

## WHALSAY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held via Messenger on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at 5.30pm.**

### **Present:**

#### **Office Bearers**

Carol Ann Reid (CAR) (Chair)  
Natalie Constable (Vice Chair)  
Moira Dally (MD) Clerk

#### **Members**

Sarah Anderson (SA P1)  
Angela Cooper (AC)  
Margt Leask (ML)  
Debbie Saunderson (DB)  
Samantha Anderson (SA)  
Marie Manson (MM)  
Anita Sparrow (AS)  
June Thomson (JT)  
Leona Jamieson (LJ)

#### **Staff**

Garry Spence (GS) Head Teacher  
Lynsey Irvine (LI) Depute Head  
Catherine Williamson (CW)  
Gail Rainey (GR)  
Caroline Kay (CK)

#### **Attendee**

Neil Beattie (SIC School Meals Dept)

#### **Apologies**

Odette Anderson  
Caroline Watt  
Pauline Irvine

#### **Welcome and Attendees**

The Chair welcomed all members and attendees noting that there had not been an ordinary meeting since November. She introduced Neil Beattie, attending from SIC School Meals Department.

### **AGENDA**

#### **School Meals**

Neil Beattie had been due to meet with the PC nearly a year ago to discuss changes to the school menu but due to Covid this had not been possible so was joining tonight to answer any questions. GS said that a lot had happened within the last year with packed lunches, new cleaning regime, and staggered lunches. When the new menu was introduced, he felt that some children had been a bit worried but now felt that things had settled down. NB said that standardised menus were brought in a year last August with Whalsay the last school to come on board. Since taking up his post, NB said some Schools had been inspected by Health & Nutrition Inspectors to make sure they were following Scottish Gov. Guidelines, with the first School being way off target. At that time Shetland was the only local authority without a standardised menu. The key changes seen in the menu for this year (released 6<sup>th</sup> April) see a reduction in fats, saturated fat, red meat, processed meats and sugar The Dept is in the process of setting next year's menu in consultation with cooks, and also using feedback from pupils.

### **Meat Free Mondays**

SA P1 felt that the menu although received well takes the choice away from children who enjoy meat. NB said that there had always been 1 day without a meat choice. With the cost of meat and fish an issue the thinking of the service is that it is better they serve good quality meat, less often.

SA P1 queried the nutritional value of the menu on a Monday but NB said the value was taken over a whole week, not on a daily basis.

SA P1 Said she was aware of the Quality Meat Scotland Working Group working with the Scottish Government indicated national bias on the Climate Change issues quoting a 6% carbon footprint in farming not 60% this being a global statistic not a UK statistic. NB said he thought that we should still try to do our bit. SA P1 felt it was discriminatory against her children - taking away their choices. NB said that every local authority in Scotland follows the same menu choices with 1 day a week meat free. He stated that where possible bread, fruit, veg., fish was sourced locally with a new meat contract looking to work with Shetland butchers/farmers with local lamb. SIC needed to be seen to be doing the right thing locally and for the climate too. SA P1 thought the authority was looking to make cuts in the wrong places. GS reminded NB that discussions in the past had taken place around compromise on serving fish on the meat free Mondays. NB to look at this again. SA P1 and LJ thought that this would be a good idea. CAR thought that the mistake was in the labelling of Meat Free Monday – this insinuated that meat was a bad thing. SA P1 said that some parents would have liked to send their children in with a packed lunch on a Monday but Parent Pay does not allow for this compromise. GS said he would find out if this could be explored for primary pupils. NB said he would also speak with Dawn Ratter, who works with Parent Pay. GS said that running out of food if you were last in line was a perennial problem, that was brought up by parents. NB in answer to SA P1's question on food waste with the standardised menu said that there was no more or less as before. AS asked if a standardised menu was a requirement of the Scottish Government NB replied that it was not a requirement but all school menus need to be analysed and checked two to three times a year. AS continued, that if there was no issue with the food the canteen produced before the menu change why was it changed. NB conceded that in an ideal world it would have remained the same but SIC wanted equality across Shetland. NB said the idea that fish could be given to the canteen here direct would need the involvement of Environmental Health due to all food having to be hygiene and traceability checked. NB was asked if there had to be a meat free day could it vary and not always be a Monday. NB was asked with children being encouraged to have fruit for their snack and being served fruit at lunch time could they forgo the fruit at lunch time for a bigger portion of the main course as portion sizes were always an issue. NB said that there was a prescriptive portion size based on pupils age with a bit of digression by the cooks. NB said he would speak to the head cook. Fruit at lunch time was a Scottish Government Guideline which could not be changed, but he was aware of the term 'Fruit Fatigue'. AS asked that instead of fruit that parents are providing for snack time could the lunch time fruit be given out then instead and avoid waste.

NB said that fruit had to be provided at lunch time. GS told the meeting that the school only recommended/advised parents that fruit be encouraged as part of a 'healthy eating' snack.

There were no further questions and CAR thanked NB for attending the meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

CAR advised that the only monies paid in recently due to our inability to fund raise was £258 from Halloween Event and £81.50 from the Cauliflower Christmas Cards. However, at the beginning of the year CAR had approached the shops and local boats to assist the PC fund a playboat to replace broken swings at the back of the primary dept. Each of the 2 shops gave £250, £650 from the white fish boats and the pelagic boats gave £3199. Total £4688.50 The playboat has been ordered and hopefully will be in situ by the summer. GR was asked if she would assist the pupils in making 'thank you' cards to send to all the businesses who gave generously. CAR advised that the goods she had ordered for the Easter Coffee Morning were still with her including the Alexa and £60 in cash which she wondered could go towards a raffle at Christmas time.

GR

### **Approval of previous Minutes 08.09.2020**

Minutes were approved by NC and seconded by SA.. At this point CAR reminded members that the Clerk position would become vacant at the AGM. The post will be advertised locally.

MD

### **Funding Request**

School Staff were requested to mute their microphones while discussions took place.

The Fund request was for £140. This money would cover the cost of taking S4 out for a meal, on the same day that they would be visiting the AHS. Funding approved

School Staff re-joined the Meeting.

### **HT/AHT Report (see separate sheet)**

### **AOCB**

CAR asked each Rep in turn if they had any questions –

### **Pri 1**

SA asked if classes would be moving up before Summer. She was told that it would depend on current restrictions. She also asked if any further P.E. changes could be noted in pupil's jotters. When asked if class groups had been decided for next year she was told that there was no letter out yet but it was confirmed that Jayne Irvine would be the Pri 1 teacher.

### **Pri 2**

No questions.

### **Pri 3**

SA asked about a Sports Day this year but GS thought that it would be unlikely. When asked about School Photos – GS said these would be going ahead – 17<sup>th</sup>

May probably with Pri Classes only, but Sec involvement was still under discussion.

**Pri4**

DB asked if homework could now be given out on a Monday. LI to check with teachers.

**Pri 5**

LJ asked if there would be a Parents' Evening this term but was told this was still not possible but that reports were coming out shortly. GS said that the school maybe able to look at a P. Ev. after summer. Either by bringing the November P.Ev. forward to having one at the end of the first term.

**Pri 6**

No questions.

**Pri 7**

No questions.

**Secondary 1**

JT wanted to ask about school meals but as NB had left the meeting GS asked that she email her questions to him and he would pass them on.

**Sec 2**

No questions

**Sec 3**

No questions.

**Sec 4**

NC asked that since S4 had missed out on organising the Sec Christmas Party would it be possible for them to do something similar before the Summer. GS said that he felt that it would depend on restrictions at the time but as the class would be currently focussing time and effort on their final assessments, they should look on their trip/meal out as their celebration.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting, which would be the AGM, was set for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 5.30 pm.

This being the business the Meeting closed at 6.50pm.