

Grandtully Parent Council

Monday 06 Oct 25 - 15:30-16:30

Attendees: Ciara Gibson, Jade Calder, Anna Brocklehurst, Laura Easson, Carol Pirie, Marie Phillipou, Vicky Pooler, Smita Wakefield, Sheena Weidig, Grace Norton

Prepared by: Al and Grace Norton

1. Meeting Structure & Organisation

1.1. New chair (Sam) introducing organised approach with agenda deck (Attached)

1.2. Parent Council roles confirmed:

Chair: Sam Parsons

Vice chair: Gregor Ross

Treasurer: Laura Easson

Co-Secretaries: Grace Norton and Kirsty MacBey

1.3. Communication plan established:

1.3.1. One meeting per term – continuing to alternate between after school face to face and evening Teams, unless feedback from parents suggest they would like otherwise.

1.3.2. Parent WhatsApp group for updates – this is not an official communication method from the school.

1.3.3. Sway newsletter integration – this is the school's preferred method of communication with parents so the Parent Council will support this and utilise this as well.

1.3.4. Printed notices in school bags as backup

1.4. New parent council email account created for anonymous feedback and for sharing information between committee members:

grandtullyparentcouncil@gmail.com

2. Fundraising & Financial Planning

2.1. Reinstating disbanded fundraising team with new volunteers needed

- Looking for team leader plus 2-3 supporters
- Conscious of not overburdening existing volunteers
- Seeking fresh involvement from new families

2.2. Annual funding requirements (approximate £7,500):

- £2,000 transport costs
- £1,200 tuck shop
- £400 cultural experiences
- £2,500 outdoor activities
- Edinburgh overnight trip
- Miscellaneous fund

2.3. Proven successful fundraising methods:

- Thrift shop (main revenue generator)
- Pub quiz (Gregor volunteered to organise)
- Grant applications

2.4. Action plan being developed by Grace for transparency and accountability

2.5. Less is more: Focus on 3-4 major fundraising events rather than many small ones and previous committee members discussed success of previous sub-committees and whether it should be all lead by main parent council.

2.6. Discussed awareness of businesses always being approached and getting fundraising fatigue.

2.7. Discussed finding people for specific jobs to share load (i.e. whats app polls been successful) and clear communications to parent about what we are looking for and what is expected.

2.8. Focus on social ideas to gather parents together.

2.9. Grant applications – Smita to send historical applications for future reference and to contact Thrift Shop for 2026.

3. Yurt Maintenance & Safety

3.1. Discussed ongoing maintenance requirements for yurt and clarified the yurt has no insurance.

3.2. Volunteers are needed to assist with regular checks and maintenance. John Calder has been managing repairs but formal maintenance plan needed.

3.3. Red Kite – unsuccessful tenderer – has an option for an annual inspection. GN to seek quote for this and bring to next meeting.

3.4. Can we get a volunteer for ongoing maintenance issues identified:

3.4.1. Broken door spindle needs repair

3.4.2. One roof support spindle snapped in half

3.5. No storm preparation procedures established other than JC actions. Ratchet straps and ground anchors available but deemed better to let yurt move than resist wind. Someone to check after big storms is also required.

3.6. Fire Extinguisher safety inspection pending - hoping PKC will include yurt in school checks

4. School Communication & Parent Engagement

4.1. Email consolidation discussion:

4.1.1. Current system: multiple daily emails when issues arise

4.1.2. Proposed: single daily email at set time

4.1.3. Challenge: urgent items arise throughout day

4.1.4. School will keep current system.

4.2. GroupCall system working well for:

4.2.1. Emergency communications

4.2.2. Absence notifications

4.2.3. Weather/transport updates

4.3. Weekly Friday newsletter via Sway effective but low engagement

4.3.1. School can track who opens emails

4.3.2. Need better acknowledgment system for important updates

4.3.3. All PC to reinforce message to parents to check weekly Sway for updates and links to Glow Blog.

4.4. Homework communication improved - no questions received about current system

4.5. Just2Easy platform underutilised:

4.5.1. Limited to journal sharing only

4.5.2. Teachers concerned about workload to use J2E

4.5.3. GDPR restrictions limiting functionality

4.5.4. Cost concerns for full platform access

4.5.5. J2E is not going to be used as 2-way communication system with parents.

School request parent to email Jade who will pass on to teachers.

5. ASN representation needed for local support group meetings. Request:

My name is Michelle and my child is a pupil at Kenmore Primary School. I am currently an ASN rep on the Kenmore Primary Parent council- providing a voice for parent/carers of children with additional support needs within our school. As a parent of a child with additional needs, I felt it was important to ensure our school to be as inclusive as it can be and to reach out to other parents and share advice, guidance and support.

As the ASN rep, I attend PC meetings and ensure that ASN is always on the agenda. Any concerns or questions that need raising from parents are addressed and we also look at things that we can do/provide as the parent council which are beneficial for classrooms (funding sensory boxes, calm corners, ear defenders/loop earplugs/playground equipment etc)

I am also part of a wider network of ASN reps in the local community- we support each other and share what we're doing in our schools. We currently have reps in Kenmore, Logierait, Dunkeld and Pitlochry. We'd love it if Grandtully would consider appointing their own rep and becoming part of the network. As part of this wider group, we are working with Highland Perthshire Plus, pkc and have recently attended the Headteachers meeting of all the local schools to ensure that ASN is kept on the agenda. We hope to build stronger communication and help to make sure our children get the best possible chance at the education they are entitled to.

If you know of any parents that might want to chat more about it, then feel free to pass on my email or my number is:07855799804 and I'd be happy to chat more.

We are hoping to have our next ASN rep meeting in late Oct and it would be great if someone was able to come along (in person or remotely) to represent Grandtully.

6. Head Teacher Update:

6.1. Headteacher will share spending plan for 25/26 session but include approx. £1900 of transport costs. Indicative Costs and funding:

6.1.1. Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) is means tested and school receives £2450. This covers Big Maths (£1500) and leaves £950 available, potentially to be used on work for wellbeing/resilience.

6.2. Ski Trip 2027

6.2.1. Parent Council was asked to consider ski trip for Feb 2027 for 1 week (M-F) for P6-7 pupils with Kenmore and Glen Lyon school; biannually (approx. 11 pupils next year). Costs will be £440 per pupil plus transport. Residential includes alternative activities if there is no snow.

6.2.2. In past, camp was 2-3 days for P6 pupils and fully funded by parent council at £279 per pupil.

6.2.3. Grandtully teachers aspire for curriculum free at point of delivery for all pupils, meaning parent council is being asked to fund 100% of costs.

6.2.4. The curriculum includes P5 – Kayak; P6 – Ski Trip; and P7 – Mountain Biking.

6.2.5. Headteacher to share more information and separate meeting will be organised to share information and discuss with parents.

6.3. School Improvement Plan discussed and includes:

6.3.1. Writing (Talk for Writing) – Quality demonstrated at school showcase.

6.3.2. Transitions

6.3.3. Vision for School

6.4. Apologies for Attendance Letters accidentally being released at midnight.

7. AOB

7.1. Parent Council will proposing remaining meeting dates:

7.1.1. Monday 12 Jan 2026 20:00 – 21:00 Online

7.1.2. Ski Trip – in person TBC

7.1.3. Monday 30 Mar 2026 20:00 – 21:00 Online

7.1.4. Thursday 18 June 2025 15:15-16:15, in person. AGM.

	Action	Lead	Due
1.	Share Action Plan	GN	With minutes
2.	Share previous grant applications	SW	Next Meeting
3.	Thrift Shop 2026 Request	SW/GN	ASAP
4.	Quote for Yurt Inspection	GN	Next Meeting
5.	Volunteers to maintain and check yurt	SP	Next Meeting
6.	Promote and encourage reading of weekly Sway newsletter	All Parents	
7.	ASN Representative – Share request with parents for a volunteer	GN	Next meeting