

Clovenfords Parent Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Date	31 January 2023
Location	Online Teams Meeting

1.	Attendance	Action
	Katie Finlay, Isla Young, Ashley Sharp, Karen Seaton, Alison Saxon, Fiona Bayne, Jo Paterson, Lynn Bertram, Linda Davie, Jennifer Skinner, Richard Sinclair, Leanne Wilson	
2.	Apologies Received	
	Julie Decoteau, Maggie Largey, Samantha Kellock, Caroline Myles	
3.	Approval of previous minutes	
	Approved.	
4.	Matters arising from previous minutes	
	Thank you to everyone with regards to the Christmas fair. A reminder that we raised £733 overall. Wonderful effort.	KF
	P7 hoodies - distributed last week however have been recalled due to quality issues. Writing on sleeves has come off. FB been in touch with supplier and they are happy to have a look at them and return to us as soon as possible.	FB
5.	Financial Report	
	Christmas fair: raised £733 Christmas card commission: £269.45 Clothingfords: £24 Balance: £1530.98 (£1816 - Julie's kitchen grant)	IY
	Garden leaders have sourced a greenhouse at cost of £1055. Can parent council approve - yes - all in agreement.	IY
	Future spending: possibly on shed/for outdoor equipment. Class trips - parent council to work out suitable budget and report back to AS.	IY/AS
	KF requested permission to purchase weighted blanket for nurture room - parent council agreed amount of £30	KF
	Nursery graduation gifts: AS to consult with teachers and inform parent council on cost of graduation gifts for ELC pupils.	IY/AS
	Headphones for pupils Ipads: Inspire Learning been consulted to ask which ones they use which are better quality. Approximately £8 per unit. Parent council to purchase enough for 1 or 2 classes if able?	IY/AS
		IY/AS
6.	Headteacher Report	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● great the garden leaders have got organised with the greenhouse, thankyou. Going to be great addition to the learning space. ● thank you for weighted blankets, Occupational Therapy input with regards to developing environment int he school, targeting sensory developments that some children need. ● in terms of fundraising, great that we are working on the outdoor areas as well. See what people’s thoughts are with the results of parent survey. Let’s continue to work in partnership. ● Paul Bertram, our school cleaner has donated planters through Men’s Shed charity. School will donate a fee to the charity. ● class trips. Tapestry has given school free entry. Classes to pay for transport, this is dependent on size of bus required. This year, pupils have been asked to contribute to transport cost, next year, if we can ask Parent Council to think about a policy/guide to contribute to the costs then this would be very beneficial. ● P1 farm visit is fully funded for example. ● farm to fork visiting the school tomorrow ● Dog’s Trust visiting the school ● Active Schools P6/7 pupils are working towards their junior sports leadership award, so classes are getting lunchtime opportunities for play and sport, led by the P7s. ● Still working on our school aims with the children and our citizenship gatherings on a Wednesday morning which are very interactive. ● Care Inspectorate report at the end of December 2022 is now published online. Very pleased overall with our grade and the key messages in the report. It is in the ELC too for parents to see. ● Scots competition for primary schools - this year the children can select a Scots poem to recite. P1-3, P4/5, P6/7 - one from each category will be chosen to do a recitation at Galashiels Academy on 3 March. More information to follow in weekly update and on Showbie. ● Usborne Books - sponsored read to start after February half term, will be sponsoring minutes read. Sponsorship forms will be made available. Also, ‘read into March’ which will encompass World Book Day. ● Fischy Music are coming on the 27th February to the school. They run workshops for the children to learn songs which they will perform in the afternoon. ● Open afternoon coming up - would like to do ‘cafe conversations’ with the children and parents. You can have a conversation with your child in the school about their learning and add notes to things on Showbie for the children with school Ipadds, comment and give feedback. This will be done in houses - if you have children in different houses this will be accommodated for. 	AS
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tweed Togs - have been in touch with regards to options for items for P7 residential trips. Might be worth exploring if that is something we could do in the Galashiels area. Outdoor clothing, shoes, boots available. • Parent Handbook - in the process of being updated. It will be uploaded to the school website. Would appreciate Parent Council input. 	
7.	Clovenfords Community Council Update	
	<p>Lots of developments with the football pitch area in Clovenfords. End of March will be getting a delivery of 24 fruit trees so we can plant an orchard. Community Council asking if the school pupils would like to be involved?</p> <p>AS - yes, children would love to be involved.</p> <p>Also receiving 30 native trees for planting. Also wildflower meadow plans to be a flower field.</p> <p>LD - asked about getting the bridge repaired. AS - bridge is owned by Scottish Borders Council. They have said it is safe to use with restriction of three people crossing at any one time. Community council do not have the funding at present but hopefully in the future, the bridge will be replaced.</p> <p>If school want to use the bridge they will have to risk assess and use as advised by the council.</p> <p>KF - the issue of unsafe parking around the school has been raised on our Facebook page. Is there anything the community council can do with raising awareness of that?</p> <p>AS - can feedback to the council</p> <p>A.Saxon - can communicate with PC Lee Harper - school liaison officer. It is very challenging for the school as they do not have any jurisdiction outside the school gate. A police presence now and again as a reminder and for support could be beneficial.</p> <p>KS - perhaps a leaflet drop by the school kids - asking people to think about where they are parking - pop them on windscreens.</p> <p>A.Sharp - will feed back to our councillor.</p>	<p>ASharp</p> <p>ASaxon</p> <p>LD</p> <p>KF</p> <p>ASharp ASaxon</p> <p>KS</p> <p>ASharp</p>
8.	Fundraising	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fundraising meeting held on 12 January. Minutes are on the school website. • parent forum survey sent out to all parents asking them opinion on where Parent Council funds are spent - only 9 responses so far. • KF attended the council chair's meeting in January. Queries with regards to licences required for various events. Waiting on advice from the council - hopefully a pre-event pack that tells us what we need. • AS - fundraising idea of a ladie's night at the pub, with beauty, fashion, raffle, etc. Or beetle drive. Only concern on holding the event at the Clovenfords Inn is that they want a minimum spend of £250 behind the bar. • Welly walk for ELC 	<p>KF</p> <p>KF</p> <p>KF</p> <p>ASharp</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Car boot sale 25 or 26 March - to be held at the school. JP - suggested not a Saturday as competing with other markets and childrens activities. Perhaps better turnout on a Sunday? School to rent out tables if required, entry fee per car. AS - school happy with either day - parent council to confirm with school. RS - with regards to licence for coffee etc, there's ways of charging an entry fee which will include your food and drink rather than selling it. ● LD - family quizzes - use the school hall. Include the kids. LB - Callum Clement has run quizzes at Gala Academy so he might be somebody to help with that. ● KF - RS - perhaps something with the kids and the rugby world cup later in the year? ● May Fair - 20 May. Ideas: face painting, tattoos, nail art, rugby assault course, raffle. To be held at the school. 	<p>KF</p> <p>LD</p> <p>KF</p>
9.	School Photos	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● negative feedback from several families with regards to quality and price of the recent school photos ● Other photographers have been suggested - YID and Vanilla Moon for example. Prices to be sent to the school for consideration, as well as feeding back to Tempest. AS - gather more information and see what people prefer going forward. RS - agreed, felt a duty to buy them but very expensive. KF - thank you for your feedback. 	<p>KF</p> <p>LB/IY</p> <p>ASaxon</p>
10.	Clothingfords	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● pleased to hear that people are using the hub on an adhoc basis. Not a great response to my request for volunteers to man the hub twice a month, however have most dates covered now. Plan to open twice a month. Donations will be banked monthly as agreed with the treasurer. Thank you to Angela McGlinchey for designing the logo. ● Connect - recent scottish government survey on school uniforms and the use of them, so pleased that we are doing what we can with reusing ours. ● at future parents evenings/transition events, bring out a rail of the clothes and/or open the store for families to have a look at what is available. ● AS - could contact Galashiels Academy and see if they have uniforms for transition P7 to S1. ● LB - will speak to Lewis with regards to rugby and hockey kit for S1 as this can be a huge expense too. 	<p>KF</p> <p>KF</p> <p>KF</p> <p>ASaxon</p> <p>LB</p>
11.	Class Reps Feedback	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dyslexia screening - what is the process? AS - SBC has their own dyslexia policy that has been adopted from the Scottish Government's definition of dyslexia. There is not a clear, set criteria for dyslexia as it depends on individual children continuing to experience difficulties and challenges. Our teachers are very professional and they know how to support 	<p>JP</p> <p>ASaxon</p>

	<p>individual children in school. They will plan for targeted interventions, small group work, one-to-one. We use our support staff to support children who may have some challenges with their literacy. Then open a literacy profile and build that up over time, usually from P3 onwards. Once an identification has taken place, the teachers are already adapting their teaching and supporting the children with different strategies. Showbie can be beneficial as we can put on voice notes and various other things to support dyslexic learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AS - we would always encourage parents individually to get in touch with their class teachers first of all to see if they have any concerns. We have parent consultations twice a year - if we felt there was anything we needed to speak to parents about, the teachers would be in touch with individual parents. ● JP - what would be the next stage after the literacy profile is in place? AS - we work as a team, with teachers, OT, educational psychology at which best support we would need to make sure that any identification of any difficulty in learning, not just dyslexia was properly considered. It might be that we get another specialist in, so we might be on a waiting list or we get strategies from another service. It is not a linear process. For dyslexia identification, generally speaking, we would be looking a lot at what the literacy difficulties and challenges were for the child and anything else would be part of additional support needs profile the child would have. ● School meal concerns from parents: concerns over portion size and what is being selected on the menu is not being offered, for example, vegetables not being offered with pizza. Feedback from parents that children are coming home hungry. I know that I have raised an issue before and 'waste' was mentioned - my concern is that portions are being cut to help reduce waste. How much are children being actively encouraged to eat the veg? Concern with cost of living crisis that people are sending their kids to schools with extra food as the portion size is not enough to fill them up. ● AS - we will certainly feed this back to kitchen services. School lunches are not within our management - it is a completely separate service. Can confirm that we do get a lot of waste - do take on board what you are saying about children being hungry as we do not want that. Myself and Miss Skinner are in the dinner hall every day and children have to put their hand up and ask to leave so that we can see how much they have eaten. They are always encouraged to eat things - however there is still a lot of waste. Today for example there was left over pizza so some children had seconds. ● AS - we have recently changed morning break time and made it a bit earlier so children may have a better appetite at lunchtime. Some children come to school with hefty snacks at 	<p>ASaxon</p> <p>JP ASaxon</p> <p>JP</p> <p>ASaxon</p>
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	<p>break so it is inevitable they might not be so hungry at lunchtime. We will feed back to catering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JP - photos of the lunches were not appealing. AS - SBC provides the food and the menus as well. Julie and Fiona in the kitchen have to cook with what they are given. ● LB - As a parent, I fully trust that Alison and Miss Skinner check that children are not going to throw all their dinner in the bin. There is a review going on at present across the region with regards to health promoting and food quality, but I think that what the kids are offered is excellent and I think you cater well for people with intolerances. AS - guidelines are around nutritious quantity and quality. What we see in the playground is a lot of processed food. It is absolutely the parents choice and decision to do that. If children are used to eating certain types of food, then it's harder to push the more healthy options at school dinner time, as of course these will taste different. We will feedback. It is SBC's catering service and the policy and menus are a four week rolling programme across all of the schools. ● KF - is there scope, if relevant or feasible, for parents to visit during a dinner time? Is that too intrusive - then they could see what happens? AS - that is definitely something we could look at in an informal setting. ● LB - there needs to be an element of trust that teachers are doing all they can, I wouldn't be happy at someone checking on what's going on at a dinner hall. It's a free school meal. Needs to be trust. AS - we would want people to come in with an open mind and it being more of an observation. I don't want Julie or Fiona to feel uncomfortable but we could do a 'come in and eat with your P1 child' for example. Would encourage it in a positive way. Also encourage families to look at the photographs of the meals and discuss when they are picking their options on Parent Pay. KF - please feed that back to the parents and we can take it from there. KS - It is difficult for teachers to keep an eye on every single child at lunch time as there are a lot of children to feed in a break time. Parents need to come to these meetings to talk about this. Parents have the option to send their children with a packed lunch too. JP - Not everyone can afford a packed lunch and some are going home hungry. Saying if you're not happy, tough is not the answer. There needs to be a middle ground. It might just be the P4 mum's or it might be across the board that people feel like this, but it's definitely a big group of people. I understand the challenges they are up against having been a dinner lady myself. LB - I don't think anyone is saying, 'tough, get on with it' - I'm saying we have 3 choices; soup and a sandwich and two hot meals. That's a good choice. JP - we can look at the 'Pick 5' as they are not being offered 5 things. I looked into this as my children were not happy as one sandwich and a piece of fruit is not sufficient for a child 	<p>ASaxon</p> <p>JP/AS</p> <p>LB</p> <p>KF</p> <p>LB</p> <p>KS</p>
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	<p>during the day. So I do not think it's a great choice. We need to feed back to SBC if there is nothing we can do at school level. KF - thank you everyone for their input. Mrs Saxon to feedback. We tend to find that people say a lot of things that are not fed back to us so thank you. On a positive note it's great that parents are actually talking to you and Jo. As a class rep that's part of the job - you are there for people to talk to and then raise the issues on this forum. Jo - if you feed back to the P4 parents and let's see if they want to come into the school. I take on board what everyone has said. Let's see what we can do and try to get a resolution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FB - some positive feedback from P7. For the transition meeting with the head of the academy - thought was fantastic. And the Burn's Supper. The P7s were phenomenal. KF - thank you. 	<p>LB</p> <p>JP</p> <p>KF</p> <p>FB</p>
12.	AOCB	
	None	
14.	Date of next meeting	
	Monday 24 April 2023	