



Madderty Primary School Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: 15th September 2026

Venue: Teams

Present

Jackie Farrell (Head Teacher)
Samara McLaren (Chair)
Kirsty McNiven (Treasurer)
Ashleigh Pink (Secretary)
Gillian Delahaye
Nathan Delahaye
Joe Hickey
Kirsty Grieg (Principal Teacher)
Clare Balfour
Suzanne Emptage
Abigail
Zoya

Apologies

None.

1. Head Teacher's Report

Jackie Farrell provided an update on the start of the new school year.

- Staff and pupils are all settled and teachers are enthusiastic about the new term and their new classes.
- The three new P1 pupils are settling in well.
- House Captains and Vice Captains have all been elected.
- The Pupil Council will be elected this week.
- There was a good turnout for the recent Meet the Teacher event, although limited feedback was received. Parents are reminded that feedback is welcomed at any time.
- Music tuition is going well and the school choir has started back.
- P4 swimming takes place on Thursdays.

- There has been an overwhelming response from pupils wishing to take part in Gymfest. Jackie Farrell and Brooke are currently discussing the logistics, with Nick Keilor also involved.
- Gymfest is expected to take place on either 7 or 8 November. It is not a competitive event and is intended to be fun for the pupils.
- Jackie is considering whether PE time could be used for pupils who have nominated themselves to take part and will provide further information once arrangements are confirmed.
- It is not yet known whether additional support will be required towards bus costs for Gymfest.

Quality Improvement

The school's Quality Improvement Officer visited the school and met with Jackie Farrell and Kirsty Grieg to discuss plans for the year.

The Quality Improvement Plan for the year is now in place.

The school is expecting a visit from HMI at some point during the year. The school has not had an HMI visit since 2018, so Jackie expects Madderty to be relatively high on the list for a visit.

The Quality Improvement Officer received a particularly enthusiastic welcome from the P7 pupils who were preparing to go on their residential trip this morning!

2. McLaggan Trust and Funding Priorities

Samara McLaren opened a discussion about McLaggan Trust funding and what the Parent Council would like to focus on during the coming year.

Samara confirmed that she had spoken with Frank from McLaggan. While Frank did not feel a formal meeting was necessary at this stage, he confirmed that McLaggan remains keen to support Madderty School.

Zoya asked whether the funding available was unlimited. Samara explained that it is not unlimited and is a legacy fund intended to support Madderty School, Madderty Church and the wider Madderty community.

Zoya suggested finding out the current balance of the fund so that the Parent Council can better understand what additional fundraising may be required.

Jackie explained that there is a strict application process and funding form for requests to the Trust.

There was discussion about the balance between using available Trust funding and encouraging children to participate in fundraising. It was agreed that fundraising can be a valuable experience for pupils, while also recognising that the Parent Council has limited resources and relies heavily on parents and families to raise funds.

The overall aim should be to use available funding and fundraising to enrich the school experience and the lives of the pupils.

Funding Priorities and Wish List

The following areas were discussed as potential priorities:

- IT equipment
- School transport
- Outdoor learning
- School trips
- Music tuition
- Sports equipment
- Badminton rackets
- Potential development of a MUGA
- Additional activities and clubs

Ashleigh Pink highlighted that some existing equipment in the playground is broken and asked whether the Parent Council could support replacement if the cost is reasonable.

Jackie will check with the school office to establish whether a quote has already been obtained.

Jackie confirmed that the Parent Council can submit its own applications to McLaggan separately from applications made by the school.

Kirsty Grieg and Jackie Farrell will develop a wish list of provisions and equipment required by the school. This will help the Parent Council consider priorities and support future funding applications.

It was recognised that, although the Parent Council currently has a healthy bank balance, this could be depleted quickly if several larger projects are supported.

3. Pupil and Parent Voice

Gillian Delahaye suggested that the Parent Council should seek feedback from the wider parent body about what parents would like to see at Madderty Primary School.

Ashleigh Pink will prepare and circulate a parent survey.

Kirsty Grieg suggested that the Pupil Council should also be involved so that pupils have an opportunity to contribute their views.

Kirsty Grieg will coordinate with the Pupil Council to ensure that both parent and pupil voices are captured.

It was agreed that having a collective parent and pupil voice would strengthen future funding applications and help ensure that projects reflect the needs of the school community.

4. Activities and After-School Provision

Zoya raised the issue of Madderty being relatively isolated and suggested that more activities could be scheduled for pupils, including after-school clubs and breakfast clubs, to provide greater opportunities for children to participate.

Jackie explained that activities had previously been offered but had not been sufficiently well attended and had therefore gradually stopped, with the provision running at a loss.

Narthan Delahaye suggested that it would be beneficial if Perth & Kinross Council could host activities at Madderty Primary School, particularly as many activities are based in Crieff.

Jackie will contact Nick Keilor to explore whether an activity could be organised for the Easter term, subject to suitable weather and practical arrangements.

Jackie confirmed that the school grounds could potentially be used after school. However, there would be practical considerations around school lets, access to toilets and ensuring someone is available to lock up the school.

In response to a question from Zoya, Jackie confirmed that there is no full-time janitor. A janitor attends three times a week for approximately 90 minutes.

5. Events and Fundraising

Joe Hicks suggested creating a portfolio of successful events and activities over the course of the year. This could provide an illustrative framework for future funding applications and demonstrate how Parent Council funding has benefited pupils.

The Parent Council agreed this would be useful.

Samara McLaren will circulate the Easyfundraising link. This provides a way for parents and families to generate funds for the Parent Council through their normal online shopping, at no additional cost to them.

Parent Council Ceilidh

The Parent Council Ceilidh will take place on 21st February 2027.

School Festive Show

The school festive show will take place on Thursday 17 December at:

- 2.00pm
- 6.30pm

The Parent Council will provide refreshments as in previous years and will also organise a raffle.

Samara raised the possibility of creating a specific Parent Council budget for the event. Jackie explained that one of the reasons the Parent Council is able to support the school is because the school cannot purchase from some suppliers and websites, such as Amazon, using its normal purchasing arrangements.

Alternative Christmas Event

Ashleigh Pink suggested considering a bespoke event rather than a traditional pantomime, with a magician available to perform at the hall.

The Parent Council was supportive of the proposal.

Jackie Farrell, Kirsty Grieg and Ashleigh Pink will coordinate the event/dates.

6. Music Provision

Samara asked whether Mrs Richardson could return to provide music tuition.

Jackie confirmed that Mrs Richardson is available to return, although this would need to take place on a Monday.

Kirsty McNiven asked whether the tennis vouchers had been returned.

Jackie will check this. Kirsty McNiven has the relevant contacts and is happy to follow this up.

Kirsty McNiven also asked about music provision for P5 and younger pupils, including guitar.

Jackie explained that guitar and brass tuition is currently only available to P6 and P7 pupils.

Jackie will speak to the brass teacher to establish whether the age range could be widened.

Longer-Term Music Funding

Ashleigh suggested exploring multi-year funding for music tuition, which would provide greater certainty for the school and allow Jackie to plan the curriculum provision annually.

It was suggested that this could potentially be agreed with McLaggan as a longer-term funding commitment.

Jackie will speak to the current music teacher to establish what level of commitment she would be able to make and for what period.

The current cost of music tuition is £120 per week, covering all three classes.

7. Fundraising Strategy

Clare Balfour noted that, although the Parent Council currently has a healthy balance, there is significant fundraising activity and questioned whether another large raffle should be considered.

It was noted that the previous minutes recorded an intention to hold a larger raffle every two years, recognising that there had been some fundraising fatigue amongst parents during the previous year.

Nathan suggested that hampers could be used for the school shows as these would represent a smaller fundraising ask.

The Parent Council agreed that a larger raffle could be considered, but that it should have a clear fundraising purpose and target. It was felt that linking fundraising to a specific goal, such as music tuition, could encourage more people to participate and provide a stronger reason for families and businesses to donate.

8. Sports and Outdoor Learning

Nathan asked about the school's current sports equipment.

Kirsty Grieg highlighted that additional badminton rackets would be useful as there is currently a shortage.

Ashleigh asked whether development of a MUGA could be something that McLaggan Trust might support.

Jackie and Kirsty will include this within the wider wish list of school requirements.

Jackie also confirmed that she intends to explore funding for additional outdoor learning opportunities. The recent activity involving Biscuit had been very well received by pupils and staff, and there was interest in providing more opportunities of this type.

9. School Bus Behaviour

Suzanne Emptage asked whether a school memo could be sent to parents regarding behaviour on one of the school buses.

Jackie confirmed that she had gone on to the bus today and had spoken to all the children about appropriate behaviour.

Jackie advised that, if the behaviour continues, the school will escalate the matter and contact parents directly.

Zoya asked whether it would be possible to change the drivers, as the other school bus does not appear to experience the same issues.

Jackie explained that she believes the drivers have established routes and arrangements, but will continue to monitor the situation.

10. Any Other Business

Science Provision

Zoya asked about science classes.

Jackie explained that science forms part of the school curriculum and is taught as part of the pupils' learning.

11. Actions Agreed

Action	Responsible	Timescale
Provide further information on Gymfest arrangements and bus costs	Jackie Farrell	When confirmed
Explore an activity at Madderty PS for the Easter term with Nick Keilor	Jackie Farrell	To progress
Check whether a quote has been obtained for replacing broken playground equipment	Jackie Farrell	To progress
Develop a school equipment/provision wish list	Jackie Farrell & Kirsty Grieg	To progress
Circulate parent survey seeking views on priorities for Madderty PS	Ashleigh Pink	To progress
Coordinate pupil feedback through the Pupil Council	Kirsty Grieg	To progress
Create a portfolio of successful events/activities	Parent Council	During the year
Circulate Easyfundraising link	Samara McLaren	To progress
Coordinate bespoke Christmas event/magician	Jackie Farrell, Kirsty Grieg & Ashleigh Pink	Before December
Check tennis vouchers	Jackie Farrell / Kirsty McNiven	To progress
Explore widening music provision to younger pupils	Jackie Farrell	To progress
Speak to current music teacher about longer-term commitment	Jackie Farrell	To progress
Explore further outdoor learning funding	Jackie Farrell	To progress
Consider larger raffle linked to a specific fundraising goal	Parent Council	To discuss
Explore MUGA and sports equipment requirements	Parent Council	To progress

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parent Council meeting will take place online on:

Tuesday 3rd November at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at:7.40pm

Minutes prepared by:

Ashleigh Pink

Secretary, Madderty Primary School Parent Council