

Burra Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting of Burra Parent Council held on Vscene on Thursday 6th May 2021

Present: Kay Anderson (Chair)
Denise Duncan (Parent)
Kate Anderson (Parent)
Sam Gibney (Parent)
Julia Halcrow (Parent)
Ashley Ritch (Parent)

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

- **Notice of Meeting:**
Kay welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- **Apologies:** Jennifer Nicolson, Trish Reid, Carole Smith, Shannon Thomason
- **Approve Minutes of meeting held on 18th March 2021**
Minutes were approved by Julia and seconded by Kate.
- **Business Arising:**
 1. Art partnership and presentation by Gaada. Unfortunately, Amy Gear from Gaada could not attend this time.
 2. Covid mitigations. Helen sought parents' opinion regarding staff wearing masks outdoors. Julia remarked that there is no legal requirement to wear facemasks outdoors and said that she was happy for staff not to wear them. All members agreed.
 3. Staffing for remainder of 2021 and 2021/22 session.
Current staffing is as follows:
 - P1/2 Miss Smith
 - P3/4 Mrs Mikolajczak and Mrs Goodlad (temporary until a permanent teacher is found; recruitment now underway)
 - P5/6 Mrs Hunter
 - P6/7 Mrs Malcolmson
 - Support for Learning: Mrs Louise Moffat, Mrs Ashley Ritch, Mrs Melanie Laursen (Temporary); Mrs Denise Duncan and Mrs Kim Tait (temporary); Alexis Anderson (Pupil equity funded for 2 years)
 - Student teachers (temporary): Lois Paul (P6-7 May-June)
 - Mrs Linda Peterson (piano teacher) has retired and Mrs Pauline Wiseman now visits the school on Mondays.
 - ASN audit has been submitted and Mrs Robertson hopes that this will support additional ASN staffing for the school

4. Parental Communication – Kay. PC members names are now on the school website, including Chairperson's and Clerk's contact details. Julia noticed that some sections of the website don't work on mobile devices. Helen to raise this issue with ICT. Julia suggested that information about Parent Council should be included in school newsletter. Kate proposed that it should also be included in P1 packs for new-starts.
5. Road safety – Helen. Parent Council would like to thank Carole for her excellent presentations regarding importance of being seen on the road, wearing a bike helmet and guidance on responding to accidents. Cattle grid has now been filled – thanks to Sam for pursuing this successfully. Unfortunately, safety is still a problem. Kate noticed children running round the Pink Hall to climb the fence – possible hazard as this is where the school bus reverses. Also, there is still too much traffic on the west side of school, with children running between cars.

Action: **Helen** - liaise with Colin re bus parking.
 Zuzanna and Julia: find out if Community Council has raised the issue with SIC.
 Sam – keep up pressure on Roads Service and request updates regularly to be shared with Helen.
 Helen – ask Early Years to do the same.

Update (Zuzanna): Community Council will contact Neil Hutcheson to inform him of ongoing issues and suggest that new paths/ crossings be considered to mark a safe pedestrian route.
6. School fund – Helen.

School's operating budget is £7000-£8000 per year; this covers subscriptions, staff mileage, school outings etc. Remaining £20 per child needs to pay for stationery, exercise books, art and learning materials.

Outdoor learning project as well as school trips are covered by school fund, which now stands at £6188.

We were also awarded £2760 from British Council for the Connecting Classrooms project.

Grant from Creative Scotland will pay for Gaada artists time and expertise to help design new murals but the school will need to cover the cost of materials. All children are to be involved in creating designs on the theme of My Life in Burra. Artists will then pull them together and carry out the work, with longevity of the project in mind.

Application to Zetland Trust for equipment for new ASN room was unfortunately not successful. SIC will pay for painting, floors and joinery work but the rest will have to be raised by the school.

Helen assured members that school trip part of the school fund is ring fenced.

Julia offered to speak to Sanna Aitken at Active Schools to find out about acquiring hockey equipment. Also to Michael Duncan at SIC and

Joyce at Community Council find out if Parent Council can apply for external grants and if we meet the criteria. Helen also suggested the wind farm fund. **Action – Julia.**

7. Outdoor learning. Helen explained that school outdoor spaces may not look very tidy but they are providing excellent opportunities for creative play and are very well used. Lots of plants growing; Jennifer is delivering the slide soon. Brian Anderson working on raised beds – no date on delivery yet but they are to be ready soon. Helen to organise top soil.
Kate suggested inviting parent helpers when raised beds are ready.

8. Transition – Helen. P7 pupils have been given a tour of AHS by Head of S1 and S2 Mrs Scollay. Pupils have watched an excellent introductory video in class. Parent information evening was offered by AHS online.
New P1 will have had 5 visits to school playground by the end of term where they will be introduced to all staff. Kay to join information evening for new P1 parents on Vscene.
All classes are getting a school trip this term. Sports Day will happen as usual. P7 will have an end-of-year adventure evening, possibly coastering or kayaking. Hopefully Leavers Assembly will take place outdoors so that parents can attend. Reporting on track as usual. Hockey Club has attracted a lot of interest – children are glad to have a bit more of normality again.

9. AOCB. Kay has reported that 2 parents have contacted her with concerns about hens' dirt in the school grounds. Helen said that the matter has been raised with the neighbours and new fence was being erected to keep the hens in.

- Date of next meeting: AGM 8th September at 6pm followed by Parent Council meeting at 6.30.
- Parent Council is seeking to appoint a new Secretary/ Clerk as Zuzanna is leaving the position at the end of term.