

Welcome to our Parent Council AGM. I've tried to think of ways to make this section more entertaining, but have concluded that Chairperson's Reports are something of a comedy lead balloon. So, instead, I have endeavoured to keep this as concise as possible.

We have met four times over the past academic year, including one EGM, and have had the pleasure of working alongside a new Acting Head Teacher.

One of the first things we did as a newly elected Council was to update the Constitution. The Constitution had not been amended for some time, and - using guidance from 'Connect' - we worked together to agree changes and make amendments.

Taking advice from 'Connect', we also aligned the Parent Forum and Parent Council, so that we now have one set of Parent Council Office Bearers representing and accountable to the Parent Forum. We merged the Parent Forum and Parent Council bank accounts and now have one bank account with online access, making payments and usage easier and more efficient, and spending decisions more accountable and transparent.

Over the past year, the Garden Gang - a sub-group of Parent Council - has continued its work to make improvements to the school garden. The group has continued to fundraise, organising a second Sunday Teas, and sorting and delivering community Christmas cards. It applied for and was awarded grants by the Community Council, the Community Benefit Fund, and Tesco, and was recently gifted money by Scottish Sea Farms. Combined, this has raised a total of £5300 in the past year. In addition, the Garden Gang secured - by donation - the involvement of SSE, Morgan Sindall and EMN Plant. Morgan Sindall made raised beds and new chalk boards for the nursery, SSE and EMN Plant have landscaped the garden and will assist with the installation of play equipment. The group has also been helped out on shipping costs by Shetland Transport, and has been in regular contact with SIC to ensure that installation meets the required standards.

As part of the overall improvement to the garden, the group continued to ask SIC about the wind turbine and its suitability in a children's play area, and following assessment it was removed on Health and Safety grounds.

In conjunction with Parent Council, the Garden Gang helped to organise an enjoyable Friday Fun garden tidy.

My thanks to everyone involved in the garden project - it has been a fantastic community effort. There will be approximately £2150 of garden funds remaining, and scope to continue the work done so far.

We have strived to make the Parent Council as inclusive and welcoming as possible:

- We have highlighted in both the Constitution and in advance of meetings that any parent or carer can attend any Parent Council meeting.
- We have worked to improve the overall readability of the Constitution.
- We have created a Who's Who in Parent Council poster.
- We have actively encouraged parents and carers to contact us before meetings if they have a concern they would like us to raise.
- We have looked at where we meet in the school building to try to make the space open to all.

- We have raised awareness of Parent Council and what we do using an online flyer.
- Parents have been invited to get involved in fundraising, sub-groups and garden tidies.
- Minutes are available online and parents have been regularly updated via email and in the Parent Council Facebook group.

Discussion topics at meetings have included:

- Additional Support for Learning.
- Bullying and the existing school anti-bullying policy.
- School meals and Parent Pay.
- Music tuition.
- Staffing.

We have tried to create a culture of open dialogue and healthy, constructive disagreement.

We held our usual seasonal events last year and - as ever - it was a brilliant community effort and there was a fantastic turnout. We experimented with a combined Halloween party and Bonfire Night, and with an afternoon Christmas party. We also had a great trip to the pantomime, and a very enjoyable Family Fun night. Thank you very much to everyone who helped out - these events would not happen without you.

Lastly, this will probably be our final Parent Council meeting with Louise. On behalf of the Parent Forum, I would like to thank you for everything you have done over the past year. You have brought a huge amount of energy and passion to Lunnasting Primary. You have had the courage to make positive changes for the benefit of the children and the school community, and have been incredibly professional and positive to work alongside. We wish you all the best in whatever path lies ahead and hope that you will come back and visit us. We look forward to welcoming Laura Tulloch in her role as Head Teacher in due course, and supporting and working with her. Thank you.