

**Present:** Ruth Douglas, James Spooner, Theresa Wright, Laura Gilpin, Donald MacLellan, Eleanor Bell, Eleanor Grinter, Fiona King, Jennifer Martin, Phil Smith, Ruth Kelso Mason, Sarah Meehan, Morven Mulgrew, Nikki Dass, Emily Rodway, Ben Hillman

**Apologies:** Holly Richie, Alison Hunter, Karen Geoghegan, Angela Philbin

**1. Welcome and apologies**

**2. Approval of last meeting's minutes:** Proposed by James and seconded by Fiona

**3. Headteacher's report:**

- Recent newsletter included link to latest Shawlands Primary School Standards and Quality Report.
- Last meeting talked about a whole school arts project and Mrs Wright has a meeting next Wednesday with a community artist about taking the recovery agenda forward, with the aim of things happening between the February holidays and Easter break.
- The school had to let its therapist because of GCC guidelines, but are hoping to have someone new start with the school soon.
- School photos – hoping to get Morag organised for term three.
- Jill McAlpine started last week as a new principal teacher at the school.
- Staff are starting to think about nativity plays, although like last year no adult audiences will be allowed this year. However, it will be ok to have other pupils in the audience this time, so that should give more life to performances and videos of the final shows can go up on Showbie too.
- More than 30 children are currently signed up for Ardentenny, 4 have requested financial assistance which the PC previously agreed to cover
- The school can't accept cash anymore – it all has to go through ParentPay, as per recent communications, direct any queries/issues to Mrs Watson
- Cop26 – the school's been buzzing with all the sustainability activities going on. The school has made a QR code available for people and parents to see some of the work that's been going on in classes. Last Friday a COP-related visitor also came to speak to P4s and P6s and they seemed to have good, big discussions together.

**4. Parent Council Update**

- Handprints – a few parents coordinated the latest P1 handprints on the playground container.
- The Halloween virtual disco went really well and a good time seemed to be had by all. There were 57 screens in play at the peak of the disco.
- Playground Day was very wet and got abandoned earlier than planned because of the weather. Some painting was achieved nonetheless and the new lines seems to have stayed in place. A water butt was hooked up too, plus a little progress was made in the garden. The council will refund part of the let as they locked up early.

**5. Finance Report**

- Just over £3,000 in the pot. We're £100 up on where we were. The details are at the end of this doc but James is of the opinion that we have money available if there are good things to spend it on.

**6. Gardening and Playground**

- Morven shared a short film about the garden and veg harvesting, with various pupils involved.
- Morven has applied for a bit of money for a carpenter to come in and do some work for the beds etc, so will wait to see if we have any luck on that front.
- Thinking of things to do over winter - one project could be to get some *Rhinanthus minor* in, mow the wildflower meadow very short and get the kids to plant the it for a better meadow.
- Give every child in the school a bulb, for use over winter?
- Getting larger planters in for the trees would be good too. Could link with the outdoor stage idea too, as the two could possibly be combined.
- Water runs could be another good project in the new year.
- Idea raised of every class being allocated their own bed next year. Still produce-based, but maybe each class gets/picks their own crop. This might require the building of more beds, however as there are approx. 12 beds already and we have 15 classes only a few more required. Mrs Wright suggested a bed per school year group if there aren't enough beds to go around. An element of competition is always welcomed by the teachers. We could ask the kids what they want to grow and/or assign crops to classes/groups. A harvest festival could be a future event to aim for too. Morven has been collecting decking boards and more beds could possibly be made out of these to keep costs down.
- A pond using one of the baths was suggested. One of these has nothing in it at the mo. It would need a grill to avoid any danger of any kids falling in, but otherwise the idea was approved.
- The stage – the area where the pear tree is, by the non-covered bike racks was originally an idea for the proposed stage's location, but Morven thought because it'd need its own support it could be built anywhere and there may be a good space for it on the other side of the Parent Council container, or maybe by the big, shady stairs down to the lower playground, looking towards the garden. It could be a decking stage, with proscenium art at the front, and it could be large or small. If the stage is a popular idea, Joe could do a procurement list and a drawing to scope it out. James suggested just going for it if it's to get done. Might cost up to a couple of grand. Having a drawing of the stage at the Xmas Fair was suggested, to encourage a bucketful of donations for it. Mrs Wright thinks a walk around the playground could help to decide on a site and will coordinate with Morven.
- Playground painting – the idea of painting 'welcome' in 32 languages was raised again. Uneven surfaces made this tricky previously. Printing a banner to hang on the gates was suggested as an alternative option. Another option would be to paint them along the long narrow path between the two main road gates, between the school and the fence. This will be followed up in the spring when the weather improves.

## 7. Christmas Fair

- Meeting coming up on Thursday so see where we are with things. Ruth and Mrs Gilpin and Eleanor B are leading a sub-group. Tea and coffee stalls will have electricity, hopefully coming from family room to feed the urns etc. Tom's toasties and Morven's rickshaw are possibilities. The food area will probably be outside the SOOSC entrance. Lots of great ideas for stalls: garden stall, Christmas wreath stall; crafts in some form; Shawlands outfitters, perhaps; a raffle; a lego stall. There's to be a scavenger hunt for the kids; Santa's grotto over by the reading huts; outdoor games for kids down the bottom (including Korfball, which ex-SPS academy kids may help with), so sporty things at the bottom and stalls higher up. Books and similar items will likely be in the far shed. Re a choir, Miss McLunan the choir mistress is not available, but two other teachers are hoping to bring another choir together for Xmas

duties, so its inclusion could be a possibility. Mrs Gilpin will look into this. We'll have a PA but James needs to know if it needs to be mic'd up for a choir. The ukulele group is outwith school, so it won't feature. Publicity and ticket sales are a priority now, which will also be discussed on Thursday. Making the event known to family and friends will be a big help. Tickets could be sold beforehand or on the gate, but doing it in advance means you've got income in the bank whatever the turnout on the day. Card readers may be a good possibility – a card option for higher value purchases and so that people aren't limited to the cash they have on them. This will need to be set up accordingly, but it's not complicated. James and Morven may have card reader options available to use. A cake decorator raffle was suggested, perhaps on a separate stall, or for kids to do a cake design competition, with the best one getting made into a cake.

- James has enquired about a let for the Xmas Fair but has so far not had a response.
- Toilets TBC. Might be able to use school toilets, but most small markets don't have loos available, so it's not necessarily a must-have for our market-goers.

## 8. 2022 Plans

- As above, plus...
- Burns Night Bingo/Beetle Drive – getting school lets before the spring is unlikely, so other suggested venues were Titwood bowling club, the Scout Hall at Crossmyloof and Queens Park Cartha Rugby Club. Some suggested waiting till March or Easter for an event.
- James and Ruth to look into venue possibilities before a date is decided.
- Morven and Fiona happy to help out and Alison H and Camille suggested as other possible organisers.

## 9. Any Other Business

- Dining hall – a concern was raised by a parent about cigarette smoke lingering and therefore poor ventilation here. Mrs Wright suggested contacting the Fuelzone directly via their website about this as the space is school property, but the people are independent of the school. Ruth also wondered about Cop26 stats and finding ways to, for example, offer more veggie food options/cut down on meat options, or at least see what kids think. Mrs Wright pointed out that Mondays are meat-free and suggested it would be best for parents to deal with the authority direct if they're interested in this kind of issue. It might work to get the eco committee to look into more meat-free meals, though they're busy with other things too. Emily is involved in Parents for Future and they're interested in looking into this and she can put people in touch with them if they'd like. Ruth Kelso-Mason is chair of Homestart South and pointed out that having a balanced meal, including a meat option, on offer is particularly important for some families who might not have such options at home.
- Gathering discarded crisp packets is something Mrs Wright says the eco committee is already working on.
- Re. Outdoor Learning lead, a couple of teachers will share this responsibility for now, with Miss Ferguson having left recently. Also, it's not essential for parents to put wellies in school bags for Outdoor Learning, as there are lots of spare pairs available at school.
- Ruth Kelso-Mason asked, on behalf of her husband, about the ivy in the bike shed and being able to cut it back. Mrs Wright says Mr Mason is welcome to do so but the school will need to know when he's coming. Back of 9am would be best for this, time-wise.

\*End of public meeting\*

Phil Smith Stand-in Secretary

Next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Finance Report Details**

#### **As of 02nd Sept**

£3007.14

#### **As of 04th Nov**

£3102.57

#### **In (circa £300)**

£0.40 Interest

£41.50 P1 Hands less Expenses

£66.57 Easy Fundraising

£207 Disco

#### **Out (circa £200)**

£100 Kidnetick

£119.46 GCC Let

#### **Planned**

£800 Ardentenny Contribution

£100 General Garden Maintenance (Bulbs etc.)

£1500 Stage