

Burra Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting of Burra Parent Council held on Webex on Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 1800 hours

Present: Kay Anderson (Chair)
Denise Duncan (Vice Chair)
Sam Gibney (Parent)

In Attendance: Suzanne Inkster (Clerk)
Helen Robertson (Head Teacher)

Notice of Meeting

Kay welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies received from Ken Naquin and Jennifer Nicolson

Approve Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Proposed by Sam, seconded by Suzanne.

Essy Cart

Kay is still waiting for a response on this. She will forward the response to us by email when it is received.

West Exit Parking

Sam had spoken with the Council's technical staff. Any options for a one-way system would likely require the demolition of an existing structure. The technical staff are willing for the community to come up with any ideas.

Helen discussed real concerns about the darker nights and pupils leaving school with so many cars around. Denise mentioned how congested it is and that further risk is added if the postman or Tesco's arrive around the end of the school day.

Helen stated she thinks we need to keep on this issue as there is too much traffic around the playgroup area with no suggestion where people should park or

pedestrians should walk. Kay wondered about bringing this to the Community Council and that if we collaborated with both Playgroup and Community Council, it might give strength to this cause. Helen will speak with Mhair Garnier about the parking problem when she sees her next week.

Helen discussed the possibility of carrying out a traffic survey around the school at the end of the school day. In addition to this Helen will stress again to parents via letter that if they are picking up school pupils only, then to use the Pink Hall car park.

Helen reported that removing the cattle grid has made it much safer to pupils, but pavements and parking is what needs to be improved. Kay raised whether we could have a recommended route for bairns follow when using the west exit. Helen will ask Lisa Hunter see if this is something the Junior Road Officers could look at.

Sam asked who were the landowners around the area. Kay believes it is the common grazing. Kay and Sam will look into this and draw up the next version of what will go to Roads & Transport.

Covid Mitigations

Helen informed the council that a 'Low Risk Letter' had been sent out today. The current COVID mitigations in place in school are being followed well by staff and pupils. There were no positive cases identified following on from the first COVID case in the school. There is a day cleaner cleaning all touch points in the school.

Helen reported that that when she is notified by parents/carers that a child has tested positive, she must wait until the NHS give the go ahead before informing other parents/carers.

Defibrillator

Peter Tinkler joined the meeting and was welcomed by Kay.

Peter introduced himself and his background in cardiac arrest training. There is a 1 in 10 chance of survival without a defibrillator in the event of cardiac arrest. With access to a defibrillator, chances of survival increase to 72%. Despite the fact that there is a defibrillator located at the public hall, every minute that goes by reduces your chance of survival by 10%. Peter explained that the defibrillators have been reduced in cost and can now be purchased in the range between £675 and £1500 excluding VAT. They are fully automatic, and covers both children and adults. No training is required, as on opening the defibrillator box, you are instructed what to do.

Helen thanked Peter for this information. Discussion was held whether we should put the case to the Education department or, carry out fundraising ourselves. Sam added that the Council has invested in defibrillators across many council establishments, and that they would probably want to know about facts and figures first.

Helen asked for discussion to be held on this at our next meeting. Suzanne will ensure this is included on agenda for the next meeting. Kay thanked Peter for his contribution and he left the meeting.

Cost Of School Day

Kay raised that there is a lot of discussion in the media at the moment about the poverty gap in our society. Many things happen in school and we want to ensure that everyone is included. Helen discussed that there are clothing grants and free school meals available to those in low-income households. The school has additional school uniforms, swimming and gym kits available if needed. Free snacks are given for pupils where necessary. There is no cost at afterschool clubs and any necessary equipment is provided. When fundraisers are carried out eg red nose day, everyone takes part regardless of taking money in or not. If any parents have concerns over this they can contact Helen or Kay.

Netball Shoots

These were taken down temporarily while the mural project was taking place. Active schools will pay for 4 to be put back up again. 2 for younger primary pupils, and 2 for the upper primary. Two of these hoops will be permanently fixed to the fencing in the multi-court.

SIP Developments

Currently the school is working on a progression framework for ICT skills. This will cover what needs to be taught at each primary stage to improve digital literacy, and to ensure that pupils starting at the AHS are ready for the 3rd level stage of CFE.

The school is also looking at ways to track health & wellbeing using the 'SHANARRII' wheel. Shanarri is part of the national framework, and is a tool used for talking about pupils own health and wellbeing. Helen discussed that it has already been discussed at assemblies, so bairns have a good idea of what its about. The school will be trying this out with a few pupils next week. It will also help to identify what we can do in our school to further support pupils.

Christmas Plans

Helen informed members that currently there will not be Christmas concerts held in which parents/carers can attend. The hall remains booked for rehearsals, however it is not looking hopeful. Sam added that there may be future restrictions from the Scottish Government regarding Christmas gatherings. The school has a contingency plan in place where pupils performances will be filmed and shared.

Fundraising

Helen gave feedback on the recent fundraising efforts:

Scholastic booksales has raised £194.00 for new books in the library.
Cauliflower cards has raised £345.00 for the school.
Superstar Challenge fundraiser has raised £2057.

It was agreed that this has been a fantastic effort from all involved. The money will be used to cover finishes costs for the mural and further outdoor resources.

Grant money has been received for ASN, and will help towards resources for pupil learning.

Christmas Hamper

Kay raised the possibility of having the Christmas Hampers raffle even if no Christmas concerts go ahead. This was agreed and it was decided that raffle money could be handed into school office, which would then be passed onto Suzanne. Suzanne will allocate raffle numbers and record the necessary details on Spreadsheet. Bairns will do the raffle draw at their Teams Assembly on Friday 17th December. Update - This is the School Christmas dinner so the draw will take place in the hall with all pupils and staff.

Mural

The mural is almost finished. Helen said that they are waiting for a couple of dry weather days to get the final coating on. Scaffolding remains up at present. Helen said that it has been a great project and the bairns have loved it. Helen thanked Jonno for his efforts and said he has been an inspiration to work with. In addition to this Jonno has created a font called 'Wildthings' which the bairns have really enjoyed using.

School photos

John Coutts, photographer, has offered to take class photos but is not allowed in the building to do this. Helen wondered if parents would like class photos in front of the mural. The parent council agreed this would be a good idea. Helen will make contact with John to arrange. Sam asked whether family photos would be a possibility, however Helen thought that it would not be possible this year since photographs would have to be done outside.

Club Restarts

There are plans to restart clubs now that there has been a change regarding essential school visitors. Peerie Maakers will resume, and also Football & Netball club delivered by Active Schools and parent volunteers. Helen hopes to put letters out soon and will include that any adults helpers must follow the same mitigations as staff.

League matches will be on 15th December for Netball, and 20th December for Football.

New Staff

Helen stated that there have been a couple of new appointments:
Margaret Anderson, as a Learning Support worker for 25 hours per week.
Denise Duncan as Learning Support Assistant/[worker](#) for 21 hours per week.
10 Relief Learning Support worker hours has recently been allocated to the school.

Parents Appointments

Parent Appointments will take place soon with 10 min appointment slots allocated. This will allow 5-7 minutes of talking time, where a short progress report on pupils can be discussed. Helen discussed that lots of schools have tried phone call appointments and it has worked well. It is felt that digital appointments may not be the best at this time due to varying issues with internet connection. Kay said she felt that Class Dojo is a really good way of keeping parents informed of the bairns learning experiences in class.

AOCB

The parent council group discussed putting a procedure in place for parents to follow if their child tests positive at the weekend. Kay and Suzanne are happy to be contacted by email as listed on the school blog. Helen will think about it a bit more and make a decision very soon.

Family engagement night has been set for 22 February 2022.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 February at 1800 hours on Webex.