketball to a leisure standard. Current basketball hoop stands to be removed and football goals installed at either end, with basketball/netball hoops added to the cage fence at different heights across the width to maximise use for all ages.</p>	agus a Choimhearsnachd
• Attendance	<p>New CnES attendance policy being finalised. Attendance has generally dropped since Covid across the nation. The new policy is to address this and formalise the procedure re absences across the authority, for example absence request forms to be completed prior to any planned absences and letters to be sent home if attendance drops below 90%.</p>	
• Updating Parent Council Constitution	<p>Parent council members present at meeting reviewed constitution, making minor changes to wording for inclusivity, and to reflect changes in school structure.</p>	Issue new constitution via Groupcall to the rest of the council/families.
• BINGO	<p>Prizes have been coming in from local businesses for fundraising event on Friday 21st February – still needing about another 10 prizes. Will need help from parents to assign prizes to games, set up the hall etc. closer to event. Parent council could buy some prizes if running short, perhaps some children’s prizes (kid’s flyer). Annmarie Johnson (AMJ) supporting the organisation and running of the evening.</p> <p>There will be a Tuck Shop run by P7s – suggested they could also sell bingo dabbers to raise extra funds.</p> <p>AMJ ordering items for tuck shop, and bingo books. Joan has arranged to borrow Bingo machine from MMacLean. Sarah MacEachan has agreed to be bingo caller. There are to be 10 rounds and two fliers and a raffle.</p> <p>We need a prize for a line and full house for each round then a line, 2 lines and full house on the fliers. Therefore need 10 line prizes, 10 full houses prizes, Fliers two one line prizes, two 2 lines prizes and 2 full house prizes plus raffle prizes so 26 of various values.</p>	Parents to help set up.

	<p>£1 for each bingo book/flier/strip of raffle tickets. Bingo books can be bought individually but come in 6s and most folk also buy the 2 fliers and raffles.</p>	
• Catchment Area	<p>Communication from Donald Macleod Chief Officer of Education & Children's Services to arrange meetings to discuss the proposed catchment area changes by Sgoil Dhalabrog's Parent Council. He will be going to Daliburgh on Tuesday 11th February 2-4pm drop in, and an informal meeting at 6pm; he will be doing the same in lochdar on Thursday 13th February. Parent Council to encourage the wider community to attend, all with an interest in past and future of school. Donald would like to speak to children too when in school on the 13th.</p> <p>Community Council to contact Hebridean Housing Partnership to find out about any proposed housing developments in the pipeline that might affect catchment numbers. Mel to contact Donald Macleod regarding whether we can publish letter about the meeting to give as much notice as possible. Pupils to invite community members to meeting and encourage participation. Phillipa to enquire about numbers of young families in the proposed rezoning area that might be affected by change.</p> <p>Discussion around whether childcare/entertainment for children can be arranged during meeting to allow parents to attend.</p>	<p>Encourage attendance at meeting / completion of catchment consultation.</p> <p>ICC to contact HHP re housing developments.</p> <p>Supervision for pupils to be arranged.</p>
• School Improvement Projects - Literacy / Sustainability	<p>Assets – Kayaks bought with funding in conjunction with Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath (SUAT) and Balivanich School but SUAT have been unable to use so far due to transportation issues. Tim Pickering has identified a CnES kayak trailer in Stornoway that we may be able to have to help with transportation. SUAT have also meanwhile applied for funding for their own kayaks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion around a sponsored beach clean • 2 Chrome books to be ordered using PC funds to enable more pupils to benefit from digital literacy. 	<p>Clean Up to be arranged.</p> <p>Joan to arrange order of Chrome books</p>
• Sgoil Àraich Shed	<p>£1000 grant from Loch Duart for a new for outdoor shelter / classroom for the Sgoil Àraich – Joan has emailed MacInnes Bros to see if they could match fund and/or help with construction but no response as yet. Other local joiners have been approached are unavailable.</p> <p>Current Sgoil Àraich shed has recently been condemned, and emptied, it is to be deconstructed and replaced with a container.</p>	<p>Joan to contact D MacDonald Builder.</p> <p>Joan to enquire with Laings / Hebco re containers as a solution for storage.</p>