Annan Academy Parent Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 6pm

In attendance: Heather Smith, Sarah Vallance, Rachel Nicholson, Allan Hogg, Julie Hogg, Hazel Dalziel (DHT), Nick Martin, Isobel St John-Claire, Fiona Robson and Jaimie Nicholson.

Apologies: Vicky Keir, Ewan Murray (HT), Amanda O’Donnell, Stacy Wigham, Liane Simpson, and Amy Hoffman

**Appointment of Office Bearers**

It was advised that Vicky Kier, no longer wanted to remain as the chair of the Parent Council, her resignation was accepted and Heather Smith voiced her willingness to be the new Chair Person, this was proposed by FR and seconded by RN with unanimous support from the rest of the people present.

AH said that he would be willing to continue as Treasurer for this year, but will stand down at the end of this academic session. He was proposed by HS and seconded by JH.

SV said that she is willing to continue as minute secretary and correspond with the school regarding Facebook and the app, if no one else would like to volunteer. Nobody did, therefore SV will remain as Minute Secretary, proposed by RN and seconded by FR.

**Parent Council Positions**

Chair Person – Heather Smith

Treasurer – Allan Hogg

Minutes Secretary – Sarah Vallance

**Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and everyone was in agreeance that they were an accurate representation of the meeting.

**Headteachers Report – Provided to HS prior to the meeting and shared with all members.**

Mr Murray has been in contact with Larann Foss re signage last week and has confirmed that they are with the graphics department, and they will be made up as soon as possible.

There is no news on the next steps for main toilets as yet. However, as an interim measure the council are currently in refurbishing toilet blocks in the technical department. The school is looking towards these becoming junior toilets to create a safer space for the younger pupils.

The fence is currently not locked. This is due to a wheelchair user in the school facing access barriers if the gates were locked. Larann has plans passed just waiting for the tender to put in ramps and rails at the front of the school so that the main office and ASN department can have wheelchair access.

There has also been a request from Hecklegirth school to open the gates at 2:50. This needs to be looked at further to understand the issue in more detail and to learn why other access points are not suitable for Hecklegirth pupils.

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| **Discussion Points** | **Actions** | **When** |
| Fundraising* The Parent Council (PC) group discussed the need to increase our fundraising activity to support the school given the school purse is being stretched year upon year. It was agreed that we need to make it easier for the school community to donate to the school and it was agreed that the school website PC page be updated to provide the details needed should individuals wish to directly contribute.  The incoming PC chair shared ideas on how we could communicate this message to the community and how we will need to make it clear what the funds are to be spent on.  Regular updates to the website will need to be made to provide the community with a clear understanding of the outgoing spend. The PC Chair will work with the school on the messaging and update the group on progress.
* It was put to a vote with all members present agreeing that this would be a positive step forward.
 | * PC chair to liaise with the school
 | * 4th November 2025
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| Treasurers Report* (AH) advised that there is currently £2079.69 in the bank account, although this includes money that is ringfenced meaning a balance of £1670.69 is available.
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| Facebook and Website* It was discussed whether or not the Parent Council should have their own Facebook Page, members agreed that this would be a good idea especially to share information with the wider school community.
* It was also discussed that the Parent Council page of the school website could do with a refresh
 | * FR to set up a new Facebook page
* HS going to speak to the school regarding this.
 | * 4th November 2025
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| Tackling Poverty/Inequality Discretionary Grant* (JN) advised that two out of the three grant applications that had been submitted by the school, those being the one for the Satchel School App and Funding towards the Residential Trip had been successful and had been awarded 75% of the funds. Unfortunately, no money is going to be received as the funds have run out.
 | * HS to contact the 4 Community Councillors to see if they have any influence and whether they can help using their discretionary fund.
 | * 4th November 2025
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| Possible other grant opportunities* (JN) advised that we could use the ‘New Online Funding Finder launched for Third Sector in Dumfries and Galloway’ to identify and access vital and access vital funding opportunities.
* (JH) advised that ‘Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway’ have a Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.
 | * All PC to consider possible grant applications.
 | * 4th November 2025
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| Tackling Poverty* Due to the current financial strains people are experiencing (HD) advised that the school are in need of toiletries for their pupils.
* (HS) advised that she had been able to secure donations to help out just now.
* (JH) suggested developing a link with New Start and she is going to contact Tony Nisbet regarding this.
* It was also discussed that contacting the Poverty Officers would be beneficial.
 | * JH contact Tony Nesbit – New Start
 | * 4th November 2025
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| Fencing* Access with regards to the fence was discussed. Members were in agreeance that they had been told that the gates would be locked during the school day.
* (JN) advised that at the public consultation it was stated that they would be open at 2:50.
* Concerns were raised by members that the security of the site would therefore be reduced at these times.
* People are still allowing dogs to roam on field.
 | * SV to look back over minutes from the meeting with LF to check for clarity.
 | * 4th November 2025.
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| Music Concert and S1 open afternoon* Jamie Brand asked for helpers at the Music Concert on Monday 22nd September.
* Helpers will also be needed for the S1 open afternoon on Tuesday 7th October, more details to follow.
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**Next meeting**

Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 6pm in the Learning Plaza at Annan Academy.