

## **Minutes of Whalsay Parent Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 5.30pm in Whalsay Primary School**

### **Present:**

Zoe Williamson (Chair)  
Margaret Leask (Vice Chair)  
Julie Reid (Treasurer)  
Alison Shearer  
Tanya Arthur  
Caroline Manson  
Andrea Huntley  
Marie Pottinger (representing Marie Polson)  
Jayne Irvine (representing Anita Sparrow and also staff member)

### **Staff:**

Niall Healy  
Lynsey Irvine

### **Apologies:**

Debbie Murray  
Marie Polson  
Anita Sparrow  
Caroline Watt

### **Welcome:**

Zoe Welcomed everyone the meeting. Margaret is taking the minutes today in the absence of Anita.

### **Minutes of last meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 4th February were approved by Julie Ried and seconded by Leona Sandison.

### **Matters arising:**

Composite classes for after Summer was discussed- Niall said he would cover this in the head teachers report.

### **60th Anniversary celebrations**

Niall said that he and Lynsey where in the planning stages of organising displays and an open afternoon to Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the opening of Symbister House as a school. This is now the Secondary Department.

Niall said that on a recent visit to Aith school he had seen some displays the tracing the history timeline up to the present day of their school. This included photo and formed engagement with the wider community for pupils to do some research. Niall thought this would be a good idea to have as a display for our school at the 60th Anniversary. Lynsey said the heritage Centre has

good resources which could help with this which included information on the school development. Also community and parent / community volunteers might be needed to help with information, photos and at the event. Alison said Ms M Holtzeimer had some photos in the English room which might be useful. Also Alison asked about the possibilities of teas in the music room? The school has done this at previous events. Niall and Lynsey to meet to discuss all the above and come back with a plan.

In connection with Sports day Monday 9th June was suggested but not confirmed.

### Sports Day

In connection with the 60th Anniversary it was discussed at the last PC meeting the possibility of having sports Day at the bottom pitch at the Secondary where it originally used to be. Lynsey said when they had looked at this, practically it was not possible to have all the races at the Secondary due to the size and slope of the bottom pitch. Also running races like 80, 100, 200, 400, 800metres and the relay would have to be at the Harbison pitch. Lynsey said they could look at some fun races being at the Secondary and will get back to us,

### **Treasurers Report:**

Julie informed the group that the balance from the last meeting was £4695.93. Income from the Bingo was £701.00. Expenses £272.39. Closing Balance £5124.54.

### **Head teachers report:**

Curriculum Information evening - This will be held on Thursday 8 th May for the parents of current P7, S1 and S2 pupils. In brief, the workshop will outline how we are making a slight adaptation to how our curriculum is delivered in Secondary (from S1 – S4). Discussions will include a revised model of delivery for the teaching of Home Economics and the re introduction of Business Management as a course that pupils can take with a view to securing National 4/National 5 qualifications.

### Staffing update:

Ms. P.Irvine will continue to deliver Home Economics to S1 and S2 classes.

The recruitment process for a Business Management teacher is still in the early stages.

Provision for PE teaching will be a continued combined effort between myself, Ms.Lynsey Irvine and supply teachers. An advert will be going out for a temporary teacher of PE soon.

In Primary, we will have a P 1/2, a P 3/4, a stand alone P5 and a P6/7 class. A communication informing parents about which teacher will be assigned to which class will follow shortly.

Music afternoon in Primary – My thanks to the P6 pupils and staff members for an afternoon celebration of Music yesterday. Photos and a blog post to follow.

Timetable changeover – This is scheduled for Tuesday 20 th May. Some aspects of the timetable are set up on an interim basis until the end of the Academic Year (27th June) to accommodate the changeover with Business and Home Economics. The large majority of the timetable will remain fixed for when pupils return to school on Wednesday 20 th August.

Developing our learning environments – We have had a large quantity of new chairs and tables put in to different rooms in the Secondary building. Adaptations are being made in a number of different classes in preparation for the larger than usual cohort of the current P7's – 19 pupils.

YPI finals – The final of the YPI will be held tomorrow afternoon Wednesday 7 th May. My thanks to Ms. Carr for overseeing the program and Miss Irvine and Mrs. Dunbar for supporting pupils in Ms. Carr's absence since the start of Term 4. Credit to the pupils who have worked hard in developing their understanding of different charities that work and operate in our community.

Ski trip to Italy - Many of our S2 and S3 pupils benefitted from the recent educational trip to Northern Italy. As trip leader, Mrs. Constable presented to all Secondary teaching staff at a recent meeting outlining the outcomes and experiences within the curriculum that aligned with the trip.

The meeting also highlighted a number of individual achievements with pupils really pushing themselves to learn new physical skills and also developing friendships with their peers from the

Anderson High School who may be their classmates in upcoming Academic Years. A huge well done to all pupils who went and thanks to Ms. Constable and Ms. Robertson for their efforts as trip leaders.

Bus code of conduct – To ensure that we have safe, respectful and enjoyable for all pupils who avail of the school bus service, we have created a code of conduct. Our focus is on ensuring everyone is safe and comfortable while taking the bus thus making sure that our schools rules of 'Be safe, Be Respectful and Be your best' are adhered to at all times

Wider Achievement and Friday Fun – For Term 4, pupils have made their selections and there are a number of groups where pupils from the Primary and Secondary will have opportunities to work together. Options include collaboration with the Heritage Centre, Photography of our local community which will contribute to a new school display and a sports link with the golf club at Skaw.

John Muir award activities – Pupils in S2 completed their outdoor education day on 2 nd April. Lots of hiking done, resilience built and some really great teamwork and encouragement.

Voar Redd Up – A huge well done to pupils in Primary and Secondary who did a really great job of litter picking to make sure our local community is looking its very best.

Sports Day preparations – Emily Veitch, Lynsey, Aileen Wood and myself have been coordinating heats and different events in preparation for Sports Day.

National 5 exams – Exams are now well underway with Geography, Admin/It, Graph Com, Chemistry and English completed. Thanks to Anita and committee members at Livister for use of the facilities and to all staff who are carrying out reading, scribing and invigilation duties.

## **Class reps Questions / issue:**

### Primary 1

Alison said there were enquiries about the composite classes for next year and the allocated teachers. Niall had covered the composite classes in his Head Teachers report but said the teachers had not been allocated yet. Lynsey added we should receive an email about that soon. Moving up day planned for Wednesday 4th June.

Aison said it was asked about a school trip for Primary 1. Lynsey said a trip out of the isle might not be possible but they could look into one in the isle.

### Primary 5

Alison said that a parent had asked if it was possible for their child to have bread instead of tatties at lunch time as they don't like tatties. Lynsey said bread is available on a daily basis. Butter in schools is not allowed at the moment.

### Primary 6

Andrea asked if there were any trips planned for Primary 4/5/6?

Lynsey said there was a Trip Planned to go to Scalloway museum and castle on Thursday 22nd May. This is to tie in with the class doing a project about castles.

### Secondary 1

Julie said that it was asked if there was another school trip planned could parents be given more notice beforehand? Niall said that the notice before the last school trip had been short but this was due to not having much time to organise it when he took up post after the Summer. He said the planning for the next trip was underway and more notice would be given for that and future trips.

### Secondary 3

Zoe said a parent wished to thank all for the work that went into the Ski Trip and also Natalie and Emily for accompanying the children.

## **Funding requests**

Four funding requests were put forward:

Natalie Constable asked for Science related resources.

Elizabeth Patterson and Charolotte Hutchison for help to fund the trip to Brae High school for Primary 6 and 7 who are taking part in an opera performance.

Charolotte Hutchison for help to fund the Primary 4/5/6 to Scalloway.

Lynne Wilson for storage in the Social Subjects room

All were approved. Please see attached funding requests for full details.

## **AOCB:**

Fund raising

Leona asked for some volunteers to bake and help at the VE day teas at the primary school in May. Volunteers to come at 2pm. Teas to start at 3pm. Leona asked if we could let her know what

we were making and she would make a list so things are not duplicated. Alison and Jayne have been organising decorations.

A discussion was held about asking the community what happened on VE day? Were there celebrations? PC members and staff will ask relatives and friends about this.

Mealie, Tirrick and Shalder t-shirts

Leona said that the LHD is making example t-shirts. The t-shirts will be yellow, green and red to represent the team colours. Julie Williamson has redrawn the School Logo for the front of the t-shirt. Name of team to be on the back in white. It was discussed about outlining the team names in black. Andrea wondered of using two colours may put up the price of the t-shirts. Leona to find this out. Leona to look at creating order forms and pricing and get back to us. Hopefully the t-shirts will be ready to order soon and available before sports day.

**Date of next meeting:**

The AGM will be held on Thursday 19th June at 530pm. The date of the next meeting will be set at the AGM after class reps and office bearers are appointed.