

Burra Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting of Burra Parent Council held on Vscene on Thursday 19th November 2020 at 7pm

Present: Kay Anderson (Chair)
Ashley Ritch (Vice Chair)
Kate Anderson (Parent)
Julia Halcrow (Parent)
Denise Duncan (Parent)
Carole Smith (Parent/ Police)
Sam Gibney (Parent)

In Attendance: Zuzanna O'Rourke (Clerk)
Helen Robertson (Head Teacher)

- **Notice of Meeting:**

Kay welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- **Apologies:** Shannon Thomason, Jennifer Nicolson, Trish Reid

- **Approve Minutes of meeting held on 2nd September 2020.**

Minutes were approved by Kay and seconded by Helen.

- **Business Arising:**

1. Road Cycle Safety

In light of the recent accident Helen has visited all classes to emphasise the importance of wearing bike helmets and high visibility clothing. A number of children cycling to school have not completed their level 2 Bikeability training yet. Ideas for a cycle safety day for all classes, to possibly include visits from the Police (Carole), ambulance service, A&E nurses (Kay to organise), SIC Road Safety (Elaine Skinley and Fiona Johnson – Sam to organise), Active Schools (Sanna Aitken), Shetland Bike Project. To be looked at after Christmas depending on the pandemic situation - may need to be a virtual event.

2. Parents reports feedback and communication

All happy with communication with the school. Letters are being sent by email although parents and carers can opt in for paper copies if they wish. Old website needs to be archived - Helen to follow up. Kay raised the issue of Dojo messages sometimes coming out too late in the morning - Helen explained that teachers endeavour to message on the day before but sometimes things come up at the last minute. There are also connectivity issues which sometimes cause problems. Good feedback on the monitoring reports. The new 'Learning Across the Curriculum' box shows the pupils' achievement in topic work and general attitude.

3. Parental engagement evening

Unlikely to happen. Ideas to share pupils' work: 'Take a Look Book': a snapshot of all weeks' work.

4. Dog fouling

Unfortunately, the problem seems to persist. The school grounds are a community amenity and it would be a shame to close them to the public. Sam suggested washing the affected areas with hot water and bleach to deter dogs - Helen to pass on to Head Cleaner. Other ideas: share on the community's Facebook page; pupils to make posters to be displayed around school grounds to discourage people from bringing dogs in; pupils to make a short video to be shared via social media.

5. Covid shared play areas feedback

Good feedback on shared play areas. Kay thinks that pupils like the way they rotate the areas and seem to better appreciate the great facilities they have access to. Sadly, P6 pupils can't all play together as their class is split but Kay wasn't aware of any complaints because of that. Looking towards transition later in the year, when P5, P6 and P7 could mix a bit more, subject to risk assessment. Swimming feedback - a bit more complicated this year, which means there is more waiting for pupils but this is the only way to keep swimming compliant with Covid regulations.

6. Christmas plans

Virtual variety show - pupils recording sketches and various musical items.

7. School fund

The Cycle Challenge brought in £3388, which is a fantastic achievement. We also had a donation of £200 and school's commission from Cauliflower Cards is £250. £227 was spent on servicing 6 donated bikes. They will be used as spare bikes whenever needed. The Parent Council applauds children's fundraising efforts stressing how every little contribution makes a big difference.

8. School Improvement Plan

- a. Outdoor Learning Area: subgroup working on developing: shelter building, submerged shute, old boat to be converted to a climbing frame. Local artist to be commissioned to work on billboards. Pupils will be writing letters to local industries and creating a photo slideshow for Education Scotland.
- b. Connecting Classroom - broadening connections within and outwith Shetland. Looking to establish partnerships with Aith PS as well as schools in Malawi and Glasgow. Each school to grow produce suitable for each area and share their experiences. BA Builders have kindly offered to build large planters for every classroom.
- c. Other areas: improvement in writing and literacy and post-lockdown recovery.

9. AOCB:

- a. cattle grid: Julia suggested looking at ways to have it removed due to safety concerns when walking or cycling. It is likely to be expensive so another option to explore could be removing the gate on the side to help with bottlenecks. Sam offered to contact relevant persons in the Planning Department.

So far, no progress have been made on the problematic area near Playgroup

- b. PC Facebook Page. Kay feels that it is difficult for the parent council to truly represent the views of the wider parent forum, especially now we have restrictions on socialising. A PC Facebook page would help to gather parents' views and opinions. Several members raised objections stating that it would be difficult to moderate and there could also be privacy concerns. In the end it was agreed for Julia to draft a leaflet to remind parents that they can contact members at any time, with a list of all PC members. In term 4 we could take this forward asking for parents' suggestions on best ways to communicate.
- c. School trip: at the moment the guidance is not to book any trips outwith Shetland. Helen to ask – may have to be residential.

Next meeting – Wednesday 20th January at 6.45

Meeting closed at 8.35