

**MINUTE OF THE MEETING OF WHITENESS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL  
HELD ON Monday 08th May 2023 at 6.30 pm in the WHITENESS PRIMARY SCHOOL  
AND ON MS TEAMS.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rachel Colclough – (Head Teacher), Darren Silver (Chair), Hilary Winks (Parent Member), Paula Somerville (Parent Member), Sue Lewis (Parent Member), Diane Forsyth (Staff Member) Catherine Hughson (Councillor), Moraig Lyall (Councillor).

**PARENTS PRESENT:**

Stuart Somerville.

**APOLOGIES:**

Davie Sandison (Councillor), Monica Moncrieff (Vice-Chair), Susan Jamieson (Co-opted Member), Amy Leask (Parent member), Dawn Smith (Parent Member).

**Parent Council Meeting opened at 6.30pm.**

1. **Welcome** – Darren welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies** - were noted as above.

2. **Previous minutes** - The previous minutes from meeting held on 08th May 2023 were approved and seconded by RC and SL.

3. **Matters Arising** – Catherine gave an update on the Road Safety issues around the front of the school and the issues with cars going too fast and parents worried about their children's safety as they cross the road from Clach-na-strom to the School and home again.

Catherine has stated that the 50mph speed limit which is a 10mph reduction on the road would be in place at some point, it had been approved but would take a while to come into effect unfortunately, due to things like 30 day notice periods etc..

Catherine also stated that negotiations were ongoing with the Council to provide a Crossing Patrol attended in the mornings and in the afternoon.

A greater police presence has been discussed.

Rachel added that the School itself had no finance/resources for a crossing patrol at this time.

During the meeting Catherine received an email from Neil Hutchison (SIC) who told her that the school crossing signs had now been ordered.

Mrs Paula Somerville agreed to take on the role of Parent Council Clerk with effect from the next meeting (AGM).

#### **4.& 5. Head Teachers Report / School Improvement Planning Update -**

RC went through her report including:

Transitions with early years, few sessions already taken place.

The school improvement plan at this time of year is mostly forward planning this time of year.

Rights of the Child Toolkit.

Play Pedagogy throughout School. DF

Ongoing Staff Training Metacognition.

PEF - Closing the attainment gap and data gathering.

HW and PS welcomed learning through play, level of structure was discussed. DF - this has been well thought through with structured set aside times for formal learning along with learning through play throughout school.

ML - Felt learning through Practical activity and felt that to some Play would equal Fun with no particular purpose.

- 6. Treasurers Report -** DS gave members an update of finances. Total amount £3031.51 £2000 due to come out for committed project for school. The online shopping fund has raised £329.90. DS needs 2 signatories on the account and would like more committee members to be signatories to avoid any delays in signing off financial things. The PC received a £25 Grant Paid by SIC, this is down on £50 due to an ongoing underspend.

#### **7. AOB -**

DS - Connect training for PC members is available on the Connect website.

DS - A new insurance policy for the PC has been arranged via connect and is with the Insurer Zurich.

DS - Tesco community Grants has been in touch offering us the opportunity to apply for their instore funding programme. DS - said that as soon as we had a suitable project we would send them an email and thanked them for their contact with us.

HW - Had been asked by Parents to raise a query about Snow Days and about online learning and about homework. As some parents were struggling to achieve this and felt a lot was being put upon them.

RC - Elaborated about online learning on snow days, and said that devices were available within the local authority via the education department. The device policy has been shared previously with parents along with what is known as the digital inclusion policy - RC will include this information again in her Friday emails. RC - explained that pressure was being felt on both sides, ultimately the feeling among the members was that some sort of learning should take place.

RC - School being used during a Funeral if at the weekend. School couldn't ensure availability as nobody available outside of hours to open and close school and also the

members wondered if the school insurance policy would cover these type of goodwill activities.

DS - Completed a Connect survey and questionnaire and from this Parent Councils from across Scotland were put into a Prize draw with Whiteness PC winning a £50 book token for the School. DS to give token to RC at the next available opportunity.

DS - spoke further about Income Streams – Zifit App which allows to put a box together of old books/dvds/cds to sell for money to raise funds for school. Darren will do up a poster on this, and a large book recycling bin is being donated in December by a local business. We could process these monthly and different age groups within the School could perform different functions.

CH - Wanted to thank everyone, especially RC for taking the time to host a recent Councillor visit. CH - felt that the visit had been extremely beneficial.

HW - Said that she would be stepping down from the PC.

DS - Thanked HW for the time and dedication shown to the PC.

PS - Stated that Mr Stuart Somerville who was in attendance would like to come onto the PC.

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**Next Meeting** - The next meeting of the PC will be the AGM on the 11/9/23 at 6.30pm. (Whiteness Primary School)

**Darren thank everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.49pm.**