

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OLLABERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7:00PM**

Present

Erik Robertson	Chair	Kaye Johnson	Parent Member
Robert John Copland	Vice Chair	Ross Johnson	Parent Member
Lauren Ramsay	Parent Member	Tom Ratter	Parent Member

In Attendance

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Sharp and Ross Keith.

2. Approval of previous minutes – Wednesday 03 December 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Tom Ratter and seconded by Ross Johnson.

3. Matter's Arising from the last meeting

Pirate Ship

Erik shared a range of pirate ship options with members around the table. These covered a wide range of designs and costs.

Erik asked whether the group wished to pursue a model similar to the existing equipment or opt for a more robust option.

Erik provided further clarification on SCBG funding:

- Tier 1 grants of up to £1,000 are available without the need to submit accounts or a constitution.
- Applications above £1,000 require accounts and a constitution.
- It was noted that Northmavine Community Council (NCC) receives £6,000 per year, limiting the potential scale of support available.

Ross J suggested exploring funding via NCDC.

Lindsey agreed to speak with Charlotte to explore whether NCDC would be willing to contribute or make a donation.

Parent members agreed to further review the two-tier pirate options before progressing.

Members were advised that no VAT is payable when purchasing through the School Fund. Members agreed that, subject to funding being secured by the Parent Council, the pirate ship could be purchased through the school fund and subsequently reimbursed via the Parent Council bank account.

ACTION: LS & ER/RJC

Signage / Speed Restrictions

It was reported that NCC has still not received a response from SIC regarding the correspondence.

The next NCC meeting is scheduled for early March, at which point a further update is anticipated.

Cllr. A. Hall advised that concerns about speeding and the lack of pavements are being raised by multiple schools, particularly in relation to pupil safety when walking to school. This was noted as an ongoing issue across the area.

Multicourt Surface

Hannah advised that there has been no further update received regarding the multicourt surface.

During a recent visit to Brae Hall by some P6/7 pupils, Danny Peterson spoke with Sheena Anderson, who advised that a number of schools are having their multicourts resurfaced with astroturf. Post-it notes containing further details had been returned following this discussion.

Danny Peterson reported that this option appeared positive and would not limit use of the multicourt.

It was agreed that further enquiries should be made regarding this option. Cllr. A. Hall agreed to speak with Leighton Flaws regarding the multicourt surface.

ACTION: Cllr. A. Hall

School Meals

Hannah advised that she has not received much further feedback regarding school meals.

Concerns raised previously were fed back to Urafirth, and Hannah noted that if issues were ongoing, she would have expected to hear further by now. It was therefore assumed that matters have largely settled.

Concert

The concert was described as excellent, with very positive feedback.

Tom asked whether, going forward, John could use a microphone, even a simple microphone that could plug into the camcorder, to improve audibility.

Hannah advised that she has previously asked whether the Hall Committee would be interested in purchasing a sound system. Lindsey agreed to raise this at a forthcoming Hall Committee meeting.

Hannah also noted that having access to a sound system for playing music would be beneficial for future events.

ACTION: LS

PVG Checks

Erik advised that he had reviewed the relevant guidance and does not believe PVG checks are applicable for the activities currently carried out by Ollaberry Parent Council.

4. Head Teacher Items.

School Trip – Edinburgh

It was confirmed that the Edinburgh trip has now been booked, including ferry travel and accommodation. The trip will include all pupils in P5-P7.

The group will travel south on Sunday evening and return on Friday night, during the first week of June.

Consent and information forms are due to be returned by the end of the week. Once all forms are received, bookings for activities and visits will be progressed.

It was noted that fundraising will continue on an ongoing basis, with the intention that when the current P3 pupils reach P7, a similar trip will be organised for that cohort.

Fundraising

Erik asked whether any further fundraising is needed between now and the Edinburgh school trip. While Hannah confirmed that a car wash is already planned, it was queried whether a specific fundraising event should be organised to support the full cost of the trip.

It was noted that the trip is being funded through a combination of fundraising, PEF funding, and the school fund. Members agreed that additional fundraising would be beneficial and welcome volunteers willing to organise an event.

Hannah asked for ideas, and several options were suggested, including Sunday teas, fish and chips, and a bingo night. It was that Lauren had previously organised a Fish & Chip and Bingo Night, which was very successful.

It was agreed to proceed with a Fish & Chip, Bingo Night and Raffle on Saturday 18 April. Lauren will check with Grant Anderson regarding provision of fish and fryer equipment. Hannah will ask Sheena if she is willing to act as a bingo caller and will organise bingo prizes, while parents will be asked to donate raffle prizes.

A Car Wash will so take place on Sunday 24 May, with not buns and takeaway cake available. Ross K will be asked about providing meat and rolls and other supplies will be ordered through the shop.

Up Helly Aa Visit

The Jarl Squad will visit the school on Friday 20 February. Pupils will be given the option to bake items for the visit, which will be included on the homework choice sheet. Baked items can be dropped off either on the morning of the visit or the day before.

Mystery Reader Parent Volunteer

It was confirmed that the Mystery Reader initiative will restart this term. The first reader is scheduled for tomorrow, with Anne-Marie Anderson from Peerie Oorik Books, who will read a book and deliver a workshop with the pupils.

Hannah asked for suggestions of potential readers or volunteers, as the intention is to continue the Mystery Reader sessions for the remainder for the term, given their continued success.

Jean Ramsay and Frances Williamson are both keen to take part and Robert John will ask Jessie Copland about participating.

ACTION: RJC

5. Parent Member Items

Music Festival

Tom asked whether the school would be taking part in the Music Festival. Hannah confirmed that Seth has already entered the school. The festival is expected to take place during the week beginning 16 March; however, the timetable has not yet been issued. As a result, it is not possible to book transport or make further arrangements until the timetable is confirmed.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The Term 4 meeting will be held on Thursday 14 May 2026 at 7.00pm.