**Holy Cross Primary Parent Council Meeting - AGM**

**Monday 7th November 2016**

**Present:** Andrea Kelly – Chairperson

Donna Carrigan – Vice Chairperson

Donna Wallace – Secretary

Annemarie Maloney – Secretary PTG

Robert O’Donnell – Church Representative

Marie Murphy – Head Teacher

Bernadette Shaw – Depute Head Teacher

Patricia Kinnaird – Minutes

Lorna Lalley – Parent

Suzanne Goldie – Parent

Stephen McKendry – Parent

**Apologies:** Elaine Lennon - Parent

Lynn Kelly – Parent

Donna Irving – Parent

1. Welcome - Mrs Kelly opened the meeting by asking if the previous meeting

minutes were agreed by all, these were agreed.

1. Mrs Kelly spoke about the upcoming training events in November. She said that

they were beneficial and that they would give a better insight into how things

are run. She also said you can dip in an out of the events depending on the

relevance of what the training is. She has also emailed Maureen Moore at HQ

with Robert’s details as he is also on Parish Council.

1. Mrs Murphy gave her update. Health Week – had a great support from local

businesses and both pupils and volunteers thoroughly enjoyed it. Mrs Shaw had put a lot of work into organising the event.

On 1st and 2nd of December the school will have a Validated Self Improvement Visit. The Continuous Improvement Officers from HQ will look at our Improvement Plan, Tracking and Monitoring and the work of the school. The visit will be a similar format to the visit we would receive from HMIe. They will speak to staff and pupils, although we are not sure if they will speak to Parents. The school will run as normal.

Playground Equipment – we are nearly ready to submit our application to Awards for All for £10k towards an outdoor playground facility, the costs in total is £16k. We will then need contributions from Parent Council and School Fund to make up the £6k difference. We have obtained 4 quotes from other companies and Scotplay is the company that will supply the equipment as they give best value and have put in similar equipment into other local schools. The pupils will work with the staff have a say on what they would like and plans can be changed if need be. We have in the past asked if we can get the fence moved to incorporate more space but unfortunately it will be too expensive to level the ground and it is also too steep.

We have had 6 more classes carpeted and there is a further 2 classes to be done.

Outside benches – we had ordered them from the Scottish Prison Service but unfortunately they come flat packed which we were not told when we ordered. If we did go ahead we would need volunteers to put together.

We recently had a visit from Chris Flannigan, Assests Manager, NLC with regards to the capacity of the school. With the number of pupils we have and will have in the next year or so we are ok for space, (but in the next few years after that with more houses being built locally, we will need to look at every bit of space that we have that may need to be used for class space). Hopefully with the new houses being built and the current catchment area will be ok especially with siblings being at the school already, NLC will keep us up to date regarding capacity.

The Christmas Shows are on Monday 12th December and Tuesday 13th December at 1.30pm and 7.00pm. The shows will be the same format as last year, P1-P3 and P4-P7. The Parent Council will organise a raffle.

4. PTG – Mrs Wallace spoke about the monies raised by the PTG. They have had a Toy Sale, Spring Disco, Halloween Disco Raffle. These monies have paid for a Christmas Panto, Magic Shows and they have also made a contribution towards I Pads that the school purchased. Father Joe is happy for the group to use the hall for meetings which will save some expenditure although they will make a donation to the church. This year they will also raise money from the sale of Christmas cards etc.

5. Office Bearers – these will continue with the same people as before.

6. All previous minutes and matters arising all agreed.

7. Parent Council Essentials Training Course – Oct 16 – Lorna attended the course and said it was very interesting. It gave information on various ways to fundraise and promote the groups using social media. Fundraising ideas that were mentioned were; thrift shop, eco school projects etc. The Parent Council then spoke about setting up a Whats App page for members although the school may not able to join the group.

8. The PTG will provide juice/crisps etc for the parties and crackers for the school Christmas dinner.

9. Robert then spoke about Humanist Scotland and what they stood for. They are about allowing children to opt out of RE Education at a certain age, giving children a bigger say in whether they would like to participate or not. There has been no age set as yet but there are issues concerning all schools and how this would be taken forward for the future thus presenting many challenges.