

# Lunnasting Parent Forum Meeting

**Date:** Thursday 12 September 2024

**Time:** 6.50pm

**Venue:** Lunnasting Primary School

## **Attendance:**

Louise Malcolmson (LM) Head Teacher  
Charlotte Allam (CA) Chair  
Allison Christie (AC) Vice Chair  
Abbey Thompson (AT) Treasurer  
Tori Johnson (TJ) Member  
Carol Nicol (CN) Member  
Denise Johnson (DJ) Parent

Vivian Anderson (VA) Parent  
Laura Hay (LH) Parent  
Karen Hay (KH) Parent  
Leona Grains (LG) Parent  
Jenni Spall (JS) Parent  
Amy Irvine (AI) Parent  
Rona Johnson (RJ) Parent  
Steven Robertson (SR) Parent

## **1. Apologies:**

Louise Manson (LM) Secretary

## **2. Approval of minutes**

Proposed: Carol Nicol (CN)

Seconded: Allison Christie (AC)

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **3.1 Music Tuition follow-up**

AC has not had an update from Noelle since the first email reply, but will chase this up.

**Action 1: AC to send further email looking for a response to questions raised.**

### **3.2 Approval of Minutes - who is 'allowed' to approve?**

CA has looked into this, there seems to be no hard and fast rules but the general practice seems to be that anyone who has attended the meeting and read the minutes can approve the minutes. Parent Council is responsible for record-keeping, so it is a good idea that this includes a Parent Council member.

## **4. Garden**

### **4.1 Play equipment update**

The play equipment has arrived and is currently being stored, thanks to KH. The weekend of 21/22 Sep is planned for installation of new equipment. Volunteers are required to help move the equipment into place and CA is working on recruiting a number of 'competent parents' to install the equipment.

LG asked whose decision it was to remove a stone from the garden that the children use in a number of imaginative ways? CA and SR both reported that in meetings on-site with both SIC representatives and contractors, the recommendations were that this be removed to allow a safe fall area. For safety reasons the stone was broken up and used for infill as part of the groundworks to make the area ready for the new equipment. The groundworks prep was gifted by SSE and EMN Plant and was greatly appreciated.

There was discussion around the garden gang being aware of a tree that was to be kept in the garden, but keeping a specific stone was not noted in meetings (TJ does recall raising this at a meeting “about a year ago” but does not think it was minuted). Those involved did not feel they had knowledge of this or that it was raised with the garden gang subsequently to request the stone be kept and relocated. CA apologised for any misunderstanding.

#### **4.2 Future plans for Garden Gang subgroup**

The garden gang have worked hard and raised almost £7k in the past 20 months to tidy up the garden and provide new play equipment. CA said she would now like to take a step back from coordinating this in the short term and asked that other parents volunteer to take the lead in garden fundraising or ideas for play equipment.

AC suggested that TJ and LG, as staff members who have direct knowledge of what the children like to play with, could take the lead in identifying a free play / imagination toy that the children could get good use out of to go some way to replace the stone.

There is still some funding for garden/play equipment, and further fundraising ideas could be developed. Further ideas raised for the garden included:

- Repairing the dry stone wall/planticrub as a possible story-telling space
- Creating an outdoor learning area.
- Creating a Willow tunnel.

The group discussed the time capsules that were planted in the garden in the year 2000, and KH thought these were possibly to be opened in 2025.

**Action 2: LM to ask Linda Hughson for any knowledge on the time capsules.**

**Action 3: Any interested LPC Members to put themselves forward to carry on the good work of the garden gang, taking into account the suggestions above.**

**Action 4: TJ and LG to look at possible free play / imagination equipment that could be an alternative to the previous stone.**

#### **5. Fundraising**

## 5.1 What do we want to fundraise for?

TJ wondered about new football goals, and LM reported there may be some possible developments in upgrading the playground, further information will be reported back in due course, once there is more to share with parents. The idea of football goals will be on hold for the moment.

Other ideas discussed included:

- Christmas card fundraiser could be used for Christmas party funds or new books
- Should we have a fundraising group? CN/AC/RJ/TJ/DJ volunteered to take part in this.
- Fundraise for books for the school - subgroup to chat to Linda and talk about how we could help to update the school library. CA will talk to Linda with a view to doing a clear out of books.
- Ideas from last year - cookbook, christmas market, phonebook, variety concert. Online auction, donations. Private FB group.
- Phonebook 2025 - TJ and LG volunteered to organise.
- TJ to speak to Linda about the Easy Fundraiser money and what it could be used for in books.
- Shetland Library - ask them what type of books for different interests, children.

**Action 5: CN/AC/RJ/TJ/DJ to form a fundraising group and take forward fundraising ideas.**

**Action 6: CA to speak to Linda about a school library clear out.**

**Action 7: Fundraising subgroup to talk to Linda about how the PC could help to update the school library.**

**Action 8: Fundraising subgroup to review the ideas from last year.**

**Action 9: TJ and LG to organise a phonebook fundraiser for 2025.**

**Action 10: TJ to speak to Linda about the Easy Fundraiser funds, and if they could be used for new books for the school.**

**Action 11: Fundraising subgroup to speak to Shetland Library about recommendations for books for children, specific interests, authors etc we could look to include in new books.**

## 6. Support for pupils / recent cuts

### 6.1 Overview from Louise Malcolmson

LM gave an update on the reduction in learning support worker hours within the school. The same ASN requirements exist within the school but 15 learning support hours have been cut.

There are also some children awaiting assessment for an additional support need. This is approximately a 50% cut in the learning support available within the school.

QIO Claire Adamson will be speaking at the Parent Council Chairs meeting in November and will give an update to all Parent Councils there, as these cuts to learning support worker hours are across all schools.

## **6.2 Views of parent(s)/carer(s) and impact on families**

Parents and members of staff were all disappointed in these cuts, and felt this was an insult made worse by 33% pay rises announced within the past month for SIC Councillors.

There was discussion about approaching MP and MSP to raise this issue as this is probably not something the wider community/public is aware of.

There was discussion about creating a poll/Jamboard to gather parents' full views on this, CA is going to take this forward.

**Action 12: CA to take forward gathering parents' views and the next steps the LPC would like to take in raising awareness of this issue.**

## **7. Halloween Party and Bonfire Night**

### **7.1 Feedback from last year - do we want to combine the two events?**

Those present agreed to revert to separate events.

### **7.2 Dates**

The Halloween Party date was set for 5.45pm for a 6pm start, Saturday 2 November, Vidlin Hall.

### **7.3 Organisers**

P6 parents will organise the party. Under 5's will decorate the hall. LG requested that no drawing pins be used on the hall walls.

### **7.4 Donations/funding options for Bonfire Night**

This is a wider community/hall event, so no action was taken.

**Action 13: CA will set up two groups of parents to take forward organising the Halloween and Christmas Party.**

## **8. Christmas Party**

### **8.1 Date and time**

The Christmas Party will be on Sunday 8th December from 4pm, Vidlin Hall.

### **8.2 Organisers**

**Action 14: CA will set up two groups of parents, for organising the Halloween and Christmas Party.**

### **8.3 Secret Santa**

CN and LH volunteered to organise parcels.

**Action 15: CN and LH to organise parcels.**

## **9. Pantomime**

### **9.1 Volunteers to help organise**

This year's pantomime is from Open Door Drama and will be Babes In The Wood. AT asked that now we have better banking set up whether parents could pay for tickets by BACS only, this would make managing the payments easier.

**Action 16: CA will liaise with CN and ask for volunteers in the FB group.**

## **10. Any Other Business (AOB)**

Lunna Kirk Preservation Group have asked whether children at the school would like to create a decoration for the Lunna Kirk. Possibly making a bauble, wreath etc to be displayed at the Community Christmas Carol service planned for Sunday 22 December (3pm).

The Lunna Kirk Preservation group suggested donating money to the parent council or to the school to help fund the purchase of kits, probably up to the value of £200. The Parent Council agreed this was a lovely idea and would be happy to take part.

**Action 17: AC volunteered to take this forward.**

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 7 November, 6.30pm at Lunnasting Primary School