

High Blantyre Primary School Parent Council

Thursday 06 November 2025 at 18:15

1. Welcome and apologies - Chair.

The Chair, Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mrs Helsby offered personal apologies. Apologies were recorded and noted by Danielle as detailed below:

In attendance

Susan Lindner-Kelly (Chair)	Cara Rice (Vice Chair/ Treasurer)	Lauren Paterson (Vice Treasurer)
Danielle Barnes (Secretary)	Mrs Ferguson (DHT)	Mrs Sliman (DHT)
Julie McCallum	Jordan Mason	Alan Rothead
Fiona McMillan	Kirsty Gospage	Jill McDade
Kerrin McCafferty(Nursery)	Louise O'Donnell	

Apologies

Mrs Helsby (Head Teacher)	Cllr Bert Thomson	Scott Fletcher
Jane Paterson	Jane Stewart	Ali O'Donnell
Nadine Wilson	Mrs Mclean (Teacher)	Biance Muir (Nursery)

2. Approval of draft minutes of Wednesday 23 September 2025

Susan reviewed the actions from the meeting, and the following was highlighted: -

- a) **Polytunnel/Mud Kitchen-** Alan has volunteered to look at the polytunnel doors and make any necessary adjustments. Susan thanked Alan for the fabulous mud kitchen and Nadine for sourcing the sink. **Action: Ongoing**
- b) **Playground equipment-** Susan has been referred to Spifox for funding. Susan will speak to Ciara re ASN focus. **Action: Susan to pursue with the school Ongoing**
- c) **School ties for new primary one's-** Clarity sought regarding the total amount of primary ties donated by the Parent Council. Need to establish how many senior ties we have. There are 31 children leaving the nursery this year. It is unknown which school the children are going to. The Nursey currently have 15 ties for our school. Little Darlings in Burnbank donated ties to the school when the shop closed. **Action:** Cara to check senior ties. Nursery to confirm the number of ties required and for which schools once known. Need to source a contact for Little Darlings to pass on our thanks. **Ongoing**
- d) **Gym equipment-** Alan is investigating who can do an annual maintenance on the gym equipment. Mrs Helsby advised that Sports Safe are the initial contact for the price of annual maintenance. **Action:** Alan will follow up and explore other contractors for price comparison. **Ongoing**
- e) **Social media** – It has been agreed by the school that they will use Facebook as a replacement for, 'x' following the Council's instruction to stop using this platform. A closed Facebook group has been set up and is going well. Mrs Helsby advised that we can review throughout the year. **Ongoing**

Action Ongoing

- f) **Car parking** – Mrs Helsby followed up with the Community Police to follow onto next meeting. **Action:** Mrs Helsby will follow up with Community Police again.
- g) **150th Year School anniversary:** Susan thanked everyone involved in the 150th celebrations over the two school concerts and open day. The feedback from the community was very positive and our House Captains received great feedback. Susan thanked Mila's dad for recording the show. Susan proposed letter of thanks for Mila's dad.
- h) **Team 50:50:** We were unfortunate not to win this. Susan thanked everyone involved.
- i) **ASN fundraising** – Ciara still trying to engage with parents of children within the ASN classes to encourage them to join the Parent Council. **Actions:** Ongoing.

The draft minutes were approved by Lauren and seconded by Alan.

3. Head Teacher Report

Susan thanked Mrs Helsby for the Head Teacher Report that was circulated in advance of the meeting.

3.1 Learning Communities Policies

This has been carried on to our next meeting for discussion.

4. Funding

Susan thanked Cara, for producing the comprehensive financial reports. Cara highlighted the following:

- a) **Easy fundraising** - Cara continuing to promote platform on our social media.
- b) **Book fundraising** – It was agreed that we need to consider ways of raising funds for books as the 50:50 is proving a difficult sell. **Action:** To be considered at the next meeting in January.
- c) **Community Wish list:** We received a donation from the Community Wishlist for ASN and £500 has been paid into the bank. Susan encouraging the nursery to make use of the Wishlist. Ciara advised the ASN classes were awarded second place for Author Residency (£500).
- d) **Greenhouse** – Alan has managed to remove some of the greenhouse and will return for the remainder in due course. Alan advised treatment required for Mares Tail. Susan advised that we cannot use Weedkiller and suggested speaking to James Meechan at SLC. **Actions:** Susan to follow up with James.
- e) **Benches:** Scott volunteered to source picnic benches for the playground. **Actions:** Carried onto next meeting in January.
- f) As previously agreed £1,000 will be transferred from the Credit Union to the RBS account.
- g) iPad's have now been ordered and received. Cara will withdraw the money from Credit Union and issue a cheque to school. Kerrin advised the Nursery are benefiting from their new iPad.
- h) Lottery licence has been renewed. Still awaiting confirmation however, we don't anticipate any issues.

- i) Kerrin has purchased apples at £8.22. Cara will arrange for monies to be sent to Kerrin.
- j) **Christmas lunch:** Tablecloths and crackers have been purchased. Exact dates have not been decided yet. Any volunteers from the parent council will also receive a Christmas lunch.
- k) Cara advised raffle tickets have been ordered for Christmas fayre. Stephanie to give Cara class numbers.
- l) Bianca has ordered items for the Christmas fayre and advised a stay and play is being arranged. £55.05 is to be reimbursed from the nursery bonus ball fund.

5. Events

Susan thanked Cara for the various events visuals.

- a) **PVGs:** Three PVGS have been approved. Still have a few outstanding, which require to be chased up. **Action:** To follow up in January.
- b) **P7 leavers** – The WhatsApp group is up and running.
- c) **Panto** – is live on Parent Pay.

5.1 Halloween disco: Susan thanked all volunteers for the successful Halloween Swap Shop. This was a huge success, and we have a good selection of costumes for next year. Susan thanked Alan for obtaining prices for snacks and drinks and Mo for providing the snacks and drinks, Lauren for purchasing biscuits and decorations and Amy and George for DJ'ing at the Halloween Discos. Susan proposed a £50 gift voucher for Amy and George. **Action:** To obtain a gift voucher for Amy and George.

5.2 Christmas Fayre: The Christmas fayre will be on Thursday 27 November 2025. Susan reminded everyone that there will be stalls raising money for the Primary 7's leavers fund, ASN, nursery, wider school community and external stall holders. Mrs Sliman asked for a list of stalls for staff to sign up for - Cara will confirm this soon and advised 9 external stall holders have paid and still another 2 to pay. Cara will request availability of parent council volunteers

- (a) Primary 7 stalls will include a teddy tombola organised by Julie, badge, and magnet making, hot chocolate and sweet cones, cakes, scentsy items organised by Amanda, hook a duck and custom phone cases. A few of the P7's intend to help out with the stalls.
- (b) The toy tombola, bottle tombola and the raffle are big earners. Susan suggested buying bottles of bubble bath etc for the tombola.
- (c) Jill still has games that were made last year. Need volunteers to man them.
- (d) Cara advised We Love Coffee have donated cups.
- (e) Susan noting that we need to get tea, coffee and sugar.
- (f) Susan will arrange selection boxes at discounted rate.
- (g) Julie proposed book donations for Santa present for future to keep costs down.
- (h) It was agreed that Jean would keep the float this year on the evening of the Christmas Fayre. **Action:** Cara to withdraw £1,000 for the float.
- (i) Louise suggesting a stall for Christmas cards made by the pupils. **Action:** Louise will investigate the logistics of this with printing etc for years ahead.

- (j) We need to arrange collection of the tables from the Community Garden and roll to cover the tables. **Action:** Alan offered to do this on Wednesday 26th November.
- (k) Cara asked for access time for set up. Dining hall is usually 2pm and Cara enquired if 12pm for the gym hall would be suitable. **Action:** Mrs Sliman will liaise with P1 re the nativity practices and confirm.

5.3 Christmas jumper swap shop: Volunteers will be at the school gates in the mornings and afternoons of 1-4 December. The swap shop will take place on 5 December. Cara will arrange a poll to confirm availability of volunteers.

6. Any other business

Susan proposed something similar to the Community Council's Spirit of Blantyre award which can be used for contributing parents to be recognised etc. Susan suggested we can think of ways to highlight this. Agreed to discuss in January.
Action: Ongoing.

Kerrin advised one of the Nursery iPad screens is broken. Alan offered to have a look and will advise of the cost to repair. Ciara advised the ASN iPad's have tough covers. It was noted that the Nursery also have these covers. **Action:** Ongoing.

Date of next meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and advised that our next meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 14 January 2026.