

Braco Primary Parent Council

Agenda

Monday 23 August 2021 at 7.30pm

Via Teams

Attendees: Becca MacRae (Chair), Brian Reid (PKC), Carol Taylor (PKC), Councillor Tom Gray, Adrian and Becky Davidson, Dee Campbell, Rhona Nuttall, Helena Carey, Jenni Allardyce (Treasurer), Iain Davidson, Jill Johnston, Susan Ross, Sylvia Lauder, Rachel Beaton (Secretary), Susan Ross (Head Teacher).

Not a formal meeting of the Parent Council – no head teacher report, main purpose of the meeting was to hear an update from PKC on the school estate transformation.

Parent Council were informed that the School would be publishing a new Communication Policy – this would be made available on the School website.

1	School Estate Transformation
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The Chair thanked Carol Taylor and Brian Reid for attending the meeting.

Previously, in November 2020, when Carol and Brian attended the Parent Council meeting, PKC were in the process of designing plans for a new build on the existing site. On 25 June it was approved that the new school would proceed as a passive house option.

Carol informed the meeting that the option of acquiring new land was not considered previously because PKC were still looking at refurbishing the existing building.

To explore the option of a new site, PKC were initially required to contact the Roads Department to ensure that access from the main road would be possible. It has been confirmed that access is possible but that a pedestrian crossing would be required. Following confirmation from the Roads Department high-level plans have been submitted to Planning to establish overall feasibility of the suggestion. It is expected that outcome will be received in 3-4 weeks.

Once received, if positive, investigations will commence into the suitability of the site, including drainage and soil testing. It is not expected that the site will have archaeological significance as it is thought that these checks have already been completed for the village.

It was confirmed that there would be no loss of community space for the village with the fence boundary remaining in current location.

The plans that were discussed at the meeting are included in these minutes.

It was confirmed that the new school will have capacity for 75 students with a capacity of 24 in the nursery. There will also be a general-purpose area that could be used for an additional classroom if capacity exceeds 75.

It was confirmed that the school would continue to use the village hall for dining and PE.

Carol explained that once the current site, and that in Greenloaning, are declared surplus to requirements then the Council will have the final decision with regards to the sale of the land. Either or potentially both sites could be offered for community transfer or sold.

It was explained that the next steps would be to wait to hear from planning, then the land investigations would take place - Parent Council were informed that the land investigations could take quite some time due to Covid. After receipt of the land investigations, it would be expected that then the legal department would move forward with the purchase of the land. Meetings with the landowner have been positive so far, however if negotiations are protracted the council may choose not to take that route.

PKC acknowledged the frustration of parents with regards to the additional delay but clarified that the hope for the new school is for a building that lasts 60 years so delays are to be expected.

It was confirmed that if the new location is unsuccessful PKC have approval to take the new build option forward on the original site.

In terms of time scales PKC representatives predicted at least 3 years until a completed building would be available. This was for both options, but the new site would add extra time for investigations and negotiations.

Parent Council were reassured that there would be no delay in securing funding for either option.

Parent Council were reassured that there were no safety concerns for the existing building. Concerns were that the building was unsuitable with regards to the upstairs classroom rather than unsafe.