

# MINUTES of MEETING

Thursday 31st January, 7-9pm at Alves Primary School

**Present:** Chairperson: Nicola Manson (NM)  
 Vice Chairperson: Nicole Petrie (NP)  
 Treasurer: Christine Reid (CR)  
 Head Teacher: James McLeman (JMcL)  
 Teacher Representative: Erin Fraser (EF)  
 Parents/carers: Caroline Singh (CS), Valerie Cooke (VC), Gavin Morgan (GM),  
 Shakeel Ansari (SA), Katie Long (KL) minutes

**Apologies:** Katherine Morgan (KM), Rachel Atkinson (RA) (Secretary), Susan Munro (SM), Mairi Grant (MG),

ITEM	MATTERS DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS MADE	FOLLOW UP
1	<u>WELCOME</u> NM welcomed everybody to the meeting. Apologies noted	
2	<u>ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO AGENDA</u> Agenda had been sent prior to the meeting and had been shortened so as not to duplicate the Head Teacher (HT) report.	
3	<u>ACTION ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Tesco Bag for Life/Playground area (NM)</u> - Application is in and being processed but it could be a 6 month + wait. NM couldn't apply for an amount without stating what stuff was needed so she priced varied mobile athletic kit (eg goal posts) to accumulate the money. JMcL okayed this.</li> <li><u>Car Parking update (JMcL)</u> - see HT report</li> <li><u>Rights Respecting School update (JMcL)</u> - see HT report</li> <li><u>Flier to parents for internet safety 8/3/19 (KM pls)</u> - KM will pop flyer in intro pack</li> <li><u>Bike Shed (NM)</u> - JMcL can pay full grant for shelter plus noticeboard to Timber Company and then APPC can action. NM to contact Timber Company 1.2.19 to get possible dates</li> <li><u>Minutes</u> - No amendments. Proposed by NM, seconded by CR</li> </ul>	NM

4	<p>DATES FOR 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>March Disco</u> - 7.3.19, 6-7:30 pm. Theme changed to “World Book Day” fancy dress. Decided that £2 entry to include refreshments was preferable to £1 entry and then another payment for snacks. A one payment system avoids issue of misplaced money by children. To regulate snacks, EF suggested a stamp on hand system after child has had one snack. School can provide stamp.</li> <li>• <u>Daffodil Tea</u> - 28.3.19, 1:30pm. JMcL requested 2-4 parent helpers to support tea and coffee in kitchen during event. Re. Stalls - Second Hand Uniform Stall wasn't successful last year and debate whether to set up this year. NM to check with KM. Agreed that Parent Council would keep a stall this year and use it to promote awareness around fund raising and attracting new parent council members/helpers. CR agreed children could use the Splat the Rat activity. VC raised issue of queuing outside in bad weather and wondered if changing rooms could be a place to queue up in. JMcL said no need as at 1:30 doors open and people can come straight in, no issue with seating so flow in should not keep people outside. JMcL reassured he wouldn't leave people to stand in the rain. Also re advertising JMcL said children will work on leaflets and there'll be an advert in newspaper.</li> <li>• <u>Sponsored Walk</u> - sometime in June. Discussion around history of walk, suggested routes, accessibility and inclusivity and whether to slide it into Health Week or end of term BBQ. JMcL reminded that walk originally was through woods in Roseisle ending in BBQ. Suggested routes were - Burghead to Roseisle ending in beach party/ BBQ at Roseisle; NP suggested ten circuits of field above school; another suggestion was the three mile walk round Alves. JMcL voiced care to make it inclusive. GM thought sponsored walk a valuable idea. GM and EF suggested perhaps during Health Week, EF during school time. Noted not to clash with Friday of Health Week when whole school skating happens. JMcL suggested details to be figured later but a provisional date 6/7 June.</li> <li>• <u>Ground Force</u> - 11.5.19 or 12.5.19. JMcL to let APPC know date, dictated by when flowers come in. Meet up after school is a good time, last year there was a good turn out and it took only an hour to complete.</li> <li>• <u>Sports Day</u> - Monday 3.6.19. Back up day Thursday 6.6.19</li> <li>• <u>School Trip</u> - 26.6.19. Last week of term</li> <li>• <u>AGM</u>- 12.9.19 JMcL confirmed</li> <li>• <u>Fundraising Meeting</u> - 25.4.19</li> <li>• <u>Forum</u> - 20.2.19, 6:30-7:30pm. NP can attend, NM cannot. If anyone else would like to attend, email NM so she can send on name to Moray Council Parent Council Forum. JMcL flagged up that it will be an important forum due to the forthcoming council meeting following week 27.2.19.</li> <li>• <u>Camping</u> - Provisional date 14.6.19 but GM needs to check his diary. Noted that it needed to be the week before Small Schools Sports Day</li> <li>• <u>Small School Sports Day</u>- 21.6.19</li> </ul>	<p>EF</p> <p>NM</p> <p>NM</p> <p>GM</p>
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**HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

Budget - JMcL passed on the message that the council will not be dealing directly with the public. The council urges the public to use the proper channels and to go to elective members with any enquiries. JMcL outlined what has been in the news, that the council are balancing budgets, this is not to do with efficiency. The decisions JMcL and other HT are privy to are from council senior management. HTs are third tier and therefore below senior management. HT did not have any say in the cuts.

Budget impact on Alves Primary School- the surplus money or carry forward fund has been taken away. This means the parking upgrade will not happen. The budget is frozen. Money for supply teachers will be controlled by head office. HT has no control over the budget from now on and cannot divert funds. This is one of the ways the council is making a saving.

Discussion on impact of budget - KL asked if possible to create a bank of parent volunteers to be on hand for repairs, support or raising funds. GM asked what resources we could provide and noted forward thinking around community support now would be of use in the future. JMcL noted that any work on the fabric of the building needs council approval and warned that this was only the first round of cuts. CR relayed a parent's question about music costs. Violin and cello provision in school will go up to £690 which means it would actually be cheaper to get music lessons privately and would it be an initiative to bring private music tutors into school. JMcL reported that wouldn't be possible as the council is still providing this service. SA suggested more frequent meetings to create support for activities. JMcL responded that if an activity idea develops from extra meeting's he can then investigate it with the council if it would be possible. NP asked if privately funded initiative such as in use England had ever been discussed, for example if Morrisons was involved to build new schools and how being more creative may be solution to meet children's needs in face of budget cuts. JMcL unsure if that model would work, others noting that English model was failing.

Diabetes UK Award - Mr and Mrs Campbell's nomination of the school had been successful and JMcL thought important to celebrate this. He will speak with parents, ask their thoughts on this and also asked parent council if they had any ideas how we may celebrate. NM suggested Moray Firth Radio, EF wondered about getting in touch with Clare Doughty, PR. Group agreed that the award displayed school as inclusive and caring and able to deliver individual care.

Rights Respecting Schools Award - The school did not get the gold award. When JMcL gave the children the feedback from the assessors they were understandably upset and angry about the contradictions in the report. Children know their rights; how they impact them and strongly asserted that they feel their rights are respected at Alves primary. JMcL challenged the report that said there was not enough evidence across the school, for example a lack of a Unicef logo and flag. JMcL asserted that school is not a Unicef school, it is Alves Primary school. The school already has a clear children's voice that campaigns in the community; it has child improvement plans but these both are just not under the banner of Unicef. After shock of news, JMcL and children are calmer and have decided to take the support to get Gold. Lynne Riddoch and Jenny Price will come in and work with the children.

Sport Scotland Award - after doing the survey the school needs to do more to gain gold. Despite over 40% children attend swimming lessons. Children need opportunity to attend a professional sports event. JMcL wants to take the whole school to Elgin City home match, and make it as inclusive as possible, on 23.3.19. Children to wear Alves logo jumpers. Discussion about transport on a Saturday; children's snacks; £12 per adult ticket, children for free; adult ratio for supervision results in need for 6 parents which should be do-able. GM asked if SSA fund sports for schools. GM willing to attend Health and Travel business group to get SSA up and running. JMcL will invite Paul and Rosalyn, Active Sports co coordinators to thank them for their involvement in Alves this past year. EF suggested we make links with students at UHI to resource sports support in school in face of budget cuts.

	<p><u>Car parking</u> - no money now to upgrade car parking. NP fed back that since 1997 the council own it.</p> <p><u>Bike shed</u> - has been covered</p> <p><u>Alves Funky Theatre</u> - Despite staff shortage with Mr Campbell ill, the performances were incredible and children were brilliant. The movie of the shows will soon be available, there have been some technical difficulties. Available on glow drive or even pen drive if wanted, JMCL happy to do that.</p> <p><u>Moray Young Citizens Award</u> - a nomination for the school put forward since it's their ten year anniversary. Alves has won it 8 out of the last 10 years. Children really enjoy the proper award ceremony.</p>	
6	<p><b><u>Chairperson's Report</u></b></p> <p>NM also had received an email from Connect (the Parent Council body) about communicating with council. See HT report.</p>	
7	<p><b><u>Treasurer Report</u></b></p> <p>CR went through the changes to the income since last meeting. The Rag Bag scheme, the bus refund, Halloween (with expenses taken off), the Christmas movie all brought revenue in. Expenses were cited, mainly were for the shed. Need to hear about income from second hand shop from KM.</p> <p>SA asked which events help boost funds the most. CR said Halloween sales of glow sticks, and the rag bags. £4/kilo reusable clothes or £1/kilo for cleaners. Rag bags generate money for little effort and decided to do a spring collection too. To raise awareness with parents to hold onto stuff, possibly on Facebook? Raffles also generate income. CR now collecting tickets for events over the summer like Speyside mini and garden party. Kresana Aigner from Findhorn Bay Arts could be approached for raffle tickets. The Garden Party can be a good fundraiser, CR suggested bringing in RAF this time to generate competition between them and army. JMCL thought army could bring equipment in easier like diggers and EF thought they could possibly do an obstacle course.</p>	<p>NM/CR</p> <p>KL</p>
8	<p><b><u>Gordonstoun Sports</u></b> (SM) Could school do with help to prepare for the highland games. JMCL noted no invite yet. It's on a Saturday so relies on parent volunteers. Question around practicing for events but you only find out on the day of the event what the activities are. KL can contact Outdoor Ed staff to ask for a list of activities.</p>	<p>KL</p>
9	<p><b><u>Catering facilities at school for pupils (SM)</u></b></p> <p>SM wondered if possible to gather fundraising ideas for this. EF - there are a lot of utensils, but there is no oven. SM priced up a mini mobile oven. JMCL wondered about taking over part of the kitchen, but raises health and safety issues and right certificates needed. GM asked if it is an elementary food certificate or more. The BigBreakfast was a successful event. Suggestion to give a tea party for parents and raise money after school. EF noted cooking is popular with children in school. Could a tea party have more of an uptake than the Beetle Drive? JMCL asked if the tea party could be supported by parental involvement within the business groups. Business groups occur in school on Mondays 130-230; children rotate once a year; groups are Enterprise, Health and Travel, UNA, Eco, Festivals. Parents welcome to attend. GM will attend next Business Group. A comment on facebook to raise awareness of the invitation to parents would be useful. Also for parents who have been involved to feedback about their experience on facebook.</p> <p>Action NM (raising awareness on FB)</p>	

10	<p><b><u>Music Event</u></b> SA(?during Health Week)</p> <p>Suggestion to do a free folk music event with support from musicians, performing for free to raise money and children exposed to music too. Possibly a stand alone event rather than in Health week. Requires more meetings to set up. Led to discussion about Health Week ideas. Important to cover mental as well as physical health. EF suggested Therapet, KL offered dramatherapy workshop, EF suggested Sharan may help out with cookery, a suggestion of a cycle set up in front to raise funds, CR suggested private ice skate rink hire. JMCL said intention to offer as many opportunities as possible to children.</p>	
11	<p><b><u>Buddy Bench</u></b> - from playground observations and talking directly with parent who raised it, EF not sure there's a need. Mixed age play supports older children being supportive of younger children. Bench may spotlight children who are feeling excluded and it does not promote their resilience in finding ways to integrate socially. There are better restorative practices facilitated by staff such as peer mediation, through social skills teaching, nurture groups and school ethos which promote children's resilience in friendships. All parent council members in agreement that there was not a need for it at this time.</p>	
12	<p><b><u>A.O.B</u></b> - KM is doing a parent information pack.</p>	
13	<p>Parent Council would like a board for the Daffodil Tea event.</p>	
14	<p><b><u>Date for next meeting</u></b> - 21.3.19</p>	