

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OLLABERRY PRIMARY PARENT
TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7:00PM**

Present

Erik Robertson	Chair	Natalie Cairns-Ratter	Parent Member
Robert John Copland	Vice Chair	Ann Johnson	Parent Member
Elaine Brown	Parent Member	Ross Keith	Parent Member
Ivan Ramsay	Parent Member	Tom Ratter	Parent Member
Lindsey Stephen	Parent Member		

In Attendance

Hannah Johnson	Head Teacher
Dawn Ratter	Clerk/Treasurer
Andrew Hall	Councillor

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Lauren Ramsay, Franzi Steinhoefer, Kaye Johnson, Raymond Johnson, John Stephen and Sandra Petrie.

2. Approval of previous minutes – Tuesday 27th May 2025

The minutes were approved by Erik Robertson and seconded by Tom Ratter.

3. Matter's Arising from the last meeting

Polycrub

It was confirmed that connecting electricity to the site will not be possible due to insurance issues.

Pirate Ship

Tommy has provided some initial design ideas. The school has also carried out research into educational suppliers, and several options are available.

It was confirmed that applications to SCBF can be made year-round. The application will need to clearly outline objectives and include risk assessments for incorporating the equipment into the school playground.

Lindsey will share the available options for a new Pirate Ship with Erik and Robert John.

ACTION: LS

Signage / Speed Restrictions

It is not possible to change the times when the school zone lights flash. The Parent Council discussed options to help calm traffic speeds around the school. Lindsey suggested adding a smiley face sign or other signage, possibly homemade.

Cllr A Hall proposed raising the issue at the Community Council to consider a permanent speed reduction in the school area. Elaine will write to the Community Council to ask for support in requesting a reduced speed limit.

ACTION: EB

4. Head Teacher Items

Staffing

• **Music Provision**

A temporary contract is currently in place for music. It was agreed that confirmation should be sought in Term 4 to ensure music provision continues into the school year. The temporary arrangement covers North Roe, Urafirth and Ollaberry.

The loss of a music teacher resulted in the cancellation of Ollaberry pupils participation in a Scottish Opera event. The Parent Council wrote to Children's Services to express disappointment at the short notice of changes and requested that staff will be considered in future staffing decisions.

Mr Travins has returned on a temporary contract, and the Parent Council is delighted to see him back. However, there is still some uncertainty due to the temporary nature of the position. Sandra Petrie, QIO is aware of the situation.

- **Art Provision**

Art lessons are currently being delivered every second week. Hannah is covering alternate weeks; however, this reduces her class non-contact time. There is no capacity for the art teacher to provide a double period. Some cover has been arranged, but the permanent art teacher remains signed off.

- **Language Support**

Hannah previously emailed Brae for support but did not receive a reply. L2 remains French, and Mrs Johnson will teach French. L3 needs to be Spanish, as this is the language available at Brae. Hannah will email Brae again, and Elaine has offered to reach out on behalf of the Parent Council. She felt a request from parents may carry more weight given the benefits to pupils.

Hannah will continue to keep everyone updated on staffing developments.

School Improvement Questionnaire

There was an excellent response rate, and the feedback was very positive. All comments were reviewed, and areas for improvement have been identified. The school values parental input and is working on the recommendations, alongside addressing specific needs for individual pupils or groups.

Tidy Up School Grounds

The janitor has been weeding every Monday afternoon. Hannah asked if the Parent Council would be happy to arrange another grounds tidy-up day. Sunday 5th October at 11am was suggested as a possible date. Ross K will share details on the WhatsApp group.

Woodwork Specialists

Hannah asked for parent volunteers to work with small groups of pupils, possibly on a rota basis. She will email parents to seek volunteers.

ACTION: HJ

Transitions

There was a suggestion for more opportunities for cluster schools to meet. Hannah has organised a transition day after the October holidays for P7 pupils from North Roe and Urafirth to spend a full day at Ollaberry. Similar events are planned for future terms, along with other opportunities during the year.

Rights Respecting Schools (RRS)

The school is working towards a Bronze Award. Pupils are learning about their rights and responsibilities, promoting respect for others' rights. This is seen as important for the school ethos and ensuring every pupil feels valued.

Raising Attainment in Numeracy and Maths

While attainment is satisfactory, the school aims to improve further. A new maths scheme aligned with CfE has been ordered to support this goal.

5. Parent Member Items

Parent Feedback and Appreciation

Tom expressed appreciation for the school's efforts, saying: "*Doing great – keep on doing what you're doing!*" Parents feel extremely lucky. Hannah thanked parents for their continued support and noted that the school's success can only be achieved through strong partnership with parents.

Multicourt Surface

Robert John noted that the surface of the multicourt requires attention. Issues include loose top slabs, broken fencing, and a cracked surface. Hannah will report this to Estate Operations.

ACTION: HJ

Netball / Football Leagues

The new Head Teacher, Jasmin at Urafirth has asked whether a Northmavine team could be entered. Elaine has contacted parents involved in last year's Netball group and received some interest. The league is mixed, so both boys and girls can participate. Elaine also reached out to Danny and is happy to act as a named parent volunteer.

There is kit at the school suitable for both netball and football.

Hannah will email Jasmin to confirm that netball arrangements are in place and ask if someone from Urafirth would be willing to coordinate a football team. Elaine will contact Active Schools regarding the netball team and submit an expression of interest.

ACTION: HJ/EB

School Meals

Meals are now being provided from Urafirth, with the change implemented at the beginning of term. Elaine asked for feedback on how this is working. Lindsey reported a few teething issues with transport, but overall, the food quality is good, and the menu choices have only changed slightly. However, portion quantities have sometimes been short, leaving no spare meals and no margin for error. The school has been keeping notes and relaying feedback.

Previously, large trays of food were supplied, but meals are now pre-scooped into portions. Hannah queried whether pupils at Urafirth receive seconds if there are leftovers; Ollaberry pupils cannot be offered seconds due to the delivery system.

There are no issues with menu choices – only with quantities, which do not feel the same as before. The school also has no cooking facilities, meaning there is no backup option and no capacity for fundraising activities involving food. It was agreed to approach Children's Services to request backup cooking facilities, as the cooker was removed to replace a broken one at another school.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The Term 2 meeting will be held on Thursday 20th November 2025 at 7.00pm.