

DRAFT MINUTE OF THE TINGWALL SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Held on Thursday 4th November 2021 at 8:00pm via MS Teams

Present

Emily van Tonder	Chairperson
Louise Moar	Vice Chair
Allason Peterson	Parent Member
Anna Moar	Parent Member
Jade Keenan	Parent Member
Ryan Thomson	Parent Member

In Attendance

Cheryl Spofforth	Head Teacher
Dawn Ratter	Clerk
Moraig Lyall	Councillor

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Sam Christey and Cllr Davie Sandison.

2. Approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 27th April and 2nd June 2021

The minutes of the meeting were approved by Allason Peterson and seconded by Louise Moar.

3. Matter's Arising

Car Park

The car park works have been completed. Huge improvement.

Janitor

Mike Bradley is still doing some work for the school as and when he can.

Sensory Room

The works have been completed during the October holidays and the school now have a useable room which is fantastic. Cheryl said they are currently looking at furniture and resources for the room. The Children's Services budget is currently underspent and the school are going to put forward some bids for resources.

COVID

All COVID mitigations to remain in place. Any COVID symptoms must request a PCR test and self-isolate.

Vision, Values & Aims

The staff have been absolutely amazed at the talent from pupils with the logo competition. They have really thought about what makes Tingwall unique. The staff are going to shortlist entries and then pupils and parents will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite.

Indoor/Outdoor Play Resources

A bid was submitted to the ELC Team for some indoor/outdoor resources but Cheryl hasn't heard anything back yet.

Roald Dahl

The Roald Dahl day went well.

Parent Member Recruitment

No success with recruitment for a P7 representative.

4. Parent Council Matters

Polycrub

The Parent Council have had some discussions regarding the polycrub. Emily has spoken to Connie who is very keen for this to go ahead and has confirmed she would be happy to be the lead person responsible for the polycrub during school holidays. Cheryl said there is also member of the ELC staff keen to help with the running of the polycrub.

Cheryl explained that the school were only looking for support from the Parent Council with applying for grants in order to support the purchase of the polycrub, at this time. The school would be responsible for the polycrub and it would be insured as part of the school estate. There would be no responsibility for upkeep from the Parent Council.

Emily asked if there would be any consultation required with Magnus Malcolmson. Cheryl noted she hasn't spoken to him yet but also explained the previous concerns from Magnus were related to additional playground equipment being installed that he may be required to inspect and be responsible for. The Parent Council will engage with Magnus Malcolmson to ensure he would have no objections to the school having a polycrub. Cheryl also wondered whether they would need to apply for planning permission.

ACTION: Parent Members

Cllr Moraig Lyall confirmed the Community Council has money in the Community Benefit Fund but also have their Core Grant Fund. She would encourage the Parent Council to submit an application for the core funding as well. She also noted from a personal perspective, a polycrub would be an amazing asset for the school in relation to growing, learning, etc. Cheryl noted the polycrub would fit in with so many aspects of the curriculum, outdoor learning and the new Grow Shetland project through Transition Turriemfield. It would provide so much potential for the school.

The Parent Council had some concerns over anti-social behaviour in the playground and the possibility of the polycrub being damaged or broken into. Cheryl said polycrubs tend to be very substantial enclosures which can be secured and padlocked. She feels the benefit to the school and pupils would outweigh the worry of any possible damages.

The Parent Council will arrange a survey to see if any parents would be willing to help support the school with the polycrub.

ACTION: Parent Members

Emily asked if it would be helpful for the Parent Council to contact Children's Services regarding their concerns around the lack of space available in the school. Cheryl noted putting forward the concerns of the Parent Council would be supportive to the school and would reinforce the concerns they have been feeding back to the service over the last few years. Cheryl said they have really struggled with space especially during COVID. The Parent Council feel it is not feasible for the central services to wait until the school roll hits 100 pupils before any action is taken.

Currently the peripatetic teachers have to do the art and music lessons in each classroom as there is no space available for them to use in the school. PE is done in the Tingwall Hall. The hire of the hall for PE is paid for centrally for all schools who do not have a gym hall within their school.

ACTION: Emily

Grow Shetland & Tackling Inequalities, Poverty Proofing and Cost of a School Day (attached)

Lesley Simpson, Quality Improvement Manager asked for these documents to be shared with Parent Councils.

Cheryl explained this is one of the reasons they have health and wellbeing as a priority and as part of that play, outdoor learning and building up resources for that to try and introduce this as much as possible to ensure everyone has equal opportunities to access these resources. Cheryl said they have been really lucky with the additional funding from the Scottish Government and during the first lockdown were able to provide 14 families with digital devices. Following a recent survey, the school are going to receive a further 9 iPad's and 3 laptops to distribute to families.

Cheryl said they are also ensuring they are being mindful with fundraising and will not be asking parents/pupils to pay for doing any activities in the school. All activities will be free and there will be the option to put forward a donation if anyone wishes.

Fundraising

There was some discussion around holding a Bonus Ball fundraiser and a Christmas hamper raffle. The Christmas hamper raffle was a huge success previously.

Emily said they also looked into Ragbags but there would be additional costs to ship the items to Aberdeen so this might not be viable.

School Photos

The Parent Council noted it has been a number of years since the last school photos were done. Cheryl said in the past they have tried to do school photos every 3 years and they were last done in 2019. It is certainly something the school could look into doing again. The usually receive a good commission on the photos. It might be difficult to get a whole school photo at the moment but they could look at class photos and individual pupil photos. Cheryl said they are looking to move back to a whole school bubble outside soon and hoping to introduce buddy systems with P1/P7 and P2/P6. They have all mitigations in place – staff wearing masks and keeping 2m distance, hand-washing, sanitising etc. Emily will make contact with parents via Facebook to see their views on timings of school photos.

ACTION: Emily

Outside Area/Playground

Louise has seen some playground markings in other school playgrounds and wondered if this would be something the Parent Council could look into fundraising towards. The markings are expensive but would enhance the playground. Possibly look into the Arnold Clark fund for funding towards the cost of this.

Emily noted that there is only one football goal. Cheryl said they used to have 2 sets previously which was donated by a parent but one was damaged and has never been replaced.

Internet Safety for Parents

The Parent Council wondered about providing some Internet Safety information for parents. Cheryl said Tracy Langley would be a good contact for information. This could be included in the survey to parents to see if they would like more information on the topic. Pupils are taught about Internet Safety as part of the curriculum. Anna suggested holding events based on class groups as pupils at different ages are looking at very different content. Cheryl noted she could have a look and see if something can be organised on MS Teams for parents.

ACTION: Cheryl & Emily

Communication with Parents

Emily attended Connect Parent Council training on Tuesday night. They were sharing information on different communication apps. Emily is signed up to attend the ClassLists training. It helps Parent Council's manage events, fundraising and volunteering. The uptake was so high with Class Dojo so having an app might be really good for the Parent Council. Connect were endorsing this as a good platform.

Cheryl said this sounds amazing and would be great if the Parent Council can make use of it. She noted that anything they do as a school has to go through ICT. Tracy is currently looking at a new tool for communicating with parents. Tracy and ICT are working through the DPIA (Data Protection Impact Assessment) which must be completed before any new system can be purchased for a school.

Emily noted she is going to add an item to the bi-annual meeting on 'Communication Apps' along with the Chair from Happyhansel Parent Council.

Toddlers

There was a query around whether the school could put together an information booklet for new parents/pupils who are due to start the nursery. Cheryl said they do have a booklet which is shared with all new parents and the school contact all new starts individually and organise transition visits for all pupils.

ELC Slide

There was some concern raised on how high and fast the nursery slide is and asked if there was anything that could be put on the slide to reduce the speed. Cheryl said the slide was part of Little Tikes and since the school has taken over the responsibility of it they have had it inspected and handles replaced. Cheryl assured parents that there are always 2 members of staff present when the slide is in use. She said it's all about risk assessing on a daily basis – what pupils are wearing, weather conditions etc. Cheryl noted she thinks it would deprive pupils a lot of pleasure if it was removed.

5. School Report

Netball After School Club

The netball after school club has started up again. This allows pupils to take part in the Primary Netball League. Thank you to Louise for organising this.

Shetland Peerie Makers

Cheryl said they are hoping Shetland Peerie Makers will be coming into the school again soon.

Parent's Evening

Cheryl said this is the term they would usually have parent's evenings but they are unable to offer face to face meetings with parents due to the COVID restrictions. Teachers have agreed to do parent phone calls again this year which will be held week beginning Monday 22nd November. There will be some after school calls and some evening calls for those who can't attend after school.

ELC Review

The Early Years team have done a review of teacher input into nurseries and it has been approved that pupils should have a set amount of nursery teacher time each. This has resulted in an increase of 14 hours teacher allocation for Tingwall. The interviews for this vacancy were held yesterday and a candidate has been appointed.

JRSO

The P6 JRSO's are busy organising activities to celebrate Road Safety Week. The theme this year is 'Road Safety Superheroes'. They will be sharing video clips of the emergency services superheroes along with a short report from the Police on how to keep people safe on the roads with each class. One of the competitions will be a colouring competition for P1-3 and then a 'Design a Road Safety Superhero' poster competition for P4-7.

Pupil Council

The school are looking to re-establish the Pupil Council again. Their first task will be to undertake the organising of Children in Need activities.

Football League

Louise asked if they would be organising a team for the Primary Football League. Cheryl said they haven't received any information from Active Schools on the Football League yet. She has put a note out to parents to ask for some parent volunteers to help with coaching. Emily will put a note on the Facebook page to look for volunteers for football coaches. Cheryl will email Danny Peterson and ask for dates etc.

ACTION: Cheryl & Emily

6. Treasurer's Report

The balance in the bank account is £188.70. The available balance for the Parent Council is £88.70. A grant of £130 from the SIC has been approved. Dawn will arrange for the signatories on the bank account to be updated to reflect the new appointments of Chair and Vice Chair.

ACTION: Dawn

7. Review of Constitution

At the AGM the number of parent members was increased. All parents are happy with the changes. The changes were proposed by Louise Moar and seconded by Allason Manson.

Under point 5 of the constitution it states a summary of the discussions held would be shared with all parents after each meeting. Emily will look at sharing a brief update on Facebook. Approved minutes are shared on the school website.

ACTION: Emily

8. AOCB

Christmas Pupil Gifts

Louise said she was aware that Whiteness Parent Council applied to the Community Council last year for funding towards a small gift to pupils since there were no Halloween/Christmas parties. All parents would be in favour of looking into this for Tingwall.

Cheryl said they will still be having their Christmas parties in school. It will either be class parties or upper/lower school parties depending on the restrictions in place at the time. However, due to the new healthy eating guidelines they are no longer allowed to provide sweets etc to the pupils. Louise asked for more information on the new guidelines. Cheryl will send the link to Louise to view.

ACTION: Louise

Christmas Concert

Cheryl advised they can't take the risk with a Christmas concert this year in case of COVID numbers spiking. However, Mrs Briggs is working with pupils to record some Christmas Carols which will be posted on Teams.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th January 2022 at 8pm via MS Teams.