



Blackwood Primary School & ELC Parent Council

**Blackwood Primary School, Carlisle Road,
Blackwood, Lanark, ML11 9AT**

Blackwoodparentcouncil@gmail.com

BLACKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of AGM Meeting – Wednesday 12th November 2025

Present

Emma McGeachie P6, Jenny Bowman BPS, Vivienne Colquhoun BPS, Ashley Canning BPS, Christine McMillan BPS, Ross Gowland Councillor, Kimberley Miller P3, Abbie Dunlop P1, Joanne and Craig Wilson P1, Chloe Semple P1/3, Nicole MacSween P2/1, Kerry Weir P2/1 and Cassandra Bekes.

Apologies

Ruth Colquhoun, Amanda Kerr, Lisa Tweed and Lara MacPherson.

Welcome

Emma opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Emma explained what the Parent Council is, she discussed the different roles within the BPC and how these are in line with our constitution.

Emma mentioned communication is going well between the Facebook page and the new What's App group that has been created.

Correspondence

No correspondence via email.

Treasurer's report

As Lisa couldn't access the accounts at the last meeting, this report covers the period since handover at the end of August.

Opening balance £7558.02

Income

5x bonus ball payments (see bonus ball update below for info) £288

Expenditure

2x monthly service charges £8.50

Current Balance
£7837.52

Pending transactions -
Halloween treats £201.49
Mosaic contribution £1,000
Sumdog pencils x1000 £140.40
Lottery license renewal £20

Balance after pending paid should be £6475.63

Bonus ball update

There have been 5 bonus ball draws so far since the accounts hand over at the end of August, as follows;

06/09 £59 full board

20/09 £56 1 number unsold, 2 numbers unpaid (1 person, now removed from game)

04/10 £56 2 numbers unsold, 1 number unpaid (person has withdrawn from game)

18/10 £58 1 number unsold

01/11 £59 full board

Hopefully we can stay at a full board for a while again now. The rules of the game have been updated to politely ask people to give 2 weeks' notice if they wish to give up their numbers. Everyone has also been reminded to pay on time - before 5pm on the Friday proceeding the game.

A direct debit option is also available if people would prefer to pay using standing order.

The Bonus Ball generates additional monthly income for the Parent Council School Fund which means we rely less on additional yearly fundraising activities to support the school. Please continue to support this initiative by adhering to the rules of play. Please contact Lisa Tweed for further details.

Easy fundraising update

The website is showing that we have £86.52 currently ready for payment in the next payment run & there are also some pending payments that could be added too.

We have received £1861.72 over the last few years, since we started using Easy Fundraising.

This is an amazing amount and demonstrates that all these additional things do make a difference.

Head teachers report

Thanks –

- Halloween
- Maths pencils
- 150th Celebrations and the funding to help with the cost of the Mosaics

Final activity - Photograph on Monday 17th November

School Improvement Plan –

- Rights ambassadors led
- Anti – bullying week
- Black History Month
- School Chaplain led Remembrance
- 3 of 5 VCPA Staff development sessions completed

- Achieved our “See the whole child” attachment jigsaw. Thanks to J Bowman & C Forbes who have led this across the school.

Participatory Budget:

- P1 & SC Tuesday 16th December to Biggar Puppet Theatre
- P5 & P6/5 sponsored by Blackwood Estate – Clyde in the Classroom
- P5-7 Science Centre on Wednesday 26th November
- Staffing News
- Mrs Colquhoun APT finishes with us on Tuesday 18th November as she has a full-time post at Newfield. Congratulations and thanks for all you have contributed in your almost 2 years with us.
- Mrs C Forbes 0.6FTE and class teacher P4/3 on a Thursday and Friday has intimated her plans to retire early at the end of this term. Mrs Forbes has been an active member of staff for 14 years and has led many initiatives in the school. Her skillset will be missed.
- Mr Stewart (P6/5) additionally finishes on Monday 17th.
- Recruitment for these vacancies has started. However, this may not overlap with the current term.

Ongoing :-

- Students starting with us on Monday 27th October
- Children in Need – Friday 14th
- P1-3 Family workshop - Read, Write & Count
- Christmas
- Jumpers from Monday 1st December
- Parties
- Lunch – Thursday 4th December
- P5 Assembly on Friday 21st
- Choir performance
- Football & Netball festival – 28th November
- P6/5 assembly at the church – 5th December
- P7 Hoodies

Any Other Business

Parent Helpers- Both Emma and Christine thanked all the parent helpers for decorating the hall & getting the school looking spooky and scary for the day of Halloween activities. The hall looked amazing & the kids thoroughly enjoyed the day. Thank you to the Parent Council for providing the children’s Halloween treats which they received on the day.

Christine discussed the Learning Community Mobile Phone Policy and was keen to get feedback from Nicole MacSween, a parent who had a stall at parents evening to raise awareness regarding The Smartphone Free Childhood Petition. The feedback Nicole received from parents was mixed however mostly positive. Loads of information was given out and questions were asked around the petition. Nicole has kindly offered to help at future events going forward. Chloe made a good suggestion of including this in the new Primary 1 packs to raise awareness before children start school.

Fundraising – Chloe discussed the possibility of doing some fundraising and it was agreed for all to share ideas either via the What’s App group or Facebook. Agreed we have a healthy balance at present and asking for money around the festive period may be hard. This can be reviewed again in January at our next PC meeting.

Enterprise Event – Christine spoke about the P5-7 and doing a Christmas fayre as part of the enterprise work and they will be making and selling crafts.

Healthy Valleys – Emma discussed that Healthy Valleys ran a community Halloween event for children on 30th October. Advertising was done the week before the event which didn't allow enough time for people to get prepared. The event was a success but poorly attended. After speaking to Healthy Valleys, it has been agreed going forward Healthy Valleys will work with the school and Parent Council to help advertise future community events to increase awareness.

Bike Sheds – Christine advised these have recently been installed through a grant supplied by Cycle Scotland. These will help to allow the children to store their bikes and scooters when using these to get to school.

Forrest School & Blackwood Estate Community Association – Proposed solar farm development

To represent BPS Parent Council Emma attended the recent SLC Planning Committee meeting on 28th October (at which SLC approved the application for a solar Farm & BES unit at Blackwood Estate), our children's Forest school educational area.

BECA (Blackwood Estate Community Association) are currently working with Blackwood Primary, St Johns Primary & Bent Primary Parent Councils to oppose this decision. The Parent Councils are closely involved & are actively campaigning for our local children's voices to be heard and their rights maintained. This year we created our "What Loch Wood means to me campaign" to showcase the children's Forest school experience & the information was presented to MSPs Brian Whittle, Mairi McCallan & Imogen Walker. BECA provide a FREE Forest school experience for our children. This year our P5/6-year group will be involved in The Clyde in the Classroom project in partnership with the Science Centre. If this development goes ahead our children's forest school educational experiences will stop.

If any parents wish to support this, please let us know if you can help. There are updates on our Parent Council FB page & also on the FB pages of BECA & Blackwood /Kirkmuirhill Co-ordination group.

A link is attached to view SLC's You tube video of the meeting. The relevant section starts at 7.35min, the vote at 21 minutes in. The Head of Planning, Fraser Carlin's comments that children's education "not being a planning reason" to object the development. The Planning Report submitted to the councillors also contained material factual errors:

- it's over 300,000 solar panels, not 3,600 as stated in the Planning Report
- it's 642 local objections, not 55 as stated in the Report
- the Report completely fails to even mention our 4 local schools using Loch Wood for outdoor learning & no assessment has been done regarding this
- The report seems wholly based on (erroneous) information from the developer – BECA believe no other information has been assessed by SLC Planning for the councillors to consider
- The councillors therefore did not have accurate information on which to base their decision. The final vote was 11 for, 8 against.

The final decision has still to be made by the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government. We are hoping the outcome will be positive.

Link to meeting:

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO1FoNRRGIY&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR5AR1m2tN1Ka-GBjMdCIIUQ2zYrG-X8LjVnEyZ7JLLNOHNnrTeDpidteDHR-g_aem_ZNKmDshyvNMTudFREBUqgg&h=AT0V-qmm-n5fLe4M_Wja8BBeuQH-bJFDfDxbgnwAj_xrB2yi7xUT6cwUvEHE3myiZlDofjhBySFAwdHFBpIMvrnN1zjbgzdyD8OoFC0qbxyCGSkWYRX0t6L_6GiafmjTkZZeU9rE9V02tNuLxnaJg&_tn_=H-R&c%5B0%5D=AT2xCldXU8nOlrTc0zJuwDwZ1js9-

[_OrDtiVAvyJKkyn6zkPDZstjPXGt47q2NQShwJOpkXaIXJ0xltlqz13UOkMZodRLfnHRPxy30XtAwCIEPVEVr7VjWR4XeUAa3-2UYmMY3pBEfAaVPNaviaGZyPCmt7jN6 NQvtzA8zaTRY vM8tueozdHqGCO5FVypzumeCIZ4ARKZ2y0LIXp HEcJMA](#)

Dates of Next meetings

Wednesday 4th of February at 7pm – Microsoft Teams

Wednesday 13th of May at 7pm – Face to face in the school

Close

Emma again thanked everyone for coming, and for their input.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 4th of February 7pm via Microsoft Teams. We hope to see you there 😊 !

Blackwood Parent Council 2025/2026 –

Emma McGeachie (Chair), Chloe Semple (Vice-Chair), Lisa Tweed (Treasurer), Kimberley Miller (Secretary)

In support of -

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