

Robert Owen Memorial Primary School Parent Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2025 via Zoom at 19:00

Present

Laura Black,(Chair) Bronwen Aidoo,(Scribe), Catriona Murdoch, Lorraine Dick, Erica Baillie, Suzanne Barrie, Claire Frood, Erin Barrie, Ina Marshall, Vikki Epton, Paula Ross(Head teacher), Jenni Smith, G Clarke.

Apologies

Kathryn Gartshore, Mrs Bradshaw, Nicola Wilson, Fiona Barr, Gemma Good. Fraser Dickson

Welcome

Laura Welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised the meeting was moved by a week to ensure access as on the 27th some areas were still experiencing difficulties with power or connection following the storm.

Approval of minutes

Proposed Laura Black, Seconded Suzanne Barrie.

School Business

Mrs Ross thanked the parent council for the sympathy card received and thanked the management team for holding the fort whilst she was on bereavement leave.

Relationship policy review and consultation

This policy was highlighted during the inspection as a strength. The School is keen to continue to work on this and amend it as necessary. It is now a year since its introduction and parents are encouraged to contribute to the policy development.

Staff have advised they feel that children who are consistently green even if they have not received purple or gold stickers should be rewarded. Sanctions are also being reviewed to ensure that they are applied consistently. All children who have been consistently green or received gold or purple stickers will attend termly. Recently stickers have been running low but this will be remedied shortly.

A parent advised that they feel that Uniform should maybe not be considered for stickers as this is not child responsibility. Mrs Ross advised that uniform is monitored and stickers were used to encourage wearing it but staff also are aware it is not child's responsibility. Feedback on the policy will also be given to the Children.

Defibrillator update

This was a Huge success and credit to parent council and the children who worked hard on the One pound challenge. Mrs Ross also expressed her sincere thanks to Mrs Epton and Mrs White for the successful fundraising of a total of 5 500 pounds.

Relatives of a family in the school have purchased a Defibrillator and it should be at school on Friday to present to the school. The money raised will be used for it for consumables and training. The school has also used some defibrillator money for a phone with an app to support a child to get treatment by accurate recording of events affecting health while at school. It will also be used for training for children and staff and different organizations to work with the children to allow for learning of different. A Parent suggested that learning how to deal with choking be included in training. A Parent also suggested purchasing books to support regarding oncology and children's experience in hospital. The parent will share the link to the suggested book with the school.

Staffing.

Mrs Ross gave update on staffing and noted her thanks to Mrs Whyte who will be leaving as Mrs Hamilton is returning. Mrs Ross thanked Mrs Whyte for her help and support and commitment to the school and enthusiasm whilst at ROMPS.

The School website was hosted by the company that managed the school app. As this app is no longer used the website is in the process of being rebuilt. A parent suggested it would be useful to have pictures of the staff available on the website.

Lanimer update.

The Builder for the lanimer lorry is now going full time so is unable to assist this year. The school will share an appeal will be to recruit additional helpers with building skills to help ensure a lorry for Lanimers.

Parent Council Business

Finance update

Account balance 2004.89

Gift sale income 1062.93 , Expenditure 458.95 , Profit 603.98

Border biscuit income 1212 , Cost 720 , Profit 492

November easy fundraising 71.40

Parents evening donations. 19.61

Panto payment 831 This was 50 percent of cost of the ticket.

Still to pay 150 for year book as this was agreed that Parent Council will support this. Mrs Ross will advise when this should be paid.

Updates on recent events

Borders biscuits sale

The meeting agreed this was an easy fundraiser and we had managed to sell all we bought through committed sales from some parents. The meeting agreed to continue with this fundraiser and purchase a similar amount this year.

Christmas Gift sale

This seemed to go well and it is the most profit made in recent years. It appeared to be the cheaper items that were left. There is work in the build up but it is fun for the children. Some parents advised some items did not last well. This included the toy car pens. This feedback is encouraged. The meeting agreed to go ahead with this fundraiser this year and arrange a sub committee to work on it.

Pantomime

2024 was the first time the school had been back to the live show in the Memorial hall and feedback from the school was encouraged. Mrs Ross advised that staff had felt it had been a positive experience. The school went over two days as the whole school could not be accommodated in one day due to preexisting bookings. Staff felt it was pitched at the right level. This year if possible there will be no class parties planned on the same day. Some parents felt that it might have been too long for the nursery children. Mrs Ross advised she will discuss with the nursery and this will be considered for 2025. It was agreed it was good to support local events and as the school could walk down did not require funding for transport and allowed for an outing. The meeting felt it could be considered for 2025 to see if funds could be raised to allow for contributing to the pantomime.

Future Expenditure

The P1 t shirts and the P7 leavers ties would likely come to total of 500 pounds if bought from ALJ. Final numbers for the P1 t Shirts will be known by end of April and the P7 ties amount to 51. If spend is similar to last year closing balance would be 1000 pound. It was suggested we consider alternate options. Gym bags these are 6 pound per bag whilst t shirts are 8 pound. A parent suggested that similar colour and type of shirts could be purchased without the logo if the school was accepting of this for a cheaper price eg. 3.60 per shirt. This will be considered and discussed at the next meeting. Other considerations of flash card or magnetic boards were raised but these would be at greater cost. Mrs Ross advised the Logo is not essential. Ties for the leavers would still be considered. Ties are priced at 7 pound.

Summer treat

Mrs Ross advised that that the school will be providing a summer treat for behaviour as discussed in the relationship policy. It was discussed that if the parent council did not provide a summer treat then more money could be put towards the pantomime.

Parents Evening teas.

This had only raised 19 pound in November but this was due to late notice and people not carrying cash. If it is advertised ahead of time then people may remember to bring cash, the QR code for the easy fundraising could also be put out at this event. The next parents evening will be the 13th March 2025. Bronwen Aidoo volunteered to do between 6- 8. Catriona Murdoch could do earlier in the afternoon. Suzanne Barrie could do evening sessions too. Any other volunteers can advise Laura of availability.

Tea and Home Baking for Sports Day

This raised approximately 100 pound and was well supported. The meeting agreed to do refreshments and request a donation and if not large fundraiser at least it raised profile of the parent council.

Active Agenda

Nothing submitted prior to the meeting.

A parent at the meeting asked if Santa attended the P2 parties. Mrs Ross advised that the parties last year were by year group and that Santa attended the P1 party and the nursery party. Last year a parent provided selection boxes for the P2s as a donation but as there is a composite class the school had to provide selection boxes for the P3s. The P1 gift from santa was a book. The party at Cornhill did not include the younger children as the school was given limited numbers for this event and the whole school would not have been able to attend. It was agreed following discussion that this could be clarified in the sway and highlight that a visitor was only expected at the P1 and Nursery parties so that parents can discuss this with their children.

Discussions like this are an important part of the role of parent council and parents should be encourage to attend and discuss general concerns at meetings and share their views with the school.

Meeting closed 20:26

Next meeting Tuesday 25th March in the staff room at 19:00

Scribed by Bronwen Aidoo.