

High Blantyre Primary School Parent Council

Thursday 19 March 2026 at 18:00

1. Welcome and apologies - Chair.

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

In attendance

Susan Lindner-Kelly (Chair)	Cara Rice (Vice Chair/ Treasurer)	Danielle Barnes (Secretary)
Lauren Paterson (Vice Treasurer)	Mrs Helsby (Head Teacher)	Mrs Sliman (DHT)
Mrs Mclean (Teacher)	Margaret Dickson (Nursery Team Leader)	Kerrin Mccafferty (Nursery)
Alan Rothead	Nadine Wilson	Scott Fletcher
Louise O'Donnell		

Apologies

Kirsty Gospage	Jane Paterson	Jane Stewart
Fiona McMillan	Ali O'Donnell	Cllr Mo Razzaq
Mrs Ferguson (DHT)	Cllr Maureen Chalmers	Jill McDade
Stephanie Meiklem (Team Leader)	Jordan Mason	

2. Approval of draft minutes of Wednesday 14 January 2026

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

- a) **Playground equipment-** Alan provided drawings of the playground to Mrs Ferguson. **Action:** Susan will liaise with Mrs Ferguson further. **Ongoing**
- b) **School ties for new primary one's-** Clarity sought regarding the total amount of primary ties donated by the Parent Council. We have around 8 senior ties and at least 20 in the cupboard. It is too early to confirm numbers yet. The nursery have 12 ties however, it's a mixture of traditional and elasticated. As it stands there are 31 children leaving the nursery this year. Placing requests won't be confirmed until 3 May 2026.. **Action:** Nursery to confirm the number of ties required and for which schools once known **Ongoing**
- c) **Senior Uniform:** We have 33 Primary 5 pupils and an additional 16 pupils from ASN. We need to think about whether polo shirts may be more appropriate for some pupils.**Action:** Mrs Ferguson will confirm. **Ongoing**
- d) **Gym equipment-** Alan sourced a company to inspect and certify the equipment for £30. They visited on 8th January 2026 to inspect the equipment. Alan has e-mailed a copy of the certificate Cara confirmed invoice has come in and has been paid. **Action:** None.

- e) **Social media** – Mrs Helsby, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Mclean and Miss Maclean have access to the Facebook Group. The Primary 7 trip to Lockerbie was well documented on the page by Miss Maclean. Susan noted that there wasn't as many updates as there was when Twitter or X was used previously. Mrs Helsby advised that uploading photographs is not part of teachers remit and they only do it if they wish to. **Action:** to be monitored **Ongoing**
- f) **Car parking** –Mrs Helsby and others continue to patrol the car parks. Issues are few and far between now. However, the parking out with the school grounds still pose a problem. Neighbours have contacted the community police about the parking outside the school grounds **Action:** Parent Council will also write to ask for their support to ensure the safety of the school children **Ongoing**
- g) **150th Year School anniversary:** Mrs Helsby has the video which has been shared with the pupils. It has not been shared with parents yet as some children don't have permission to be on social media. Steph had been in touch with the videographer to arrange for pupils who don't have permission to be on social media to be removed from the video however, he hasn't responded yet. **Action:** Steph to follow up. **Ongoing**
- h) **ASN fundraising** – Mrs Ferguson is still trying to engage with parents of children within the ASN classes to encourage them to join the Parent Council and has proposed getting an information stand for the new parents evening. **Actions:** Cara will look into getting leaflets. Continued onto the next meeting to discuss with Ciara. **Ongoing.**
- i) **Greenhouse** – Alan managed to remove some of the greenhouse and will return for the remainder in due course. Alan advised that treatment required for Mares Tail. Susan advised that we cannot use Weedkiller and suggested speaking to James Meechan at SLC however, James is currently on holiday. **Actions:** Susan has spoken with James Meechan at SLC. He has advised that this isn't the time of year to remove the weeds. It is on their radar for the coming months. **Ongoing**
- j) **Benches:** Scott volunteered to source picnic benches for the playground. Scott has obtained a quote which is around £900. Alan has agreed to build a picnic bench if the materials can be supplied **Ongoing**
- k) **5.1 Halloween disco:** Danielle has obtained a voucher for Amy and George. The voucher will be gifted to George at the Spring Fling disco, which George has kindly agreed to DJ at. **Action:** None.

The draft minutes were approved by Cara 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.

Following on from our last meeting Mrs Helsby advised of a slight improvement in lost property.

Mile a Day: Mrs Helsby thanked the Parent Council for part funding the markings, which have been added to the playground this week and has been a hit with the pupils. These have been paid for from the school budget and Mrs Helsby will ask Steph to send an invoice to Cara to arrange payment. Susan asked what other smaller markings would be included. Mrs Helsby advised that the smaller markings will be an additional cost, depending on what the pupils choose. Both junior and senior playgrounds will choose three designs each and

will be decided once all funds from the sponsored Mile a Day have been collected and counted as the markings vary in price.

Easter Egg competition: Nadine asked whether there will be an Easter Egg competition. Mrs Helsby advised it will be on the last week before the Easter break.

3.1 Learning Communities Policies

All schools in Calderside Academy's learning community work closely with each other and try to adapt the same policies for continuity. South Lanarkshire Council give guidance on policies etc. The school's policy is that mobile phones should not be brought to school unless absolutely necessary. Mrs Helsby has sent out a Google form for parent's feedback and once received it can be discussed further. **Action** Mrs Helsby to gather feedback and forward onto the Parent Council for consideration **Ongoing**

3.2 Nursery

Kerrin asked for resources for the outdoor area such as soil etc. Susan advised that there are bags of soil in the polytunnel. Margaret advised they are looking to develop the outdoor area. The ground needs to be levelled as the children have been digging. They are looking for flowers to be planted outside the nursery fence. Mrs Mclean advised she will bring some packets of seeds in for the nursery and suggested that the Primary 1's plant with the nursery children to help with their transition. Susan suggested the use of the Community Payback, who may be able to help. The Community Garden will restart again soon, and they may have surplus tomato plants that can be used. **Action:** Nursery to advise what they require. Susan to arrange a visit from Bonnie Bee and Crabbit Rabbit. **Ongoing**

Trim trail is in a bit of disrepair. Alan will have a look. **Ongoing**

4. Funding

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

- a) **Easy fundraising** - £46.56 cleared for payment in May with £294.17 awaiting clearance. **Action:** Cara continuing to promote on social media. **Ongoing**
- b) **Raffles:** The raffle for the Mother's Day hampers was a hit. Despite an initial concern about the level of donations, we were inundated and managed to raffle off 8 amazing hampers. Susan thanked Cara for collecting the donations in and making the hampers. As Easter is fast approaching and there is ongoing fundraising for the Mile a Day, it has been decided that there will be no raffle before the Easter break. The next fundraising raffle will be the Rainbow raffle.
- c) **Community Wish list:** Susan advised that the Community Wishlist is moving to a new platform and all current wishes will need to be moved over. Only three wishes can be added to the wish list at a time. If the wish remains unanswered, it is removed after a period of time. Mrs Ferguson secured around £500 worth of garden equipment via the wish list. Susan encouraging the nursery to use it. (i) **Sensory Rooms:** There are more and more children with ASN in mainstream and South Lanarkshire Council has allocated £4,000 to create safe spaces within the

school. Mrs Helsby advised that it was suggested that two sensory rooms be allocated in mainstream to serve as a calming room for children in distress. One room will be located upstairs and the other downstairs. Both rooms have been cleared and require a refurbishment. Mrs Helsby advised a worktop has to be removed from the wall which will then need plastered and both rooms require carpets. Mrs Mclean will ask her son if he can assist with the carpets. Alan will have a look at the rooms and see if we can help. **Action:** Susan to set up on the new platform **Ongoing**

- d) **Pupil Voice Group:** Pupils have e-mailed the Parent Council for help with playground resources. Mrs Helsby advised the pupils had designed buddy benches. Susan has been directed to Jo Gillies and will follow up. **Action** Susan to follow up with Jo Gillies. Thereafter, the Parent Council will consider the request and feedback. **Ongoing**
- e) **Books:** Mrs Mclean advised that there are quite a lot of books that have to be stickered and put onto the system. The whole infant library needs to be done, and it would be good to get this up and running as a borrowing library. Parent's can help with this but will require a PVG. There is only one scanner at the moment, and it would be useful to have two so that there is one upstairs and one downstairs. They are around £100 to buy. Susan proposed buying a second scanner. This was seconded by Danielle. Mrs Sliman will try and source a working Chromebook to connect the scanner to. Mrs Mclean has restarted books of the month. The pupils are really enjoying non-fiction and graphic novels and would like more of these. Mrs Helsby suggested a book hamper. It was suggested that there could be a drop in and borrow a book session. **Action:** Parent Council to consider ways to boost book building.
- f) **IPad:** Alan has been asked to fix another IPad as another screen is broken and needs replaced. The cost of repairs is around £55. Alan proposed that the Parent Council fund this. This was seconded by Cara. **Action:** Alan to fix the IPad.

5. Events

Susan thanked everyone who volunteers to help with various events. Susan also expressed thanks to Louise for picking up all of the crackers for this year's Xmas lunch at a bargain price.

- a) **PVGs:** Cara will add a poll into the WhatsApp chat to confirm how many members of the Parent Council have a PVG. Louise advised she will e-mail the office to arrange hers. **Action:** To follow up at the next meeting.
- b) **P7 leavers** – It was confirmed that no additional funding is required for the leaver's celebrations. It was noted that whilst we have P7 parents fundraising for the leavers, there is no active fundraising for nursery leavers. Susan advised that the Parent Council covered ties, t-shirts, cakes and balloons last year. **Action:** Nursery to think about any additional items they need and consider fundraising.
- c) **Spring Fling:** All snacks and juice have been secured, thanks given to Mo Razzaq for helping with this. Nadine asked if we need decorations and will investigate inflatables. **Action:** Nadine to look into inflatables.
- d) **Book bug:** Kerrin invited a representative from the Parent Council to come to some book bug sessions in the nursery. The sessions have been well attended, and we could use these to encourage some nursery parents to join the Parent Council. **Action:** Parent Council to arrange to drop into one of the

sessions. Margaret will arrange something in the nursery to draw attention to the Parent Council.

- e) **Christmas jumper swap shop:** There wasn't as many jumpers donated this year. Susan suggested that we start collecting donations earlier as it's likely that people dispose of these shortly after Christmas.
- (g) **Christmas cards:** Louise suggested Christmas cards made by the pupils and looked into the cost etc. Louise will send on details and advised the earlier the orders are in, the larger the commission. **Action:** Louise to send on details.
Ongoing

6. Any other business

Parent Council members: Susan encouraged additional parents to join the Parent Council and asked members to actively promote this to other parents. It was noted that several current members will be stepping down in June 2026 when their own children leave the school, and that increased membership is required to maintain the work of the Council. It was observed that meeting attendance and volunteering currently relies on the same small group of parents. Members discussed that some parents may be deterred by the perceived level of commitment and may prefer to support the Council as helpers only. Cara advised that a helpers-only sub-group had previously been trialled a few years back. **Actions:** Members to encourage wider parental engagement, highlighting both full membership and ad-hoc helping opportunities, and to explore renewed options for flexible involvement.

Date of next meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and advised that our next meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 29 April 2026.