

WHALSAY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 5.30pm in Primary School

Present: Alison Shearer (Chair)
Leona Sandison (Clerk – cover)
Tanya Arthur
Debbie Murray
Eilidh Eunson
Caroline Watt
Caroline Manson
Andrea Williamson
Margaret Leask
Zoe Williamson
Niall Healy (Head Teacher)

Apologies: Anita Sparrow
Julie Reid
Valerie Anderson
Louise Laurenson

Welcome

Alison welcomed everyone to the meeting and read out the apologies.

Minutes of last meeting

The minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th September was approved by Eilidh and seconded by Caroline M.

Matters Arising

ICT

Alison was going to speak to James Scargrill about helping with the Business Studies class – she will ask Kari Hamilton to contact him directly. He was also going to be asked about helping with the school blog but Leona said there wasn't much he would be able to do as users are quite limited in what they can do on the blog.

Traditional Dancing

Maria Leask is coming into the primary weekly this term to take pupils for traditional dancing.

Treasurers Report

Alison read out Julie's report in her absence. The balance at the last meeting was £3871.62. There had been no income or expenditure, other than bank charges, leaving a total of £3863.12. There will be some income due soon from a merchandise order.

Head Teachers Report

See attached.

Class Rep Feedback

Nursery

No feedback

Primary 1

No feedback

Primary 2

- Pupils are enjoying the range of activities offered for Friday Fun and also like going up to the Secondary and mixing with all age groups
- A parent asked if bullying could be covered at assembly as their child was having problems with an older child. Niall responded that any bullying allegations would be taken very seriously and issues dealt with promptly to avoid it escalating.
- There were also reports that there seemed to be an increase in bad language used in school by pupils and younger pupils were hearing words from older pupils. This will be passed on to the school.

Primary 3

- Positive feedback from a parent who felt that communication between parent and staff was excellent and was confident staff treated pupils as individuals.

Primary 4

No feedback

Primary 5

- Parents have raised the issue of bad language being used more and was especially bad on the school bus. This will be passed on to the school.
- Parents have also requested that they would like to know soon if any costumes were needed for the school concert. *This information has now been shared.*

Primary 6

- Pupils have asked if they can get new football goals as the existing ones are broken and quite old. Leona said that the school is planning to get new ones in the spring.
- Some pupils would like to see more sport and ICT activities offered for Friday Fun and would like more computers. This will be passed on to the school.
- Concern about the use of mobile phones in school and wondered if there was still an issue with 'Tik Tok'. No issue known.
- Thanks to staff at the school as their child is really enjoying the school.

Primary 7

- a parent was disappointed that there was not an evening performance at the concert as it meant some parents may not be able to attend due to work

- would like to see better vegetarian options offered and more 'hearty' meals offered at lunch time. Unfortunately, school menus are decided by the Local Authority and not by individual schools.
- would like less homework and felt it was not needed. Niall said that a new policy was being developed and parents would be consulted on this.

Secondary 1

- There was some confusion over maths homework, pupils were unclear about what they needed to do.
- Some pupils said there wasn't enough seating in the corridor for breaktime. Niall said they were aware of this and were looking into the issue.
- Pupils are enjoying the extra curricular activities, e.g. knitting, CPR skills etc.
- Niall, Eyvor and Kari are easy to approach if there are any issues and parents feel issues are dealt with promptly.

Secondary 2

- Parent wondered if there would be any information evenings about the school trips. Niall said these were planned to happen soon.

Secondary 3

- Would there be any afterschool homework clubs again, as in previous years. Niall said these were being planned and more information would be sent to parents.

Secondary 4

- Parents wondered if clerical staff could just ask pupils for meal choices instead of emailing to them. Leona said that its parents responsibility to book meals for their child and staff were not meant to do this.
- Parents asked if information about work experience could be emailed to them as pupils are not passing this information on.

A.O.C.B.

Concert Raffle

A poll would be put on the Whatsapp group to see who was available to help on the concert day. Tanya will order the hampers from the shop.

Litter

Debbie asked if it would be possible to get a bin outside the arches at the Secondary as there was quite a lot of litter on the ground.

Next meeting

This was scheduled for Tuesday 10th February 2026.