

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OLLABERRY PRIMARY PARENT
WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2025 AT 7:00PM**

Present

Erik Robertson	Chair	Raymond Johnson	Parent Member
Robert John Copland	Vice Chair	Ann Johnson	Parent Member
Elaine Brown	Parent Member	Lindsey Stephen	Parent Member
Ivan Ramsay	Parent Member		

In Attendance

Hannah Johnson	Head Teacher
Dawn Ratter	Clerk/Treasurer

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Kaye Johnson, John Sharp, Tom Ratter, Natalie Cairns-Ratter, Ross Keith and Cllr Andrew Hall.

2. Approval of previous minutes – Tuesday 25th September 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Ann Johnson and seconded by Lindsey Stephen.

Erik expressed thanks to Elaine and Ross for their work and commitment during their time as Chair and Vice Chair.

3. Matter's Arising from the last meeting

Pirate Ship

Lindsey will look up suitable off-the-peg pirate ship options and share these with Erik and Robert John.

There is funding available through the SCBF. ER suggested submitting an application sooner rather than later while funds remain available.

ACTION: LS & ER/RJC

Signage / Speed Restrictions

This issue was raised at the Northmavine Community Council (NCC). NCC agreed to write to the SIC, but no response has yet been received. It is hoped that an update will be available by the next NCC meeting in January.

ER queried what speed limit measures had been introduced at other schools locally, such as Urafirth Primary School, and whether any previous road-safety initiatives could be explored. There may be potential for NCC to invest in signage that would be shared among local schools. Estimated costs for signage are approximately £4,000 - £5,000.

A handmade sign previously used at Urafirth was noted as another option worth considering.

Language Support

Elaine contacted Brae High School regarding language provision. The current model is English as the first language, French as L2 and Spanish as the preferred L3 for Ollaberry Primary School, as this is an option available to pupils when they move on to secondary.

Under the national 1 + 2 Languages Policy, children should experience L2 from P1 and L3 from P5. The guidance does not require L3 to be the same language offered in secondary; schools have the flexibility to choose an additional language that suits their staffing, resources and local circumstances.

However, both the school and parents feel that aligning L3 with the secondary language (Spanish) is preferable, as this would allow pupils to build early confidence, support continuity of learning, and give them an advantage when progressing into secondary.

Mr Nicolson, Head Teacher at Brae High School, responded to confirm that although the school is keen to support wider language options, there is currently no capacity to provide additional language provision due to ongoing staffing vacancies.

Woodwork Specialists

Raymond and Ivan, parent volunteers, were in school today working with pupils to make small wooden reindeers. The first small group of three pupils took part, followed by a second group of four, involving children from P2-5. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activity, and Raymond and Ivan are happy to come in again for future sessions.

Multicourt Surface

Hannah has reported the issue to Estates. Gordon Tulloch visited the site to assess the condition and intended to return during the holidays for a further look. No feedback or comments have been received to date. Lindsey will follow this up.

ACTION: LS

Netball / Football League

The netball league is now up and running. A friendly match with Lunnasting Primary School took place and went very well. The first fixtures are scheduled for Saturday, with the next set planned for February.

There have been no expressions of interest from other schools regarding participation in the football league.

School Meals

Delivery issues have now been resolved. Janette will keep a log of meal quantities over the next two weeks, particularly monitoring soup and macaroni portions, as there is currently no scope to provide additional macaroni in place of wedges for pupils who prefer it.

Parents noted that there should not be a difference in portion sizes between Brae and Urafirth; however, there is a noticeable inconsistency in the quantities being provided. Janette has already contacted Urafirth to request additional portions where needed. The quality of food is good, but the portion sizes remain the concern.

4. Head Teacher Items.

Concert

The raffle held at last year's concert was very busy, although it provided a significant boost to the School Fund. Suggestions were made to improve the process this year, including removing the need for names on tickets and increasing the number of ticket sellers. Hannah will issue an email requesting volunteers.

Hannah has included a baking option on the homework choice board. She will also post on Facebook asking parents to comment on what they plan to make, helping to avoid too many duplicate items.

Volunteers will be sought via email and Facebook to assist in the kitchen and help with clearing up at the end of the concert.

Mystery Reader Parent Volunteer

Hannah thanked the parent volunteers who have supported the Mystery Reader project. The initiative has been very successful, with pupils becoming excited each week to discover who the next reader will be. The activity has helped build enthusiasm around reading. A total of eight volunteers have taken part so far, and the school may extend the project into next year if more volunteers come forward.

Hannah noted that it is really positive to have parents involved in school activities, expressing her appreciation for their time and highlighting how much pupils enjoy their visits.

Craft Fair

The Craft Fair made a significant profit and was very successful. Pupils were delighted with how well the event went. The baubles were made from corks, keeping expenses low as all materials were donated. Hannah asked parents to collect corks over the next year and noted that donations of sea glass would also be welcome. Last year pupils made reindeer corks, this year snowmen, and they are considering making Santas next year.

5. Parent Member Items

School Trip

A potential school trip was discussed. An email was sent to P5-7 parents to gauge interest in a mainland trip, possibly to Edinburgh. If the trip goes ahead next year, it would be offered again in three years' time for the next group of pupils. Elaine noted that the idea has already created a lot of positivity.

Hannah previously took a P5-7 group to Edinburgh three years ago, when she worked at North Roe Primary School. During that trip pupils were kept busy with activities through the day, stayed in an apartment where they shared bedrooms with close friends, and were only permitted to phone home during the day rather than at night, helping to reduce feelings of homesickness at bedtime.

The intention is to fundraise and use available funding to support the trip, ensuring it does not become a financial burden for families.

School Fund

The balance in the school fund is approximately £5,000. The school has also been awarded an £800 grant from NCC to be used towards the cost of buses for school trips.

PVGs for Parent Volunteers

Guidance from Connect has been shared with all Parent Councils. Ad hoc parent helpers are permitted to support activities where staff are present; however, if a parent is timetabled to help regularly, a PVG check should be carried out.

From April 2026, the system will begin phasing out "forever PVGs." All PVG checks will become time-limited, typically lasting around five years.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The Term 3 meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 7.00pm.