

AGM MINUTES OF MEETING  
ALLOWAY PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL  
4 OCTOBER 2022

Attendance

Michelle Gass, Laura Cameron, Julie Grant, Catriona Andrews, Claire Campbell, Fiona Meney, Lauren Miller, KK, JL.

Apologies

Emma Ledger, outgoing chair

Minutes of last meeting dated 25/05/2022

Read and approved

Matters arising

Julie Grant confirmed she sent both photos and a report to Asda re the jubilee grant they kindly gave APS and she immediately received an acknowledgement of them both from Asda.

Fiona Meney advised she is still awaiting plans from David Oliver re the trim trail for Mitie's approval as they will not give the go ahead without them.

A fixed trail with safety bottoming and minimal height might get easier approval and if costs are high we could look at buying sections at a time and maybe use a totaliser to allow everyone including the kids to see progress being made. We could also consider separate fundraising for the trim trail.

Laura Cameron & Fiona Meney are currently looking for a replacement Santa/s and have a few in mind.

Fiona Meney advised that Tempest are still being used for the school photos which are due in November. The school is given a percentage of the monies made from Tempest but she is happy to look at other options if we do not want to continue to use them in the future due to quality issues and cost for parents. We however will need to let the school know asap to avoid booking and then cancelling at a later date.

After school clubs have already started, Lauren Miller has taken this on along with Lunchtime clubs with teachers facilitating these. Active Schools are still not fully up & running as they are currently short staffed due to an illness. The school hope to bring external agencies back in once this planner has returned to work.

Miss Connell is expecting a baby and will be on maternity leave but her replacement will cover the orchestra and continue to work at building it back up.

Welcome received from proposed chair Laura Cameron, Laura is keen for the group to be involved with both the school and the children, and to create an environment where the Parent Council makes parents feel free and welcome to put items forward and raise them accordingly but not individual matters re children and/or staff. We hope to work as a team along with Fiona Meney and her staff.

### Chair Report

The PTA learned to work in a new way during covid by using MS teams, and finding replacement ways of doing things and were supported by a small team of people. They kept things going, focused on continuing to support the P7's, gifted them ties not calculators as a leaving gift this year which they will probably continue to do moving forward.

The P7 leavers photo were paid by the Parent Council, along with xmas gifts which were paid for by the profits of the xmas raffle, etc. They raised funds to cover costs of the xmas party bags while the school kept the kitchen closed and bought dominoe's pizzas instead, again another change which might be carried forward in coming years.

The Parent Council paid for the infant years and EYC Christmas books. They had the book fayre remotely which was reasonably successful but if they have the support, it was felt face to face was a better option in future. An appropriate time in future to assist with parents helping like parents' night possibly?

The EYC received money from the Parent Council to buy garden supplies such as vegetables & flowers which were well received.

The Parent Council assisted in the appointments of both the new head & depute teacher.

Julie Grant successfully applied for and was granted almost £1000 from Asda to supply the Jubilee party with ice cream, an entertainer and of course treats.

Easy fund raising continued throughout the year and is being promoted and utilised in the background with cheques being received each quarter and a bonus on 31/09/22 of £62 for getting 62 new members before midnight that night.

The chair thanked APS staff for assisting the Parent Council to date, also the parents but especially Emma Ledger, the outgoing chair for her hard work and efforts.

### Financial Report

Fundraising activities were reviewed by the new treasurer Claire Campbell over a 16 month period. The income over that period was just short of £9000, and the expenditure near to £5,500.

On 09.09.22 the bank balance was £3683.07, with £900 still to come off for the Panto buses and £470 for P7 hoodies which leaves £2253.46

On review the xmas cards were very successful as was the xmas raffle, therefore we should perhaps start thinking about these in the near future to be best organised.

The Parent Council still need an auditor for the accounts and Claire Campbell should be able to arrange this.

All incoming mail will now go to Claire Campbell and Claire will set up a process to reimburse any expenses incurred by members moving forward.

#### Elections of new positions

CHAIR Laura Cameron was proposed by Julie Grant and seconded by Catriona Andrews  
VICE CHAIR Catriona Andrews was proposed by Laura Cameron and seconded by Claire Campbell

TREASURER Claire Campbell was proposed by Catriona Andrews and seconded by Laura Cameron

SECRETARY Michelle Gass was proposed by Claire Campbell and seconded by Laura Cameron

FUNDRAISER Julie Grant was proposed by Laura Cameron and seconded by Catriona Andrews

These positions are for the year 2022/23 .

Positions are reviewed annually and normally held for a maximum of 3 years but can be extended to a maximum of 5 (in the same role).

#### Head Teachers Report

Mrs Meney gave a HUGE thank you to Emma Ledger and to Julie Grant for their roles to date in the parent council, especially over the challenging time caused by covid. She is very grateful for them and indeed others for stepping up, keeping going & fundraising and not all schools managed this.

It is now a new session, time to relaunch, allocate new roles, & welcome Lauren Miller her new Depute Head. Mrs Meney hopes together we can look at the core, be welcoming, work together, encourage new members, gain information & share ideas, again not for individual situations. Mrs Meney hopes to move the school forward, look at where it is at, we have amazing staff, fab kids, and would like to give opportunities which we couldn't during covid times.

#### VISION & VALUES

The vision at APS is to create a safe, happy, caring & inclusive school where everyone feels valued, and are encouraged to succeed, are treated with respect, and enjoy learning while working together to be the best they can be.

School values are based on honesty, equality, responsibility and cooperation.

These were formed 6/7 years ago and the hope is that we all sign up to this and do our very best to achieve what is possible.

STANDARD & QUALITY REPORT 21-22 - This is on the website, it is a legal requirement & it has a set agenda school have to report on.

IMPROVEMENT PLAN - This is now a 2 year plan and we are in year 2/2 this year, which means there will be a new plan next year. Curricular night is next week with management team presentations & the chance to discuss learning with the teachers. They key priorities are

LITERACY  
NUMREACY  
HEALTH & WELLBEING  
SOCIAL STUDIES

They have lead teachers in each category

PEF (Pupil Equity Fund) This is organised by the Scottish government, it gives each school a sum of money each year. £18000 is the smallest we have had and the largest was £24000. Some schools get £240000 and this is calculated according to "areas of deprivation". APS have single figures in the categories considered while other schools have 90 plus percent if they are in a very deprived area. It should be spent on something which has an impact and as £18,000 is not a lot for kids who require the additional help in the categories considered, it should still help to close the gap from the other children as much as possible.

APS has employed an additional school assistant to target learning over 23 hours a week and a 0.4 principal teacher, (difference between teacher & principal teacher, not full sum required) people resources make most impact for those kids so this is why it has been spent in this area.

It has been discussed that budget cuts will be coming to SAC from the government, we need to make sure that this doesn't affect schools detrimentally if possible.

APS would like to give back to the community & cut costs when possible, find new ways, give notice when possible if costs apply, give time to save, consider recycling uniforms, etc.

Mrs Meney would like to get dates in diaries for future meetings and to plan ahead.

### Fundraising

Julie Grant has been looking for any current grants available, she wonders what do the kids need and what they would wish for, she will look and apply for funding but noticed that a lot of charities have closed for the winter and will reopen spring time. She can see science grants, STEM grants, learning through landscapes Scotmid, co-op, niavia charity trust, food growing projects, (gardens, outdoor learning, poly tunnels) and will start applying now.

25/26 November will be the xmas fayre at school and we discussed catering and food, eg vans, soup donations, chilli, etc but we would need the school kitchen & staff which comes at a cost.

Xmas books for infants and EYC have already been bought by the PTA and wrapped by staff and are stored in the cupboard with the santa suit.

The PTA would like to bring in a portable cinema for the children, Xmas might be a good time to have our first, they considered if/what to charge.

Mrs Meney can let them have the gym class from 3pm as it would be held out with hours, a let will be required, It costs around £400 (will get a deal if we do 2 movies)

thoughts were that one for P1 - P3 and another later for P4 - P7 would work best.

XMAS cards/gifts raised a good profit but Mrs Meney asked that we give as much time to be organised as possible, 3 weeks' notice would be ideal.

Teachers class gifts were discussed especially with the cost of living rising and being a concern for families. Mrs Meney enforced that as teachers [and while always grateful], they do not expect gifts at any time, handmade gifts are always loved and appreciated but please do not feel obliged to contribute to a class gift should anyone offer to do a collection.

The Parent Council would like to organise a Halloween Costume swap shop - old costumes brought in and swap for a different one/size. Mrs Meney thinks this could be done in the library and has rails we could borrow.

AOCB

None raised.

Date & Time of Next Meeting

To be arranged.