

WHALSAY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of A.G.M., and subsequent Business Meeting held on 17th November, 2020, via Messenger.

Present:

Office Bearers: Carol Ann Reid (Chair)(CAR)
Natalie Constable (Vice-Chair)(NC)
Moirra Dally (Clerk)(MD)

Staff: Gary Spence (Head Teacher)(GS)
Pauline Irvine (DHT)(PI)
Catherine Williamson(CW)
Gail Rainey(GR)
Caroline Kay(CK)

Members: Marie Manson(MM)
Sarah Anderson(SA1)
Samantha Anderson(SA)
Leona Jamieson (LJ)
Caroline Watt(CW)
Debbie Saunderson(DB)
Odette Anderson(OA)
Anita Sparrow(AS)
Angela Cooper(AC)

Apologies: June Thomson(JT)

Welcome and Attendees

CAR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting

Minutes approved by Leona Jamieson, seconded by Angela Cooper.

Chair's Report

CAR gave her report as Chair.

CAR said she would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members to the Parent Council and thank all the members that are stepping down for all their hard work they've done over their three years.

We aim to have a meeting once per term. and ask if you are unable to attend the meeting please ask a volunteer from your year group to attend in your place, so all classes are represented at all the meetings

The role of the Parent Council is to –

- Support the School in its work with pupils
- Represent the views of parents and carers
- Encourage links between the school, parents and carers, pupils, preschool groups and the wider community.
- Individual families and staff members cannot be discussed at PC Meetings. Concerns at this level must be taken to the school. If you are unsure about anything flagged up by a parent as to whether it is a Parent Council issue or not just contact the Chair direct.

CAR continued by saying that it had been a very strange year with the School closing before Easter due to COVID and pupils coming back in August to facemasks, packed lunches, and class bubbles.

The bairns on the whole seems to have coped reasonably well and I think I speak for everybody in saying that I hope we never have to home school again!

It's going to be a strange Christmas with no Concert or Party so at the last Meeting we agreed that we would pay £690 to Nursery/Primary to provide each class bubble with their own party. Leona Sandison is sourcing nibbles/drink and small present for all.

Inspection Report - On the whole the School did well with a few issues being raised in the Nursery but Parents she has spoken to regarded the Nursery as being splendid and CAR felt that it would not be long before the issues were sorted out especially that they are now back in the building.

Due to COVID we had to cancel the Coffee Morning which was planned for April. Goods were bought and are stored for the next time There is also £60 in cash.

Last term we were approached by the Primary about replacing the swing which are rotten with a Play Boat at a cost of £3,199. Due to our inability to fund raise all members felt that this request could not be supported. CAR has now sent letters to all Whalsay businesses which have not be directly affected by COVID asking for donations towards the boat. Sixteen letters have been sent out and CAR will update once replies have been received.

Last month a Family Halloween Treasure Hunt was organised. There were 41 entries and 81 took part and it raised £285. Thanks to all who helped.

Usually at this time our thoughts turn to the Concert and the Raffle, which would take in around £2000 for the PC. With this, and the cancelled Coffee Morning it is a bit of a blow to our funds.

Treasurer's Report

For the benefit of new members CAR explained that Brian Irvine is our Treasurer and has been for nearly 8 years. He does not attend Meetings but kindly kept the role on. At the last Meeting we approved funding request totalling £1,503.90

Bank balance being £3,944.77 (not including £285 Treasure Hunt monies)

CAR advised that we would have to be very careful over the next few months on what we support until we have a clear fund raising plan.

Head Teacher's Report

See separate sheet.

Election of Office Bearers

As all office bearers remain on the Committee until next year, no election was required.

Chair -	Carol Ann Reid
Vice Chair	Natalie Constable
Treasurer	Brian Irvine
Secretary	Moirra Dally
Fundraising	Leona Jamieson

A.O.C.B.

CAR asked each rep in turn if they had any questions/comments –

Nursery - Marie Manson – good that pupils are now in the new Nursery building. Parents pleased with note coming home on a daily basis, on dinners/activities.

Primary 1 – Sarah Anderson – no issues

Primary 2 – Caroline Watt – parents were asking about school uniforms and school photos. School photos were due to be in April. School will investigate. Parents were wondering whether the doors could be opened earlier in the morning. PI will look at it, but advised that parents should only be dropping off children near to bell time. If parents drop children off at 8.30 then the time between that and the bell is not a teacher's responsibility.

Primary 3 – Samantha Anderson asked about the 'Creation Station' – is it still going and does the school want junk from home. PI not sure but will find out.

Primary 4 – Debbie Saunderson asked if homework still needs to be quarantined 72 hours. Other classes were getting homework on a Monday and it would be easier if P4's could be given on a Monday also. PI thought that the 72 hours still stands. No reading books have been issued either and PI could say that P4 were using 'Accelerated Reading Scheme' this term, so things would not change.

Primary 5 – Leona Jamieson – no issues

Primary 6 – Odette Anderson asked about whether an online Parents' Night was a possibility. GS confirmed that there were no plans for this, but primary teachers had been encouraged to put out an interim report when pupils came back to let parents/carers know how they were settling in. GS reiterated that if anyone had a problem they were to get in touch.

Primary 7 – Anita Sparrow – came with an individual issue re 'Meat Free Monday'. CAR said that this is not an issue specific to our school only. GS said that he was aware of the issue and contact details have been passed on to Neil Beattie (School Meals). Discussions had taken place when changes were being made to the Menu and it maybe that we ask Neil Beattie to attend a future meeting, if this was felt appropriate.

Secondary - no issues were raised.

Anita Sparrow asked that perhaps everyone be on 'Mute' unless they were speaking and this would lessen the feedback issues. She also asked the question on feeding back to her class page from the Meeting. CAR advised that she should pick out what is relevant to the individual class and remind folks that the Minutes are published on the School blog.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 9th February 2021, 5.30pm.

This being the business the meeting closed at 6.40 pm.