



Sgoil an Iochdair Parent Council – Meeting Agenda
19:00hrs Wednesday 7th May 2025 @ Sgoil an Iochdair

Minutes

Present:

Mel MacDonald-Butler, Martin Butler, Joan MacDonald, Margaret Campbell, Bellina Currie, Phillipa Rewaj, Louise McBride, Kay Marie MacInnes, Karen MacInnes, Marion Bell, Donald Macleod (Chief Officer for Education & Children's Services)

• Point of Business	• Action
<p>Treasurer's Update: No progress with transferring to Co-op bank account as Parent Council not registered as an official community group. Joan asked Donald Macleod whether CNES could create some kind of registration to allow Parent Council to become an official group. Treasurer estimates £80-90 fees per annum if stick with current bank account.</p>	<p>Mel to discuss issue with 'Connect' to see if other Parent Councils have come across same issue and possible resolutions</p>
<p>Catchment: No change to current catchment area. Heard from Donald MacLeod – full council met this morning and ratified decision. Survey received 75 responses in total, anonymized. Two meetings, one Daliburgh, one Iochdair. Five options put to council (talked through these) – selected option 5: to remain the same. Unanimous decision based on clear message from community for preferred option. Still discussions ongoing with families looking for resolution regarding transport. Can't rule out that this won't be raised again in the future. Discussed some of recurring messages from survey about why families choosing to send children out of catchment. Early years provision was one of them. Early years consultation in progress – CNES will be looking at this and how to improve access.</p>	

<p>Playpark – tender issues</p> <p>1st round of tendering this spring and no one tendered for the works needing done to get playpark operational. Currently out to tender again on the portal – closing 15/05/25. Only open to tenders from approved contractors. However larger approved contractors can take contract and subcontract to others not necessarily on the approved list. We can highlight that the tender is open to the general public, but not necessarily target individuals.</p> <p>Other options? If a group took lease of the ground, could they take on responsibility? lochdair community council meeting upcoming later in month, possibility for discussion there. Project looking to cost around £65K</p>	<p>Members of PC to raise awareness that tender is open to wider community.</p>
<p>Ball Park Update</p> <p>Harry Luney and lochdair Saints looking to renovate and improve surface and lighting in ball park to make more accessible for both lochdair pupils and the football team. Committee meeting with lochdair council was scheduled to progress plans but postponed due to death in community. To be held later this month</p>	
<p>School Improvement Projects – Literacy/ Writing & Digital Literacy & Learning for Sustainability</p> <p>Current projects nearly at a close.</p> <p>Sustainability – Tim Pickering, outdoor manager is down soon to do some outdoor cooking.</p> <p>Full report on projects will be in Standards & Quality Report due at end of this term.</p> <p>Next year's projects to be finalized but will include Inclusion and the Circle Resource.</p>	
<p>Summer Term Events</p> <p>P6/7 summer Camp next week to take advantage of the good weather at Kilbride Campsite as popular suggestion with pupils and have access to minibus this year.</p> <p>Local Mòd – struggling for transport from other schools to get here for May date. Looking to potentially rearrange for September.</p> <p>School Sports provisionally planned for 2nd June at Talla an lochdair. Comhairle @50 event celebration event planned for 12th June – looking for submissions from pupils to include in event. Book going on sale to commemorate 50 years of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.</p> <p>End of year trips currently being finalized – Sgoil Araich looking to go to Otter Mountain Woodland in Lochmaddy.</p>	<p>Joan to inform families if Mòd does get rearranged</p> <p>Joan to circulate schedule of summer term events home via pupils</p>
<p>Update from Parent Council Chairs Meeting</p> <p>Mel attended meeting for Uist Parent Council Chairs on the 29th March. One discussion at meeting was around Executive Head position. Daliburgh headship needs filled first. Connect – resource available to parent councils, resources for training needs, forum for support. Open to suggestions for any training we might like.</p>	

<p>PVGs – change to law to say that from 1st of April 2025, all people coming into school during school day for more than one event will need a PVG (although short grace period to allow for transition to new policy until August). Connect encouraging parents to get PVG through volunteer Scotland, but CnES will need their own PVG. For those who have a PVG already in place, need renewal every 5 years. Questions raised about intricacies of what 'one off event' means, and whether PVG can be with authority or individual schools. Questions raised about how this might impact on intergenerational and community work?</p> <p>PC chair meeting to take place once per term, and also a regular drop-in session with Donald Macleod.</p>	
<p>Sgoil Àraich – Care Inspectorate Inspection Got notification of impending visit on 17th April , awaiting inspection soon. Questionnaires sent to Sgoil Àraich families ahead of inspection.</p>	
<p>Fundraising Bingo very successful £2379.50 raised through the bingo, raffle and donations – hoping to repeat regularly/annual event. SUAT ran 'equal chance' Bingo recently, where no major prizes donated, just cash bingo based on entry fees. Might be able to alternate between donated prize bingo and cash bingo each year to avoid having to frequently approach local businesses for donations. Martin looked into 100 club – some legal difficulties as should only sell numbers to 'members', usually orientated to clubs. Looking into what we might be able to spend money raised on – canoes/boats for smaller children; new goals; getting markings renewed on playground.</p>	
<p>AOB - Sgoil Araich funding for outdoor shelter, new store ordered. Awaiting delivery. - Weed killing was due in April to get on top of nettles – didn't happen. Grass areas haven't been cut as regularly – to be chased. Difficulty as not notified when they're coming and need to move loose parts. - Additional football kit – Louise feels we should continue with MacAulay's sponsorship</p>	<p>Joan to chase groundskeeping re grass cutting and weedkilling. Ask for some advance notice to allow for outdoor play equipment to be moved. Joan to approach MacAulays.</p>
<p>Date of next meeting - TBC NB – Phillipa to notify and invite councilors to next and future meetings</p>	