

## **Whalsay School Parent Council**

### **Minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 5.30pm in Symbister Public Hall**

**Present:** Odette Anderson – Chair  
Marie Manson – Vice Chair  
Anita Sparrow – Clerk  
Maria Kay (for Caroline Watt)  
Angela Cooper  
Gina Sandison  
Louise Laurenson  
Debbie Saunderson  
Margaret Leask  
Vanessa Irvine  
Heather Williamson

**Staff:** Garry Spence  
Pauline Irvine  
Catherine Williamson  
Gail Rainey

**Apologies:** Caroline Kay  
Caroline Watt  
Amanda Williamson  
June Thomson

### **Welcome**

Odette welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked outgoing members for the role they had played in the parent council. It was noted that this is the first face to face meeting in a long time. She reminded all members and staff what the role of the parent council is and that everyone should feel comfortable and confident in raising any issues and ideas.

It was agreed that the parent council facebook page should be closed. Communication between parent reps will continue using the whatsapp group.

### **Minute of Last Meeting**

The minute of the meeting held on 4 May 2021 was approved by Anita and seconded by Marie.

### **Matters Arising**

#### School Meals

Garry will contact Neil Beattie for an update on school meals following up on the ideas and concerns raised.

Garry will follow up on whether changes can be made to parent pay to allow for pupils to bring packed lunch for one day per week and have school meals the remaining days.

**Action: Garry Spence**

### **Treasurer's Report**

It had been noted at the AGM on 7 October 2021 that we had £4665.58 in our account. The only payment to be made since then was £140 towards the cost of a meal out to mark the end of Secondary 4 pupils' education at Whalsay School.

Anita will ask Brian about setting up a ferry account so anyone travelling on PC business can use it.

There is a grant available from SIC, for parent councils, to help with running expenses. Anita will find out from Brian if this is something that we could use.

**Action: Anita Sparrow**

### **Funding Request**

A request for a digital heat press transfer machine was approved. Copy of request form attached.

### **HT/DHT Report**

Copy of report attached.

It was noted that the school will be going ahead with the Christmas card deliveries this year. It will be a short turnaround, likely to be from 29 November.

### **Class Rep Questions/Issues**

Several reps asked when face to face parents evenings would be resuming. There was quite strong feeling surrounding this. Garry advised that he, and the staff he has spoken to, are all keen for them to resume. It is on the agenda for the Head Teachers meeting. Secondary 4 is most in need of having parents evening. Gina suggested sending out a letter to parents with an update on pupil progress, if face to face can't happen.

Nursery – no issues

Primary 1 – Marie raised concerns about the bairns having to wait outside in the morning before being allowed in to their classes. Especially bairns who travel on the bus. Garry explained that school staff are not able to provide adequate supervision in all classes before the start of the school day. Marie suggested altering the bus time so that pupils could arrive at school slightly later than they currently do. Garry will look in to trying that out.

**Action: Garry Spence**

Marie suggested that when pupils come to the end of their time at Nursery they could have a 'graduation' or receive a certificate. This is done in other nurseries in Shetland. Pauline/Garry to pass this suggestion on to nursery staff.

**Action: Pauline/Garry**

It was noted that pupils had had individual class 'sports day', but parents were not permitted to attend, due to covid restrictions. It was hoped that sports day could be held as normal next year.

Marie also put on record how good the nursery open day had been. It had been held outdoors.

Primary 2 – no issues

Primary 3 – Caroline is standing down as the P3 rep. For now Maria will be representing this class. Parents will be asked to vote for a new rep.

Primary 4 – Gina asked if a step by step guide to Glow could be issued, as some parents are not clear on how it works. They were also unsure of the learning format and how long to spend on activities. Garry explained that work set on glow can be done when pupils are off school or isolating. Garry will issue guidance on Glow.

**Action: Garry Spence**

Primary 5 – Debbie asked if pupils could do more activities together yet, instead of in their bubbles, ie PE or library. Pauline explained that outdoor activities could be done with other groups but not inside. This will be looked at next term.

There is a project where crisp packets are recycled and made in to blankets. Debbie suggested the eco group could possibly do this. Pauline will look in to this, but there could be issues with where the packets could be washed and dried.

**Action: Pauline Irvine**

Primary 6 – no issues that haven't already been discussed.

Primary 7 – Odette asked if information for parents could be put on the website as well as on facebook. Garry advised that he always does this but would flag it up with staff.

**Action: Garry Spence**

Secondary 1 – no issues

Secondary 2 – Although not directly school related, Vanessa said that some bairns are knocking on doors in the community and asked if the school could make parents aware. Following some discussion it was agreed that reps for primary 5 and up would make parents aware of the issue.

*Vanessa left the meeting.*

Secondary 3 – no issues

Secondary 4 – Angela asked if the wearing of masks in school could be relaxed. Some pupils are experiencing skin problem. Pauling suggested silk masks may help. Garry advised that rules around mask wearing comes from the government and the school must comply.

## **Christmas Concert**

It is unlikely that there will be a concert this year. Videos on youtube, as last year, would be good.

Classes will have small Christmas parties.

## **Fundraising**

Garry advised that he had asked staff not to submit funding requests as the PC has not had any funds coming in.

Louise and Gina will look in to possible fundraising ideas and will feed back to reps.

## **Rocking Horse Auction**

Some members of the community were disappointed about the nursery rocking horse only being offered for auction to school staff. Garry said that in hindsight this should been done differently. A letter is now being issued to parents and any bids from the community will be welcome.

## **Poly Tunnel Repair/Replacement (funding from Shetland Benefit Fund)**

Garry asked if the Parent Council could make a bid for funding to repair the poly tunnel, which had unfortunately been the target of vandalism. There was discussion around possible deterrent, such as CCTV or an alarm. Garry has enquired about various measures but none of them had been viable. It was agreed to place the funding bid.

## **School Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy**

The draft policy (attached) will be issued to reps and comments should be returned to Garry by 12 November 2021.

## **Cost of the School Day**

The information leaflet will be issued to all parents.

## **Grow Shetland**

The information will be issued to all parents.

## **AOCB**

The bi-annual Parent Council Chairs meeting will be held on 18 November. Odette will be attending.

The PC constitution will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Anita will issue a reminder about the shoe box appeal.

Anita will issue a list of points from the meeting for reps to circulate within their class groups.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 February 2022 at 5.30pm. The venue is to be confirmed.