

WOODHEAD PARENTS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 10th May 2022

Parent Council meeting

PRESENT: Scott Jasnosz-Clark (SC), Claire Fox (CF), Sheila Moore (SM), Freya Kennedy (FK), Alison Yim (AY), Karen Mulholland (KM), Fiona Hendry(FH), Rachel Miller (RM), Lisa Gardner (LG), Pamela Shearer(PS), Laura McIntyre (LM), Adele Pirie (AP) Scott Lindsay (SLi) Cllr Helen Toner, Denise McCafferty(DM)

APOLOGIES. Helen Paterson and Stephen Lennox

Welcome from the Chair, Sheila Moore.

Matters Arising

SM, With regards to the land at Torhead just above the school, thanks to John Ross for confirming the land is not owned by SLC. SM says owned by Miller Homes, apparently for affordable housing.

SC as its private land there does not seem any point in pursuing the discussion about a safe walk to school path as little will be achieved.

PS and SL approve the previous minutes.

Council Update

John Ross was re-elected but unable to attend so sent Cllr Helen Toner in his place. New councillors Celine Handibode and Gavin Keatt will be invited to the next meeting once their official email addresses are released.

Agreed that a card should be sent from the PC to thank previous councillors for their attendance and contribution, Cllr Toner offered to pass these on if she can access contacts and FK can give to Cllr Toner.

Traffic Sub Group

Only 2 people volunteered to join the traffic sub group after it was promoted in the Newsletter so it cant be created and will remain an issue within the PC.

The Living Streets resource for schools was raised by a parent in the school, SC pointing out that its not a free resource and is more about promoting active journeys to school and rewarding children. PC agreed that while to issues with busy streets and dangerous parking continue it would not be a good idea to encourage more children to walk or cycle to school. PS , the bigger issue is Meikle Earnock road and the increase in traffic with no safe crossing areas for children. PC agree that best step forward is to work directly with Roads dept of SLC to discuss a safe crossing on Meikle Earnock road. Although this issue is being raised by the Meikle Earnock community council, Cllr Toner suggests the PC contact Roads dept independently. SM agrees that she will make contact with SLC Roads.

PC Newsletter

SM used the Parent Council template last year but felt it was too formal so has formulated a new newsletter and displayed an initial draft for discussion.

Suggestions include

continue to represent the view of the parent forum
KM suggests photos of members so that forum knows who people are
SL suggests using Twitter to increase awareness of PC and who people are
Presence at school events, SC to invite PC to events and would introduce the named member of the PC for example at P1 transition we have a member who's child is transitioning.
Everyone happy with the format and content, SM saying potentially go out in June but SC saying P1 get transition packs 24th May so if could be done by then.
DM suggests a notice board in the school, SC says that this wouldn't be a problem.

HT Report

SC, the school improvement plan was worked on during the recent in service day, there is more freedom with this years IP as less focus on recovery.

Key points

Literacy

Further embedding Talk for Writing.

Developing a reading culture, noticed in lockdown that reading for pleasure disappeared.

Numeracy

Continue to embed CPA

Numicon/Number Talks

Health and Wellbeing

Nurture Schools UK, school got funding through early years to be accredited as a nurturing school, logical step from work done in lockdown.

August deadline for IP so will share at the next meeting.

Class Numbers for next year.

Currently 13 classes for next year, currently 14, but still placing requests to be agreed so this might change. If it remains at 13 then a FT teacher will be redeployed to another school but it means that quite a few year groups are completely full meaning no chance of places for families moving into the area.

SC has emailed HQ to highlight how many year groups are at capacity and how many new houses are nearing completion this year, and a new teacher was recruited to take school to 14 classes.

Discussion about composite classes, SC showing how unavoidable it is for small groups of four children needing to move into composite classes and asks PC to speak to parents to explain its not a personal choice from the management team, its numbers and often outwith the managements control so they cant then change children to stay with friends etc.

CF says that the policy of children moving into composite classes and reforming class groups each year means the children have relationships with everyone in their year group by the time they get to P7.

SL, can the PC do anything to support the numbers and the decision to lose a teacher, SC says wait until placing requests are decided.

Child Poverty and Cost of the School Day

SLC wanting all schools to reduce the cost of the school day for parents, including hidden poverty.

Woodhead has a wide variation of children from lowest to highest decile scale.

Costs to be considered for parents to send a child to school include travel to school, friendships, school trips, eating at school, fun events, getting dressed, home learning etc.

SLC keen to remove any costs

School uniform – what do children need, does the clothing grant cover all costs.

Fundraising and fun events, school fund comes from parental donations but the school cant ask for money so things like a non uniform day cannot cost children anything.

School trips, the cost of buses have made school trips prohibitive so SC not planning any school trips this year.

SC suggests that maybe next year all fun events in school are free but option on parent pay for parents to contribute if they can afford it.

SL suggests identify outside funding/grant sources, SC thinks this is a good idea, add to agenda for June.

SM thanks everyone for coming, nice to put faces to names properly.

Next meeting 7th June 2022