

**Minutes of Bell's Brae Primary School Parent Council
Held on Microsoft Teams
On Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 6.30pm**

Present

David Thomson	Chairperson
Louise Sandison	Vice Chair
Katrina Nicolson	Parent Member
Sarah Moore	Parent Member

In Attendance

Jennifer Wadley	Head Teacher
Dawn Ratter	Clerk

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Kerri Redfern and Frances Tait.

2. Approval of the previous minutes (Wednesday 10th February 2021)

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by Sarah Moore and seconded by Katrina Nicolson.

3. Review of matters and actions arising from previous minutes

Purchase of ICT Devices

The Parent Council provided a donation of £1,115 to the school for the purchase of ICT devices. This funding was matched by Shetland Areogenerators Ltd. This enabled the school to purchase 3 laptops and 4 ipads. Jennifer said they also used some PEF money to purchase a further 10 laptops and 8 ipads. Every class now has a set number of devices and every floor has a bank of devices which is great. A number of pupils also got devices through the Digital Inclusion Fund and the school had two bids in with Connective Scotland and got an extra 30 devices to families. These devices were given out on the understanding that teachers can ask pupils to take them into school to support their learning, if necessary.

4. Treasurer's Report

The available balance is £1,813.31. The income from APS of £811.00 has been received and the only expenditure was the donation to the school for the devices.

5. Staffing update

- PE Teacher – this vacancy is currently being covered by James Soper. The school have been asked to extend Kerri Redfern's secondment for another year. This has been agreed on the basis that the school can recruit to the vacancy. The post has been advertised once but there were no applicants and is currently re-advertised. Jennifer has stressed to the Schools Service that a qualified PE teacher is necessary.
- Numbers in the ELC for the next school session are significantly lower than in previous years. This results in the ELC setting being overstaffed for the next session. One of the Early Years Practitioner has handed in their notice, so there will be no recruitment for this vacancy. There are some new pupils coming into the school with additional support needs, so there will be some ring-fenced internal recruitment to see if any of the ELC Support Workers would be interested in being a Learning Support Worker for a year. The other alternative is to use some of the ELC Support Staff to support the

Play Development that would be happening in P1. No one will be losing their job but the school might be using staff slightly differently.

- There will be 2 new Probationers for the new school year.

6. School Improvement Priorities 2021/22

The responses from the parent/pupil/staff questionnaires have resulted in 4 key actions plans to take forward next year:

- Supporting Mental Health – supporting the mental health of pupils and raising the profile of ‘What is mental health?’ Promoting the Zones of Regulation with support from Education Psychology staff.
- Children’s Rights and Empowering Learners - looking at all pupils in P6/7 being part of leadership group and taking forward development within the school.
- Literacy – developing writing skills across the whole school. Focus this on some professional reading and asking staff to look at best practice on the area of feedback. Ensuring pupils are given feedback but also given time to act on the feedback given.
- Developing the ELC setting – ensuring it is more in line with the current thinking around play based learning.

The final action plan will be focusing on Nurture (PEF money). There are many pupils who coped really well during lockdown but there are number of pupils who have come back to school with levels of anxiety. The plan is to use the PEF money to get the Breakfast Club up and running and employ a Learning Support Worker who will really promote the self-esteem of these pupils and give them opportunities to use the polycrub and go out and do some experiential learning in the community to boost their self-confidence and give them the opportunity to speak in a small group.

7. Next social events

David attended the Parent Council bi-annual meeting last week. There was a lot of talk on social events and many parent councils have been looking at doing some outdoor fundraising events e.g. gardening nights, activities nights, book fayres etc. There were some excellent ideas of innovative thinking from Parent Councils for engagement with Parent Forums. There was a discussion held on whether there would be time to organise an event at Bell’s Brae before the end of term or possibly something for the beginning of next term, making the most of the end of the summer weather. Louise will take an action to arrange a social committee meeting to discuss this further. Jennifer advised to be cautious this term as the Scottish Government guidance issued this week states there is to be no parent spectators at sports days so any large events with parents/carers may not be permitted.

ACTION: Louise

8. Donation towards P7 Leaver’s Event/Gift

The school have made the decision to purchase leaver’s hoodies for the P7 pupils. The school have purchased the hoodies but would be happy to accept a donation towards these from the Parent Council. The Parent Council will donate £235 towards the cost.

ACTION: Dawn

9. Review of Action Plan

The Action Plan was approved by the Parent Members present with a slight change to point 5, to include updates through social media.

10. Lerwick Traffic Order

The Lerwick Traffic Order remains an item the Roads Department need to move forward but is not on the table at the moment. The ambition is that in the second half of this year a consultation will be launched. David said although it is frustrating this hasn't got any further, he is reassured the Roads Department are taking this very seriously and are committing to a full technical and regulatory process when taking this forward. The opportunity for the Parent Council is to feed into the process. It is now a much wider project and not restricted to just Gilbertson Road.

11. Activate Shetland Project

The project is now moving forward and has grown considerably since the last meeting. A grant of £20,000 has been awarded to spend on a public health consultation. It is going to be very important to ensure the schools and the school populations get the priority focus on the development of the project. David continues to support/help the steering group that has been established. Over the summer the consultancy company who undertakes these type of public health studies will be coming to Shetland to engage with the population and community organisation that exist within Shetland. In the new school year they will want to communicate with schools and parent councils. Hopefully by this time next year, the whole of Shetland will be involved in game for 6 weeks to see how far you can walk/sprint/cycle etc.

12. Correspondence

None.

13. AOCB

Parent Members

Louise, Sarah and Frances will all stand down next year as their children move on to the AHS. Louise suggested trying to encourage some new members to join.

Christmas Cards

The Parent Council agreed to run the Christmas card project again this year.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting, including the AGM will be Monday 20th September 2021 at 6.30pm.