

Minutes of Meeting, Balforn Primary School Parent Council, 24 January 2024

Present:

Anita Crozier (Chair); Amii Anderson (Chair), Michelle Conway (Treasurer), Angus Black (Head Teacher); Gillian Macmillan (Depute Head Teacher); Claire McIlvenna (Minutes), Katie Graham, Rachel Moir, Joanne Brown, Catherine Cameron, Claire Cattrell

Apologies: Moyra Coull, Lorraine, Michelle Montague, Sarah Catnach, Ainsley Berry, Sandra Malley

1.	Welcome and apologies	Action
	Attendees welcomed and apologies noted.	
2.	Note of previous meeting on 1 November 2023	Action
	Minutes accepted and actions have been completed, and these were seconded by Claire Cattrell.	
3.	Matters Arising	Action
	Nothing to note.	
4.	Treasurer's Report	Action
	<p>The Treasurer reported that the December bank statement had yet to arrive. The current balance within the account as of today's date is £5,576.54. Income remains healthy.</p> <p>Income since August 2023 is as follows: Bonus Ball - £765. Easyfundraising - £179.07. Halloween Disco - £1,057. Mrs Claus Event and Bingo Disco - £150. Xmas Card income to be reported at next meeting. Income total - £2,151.07.</p> <p>Expenditure: Bonus Ball Prize money - £420. Halloween Disco - £546.43. Total Expenditure - £966.43.</p> <p>Profit Reported - £1,184.64.</p> <p><u>Donations received:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Printers in Stirling - £25.00. ◆ Ledingham Chalmers Lawyer firm specifically for the reading scheme - £100. ◆ Cherrybank Dental Practice donated £50.00. This money was used to purchase books for the Mrs Claus event. ◆ Flip out Voucher received. ◆ Woodland Experience Family voucher received. ◆ Cinema vouchers received. ◆ Arts and Craft items received from a grandparent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Stewart provided the lighting and disco for the senior event at a discounted price. The senior event was successful and the children enjoyed the disco and the bingo. • Expenditure noted above were one off payments. Cost of tickets for Mrs Claus and Bingo Disco included everything on the night, and profit wasn't considered for this event. The Parent Council didn't want this event to be overly expensive considering the time of year. • Easyfundraising app is now available on both Apple and Android devices. 	<p>Easyfundraising to be publicised again within Facebook pages.</p> <p>Bonus ball information to be resent to parents.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonus Ball numbers – National lottery numbers are used and these are charged at £1 per number with the winning number receiving the prize. MC reported that bank transfers and standing orders take longer to track through the BPSPC account. • It is hoped to have two to three events per year to keep funds topped up. • It was confirmed that the Rag Bag Textile Recycling income goes directly to the school fund. • School provided event tickets to those that required it both for the Mrs Claus event and the Bingo Disco event. <p><u>Feedback from parents regarding Mrs Claus and Bingo Disco ticket cost:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The event became expensive for families with multiple children. • Inclusive ticket pricing proved easier than dealing individually with children with cash and there as no upset when children ran out of money. 	
5.	Head Teachers Report by Angus Black	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB confirmed that the School Newsletter was issued out today via email to all parents. • P1 enrolments for pupils starting in August 2024 can be accessed via the Stirling Council website. It is estimated that there will be seven classes in academic year 2024/2025. • Parents of nursery children have until 15th May to defer Primary 1 commencement into Balfron Primary School. • An information session, “Thinking about P1” for parents for all children able to start P1 will be held on Tuesday 12th March at 7pm. • During the February In-Service days, the literature improvement plan will be reviewed. • It was reported that the school is currently signed up to a three year residential plan and is currently in year 2 of 3. It was recognised it was becoming more expensive and with current budget pressures the next two years will be subsidised. Currently the price has been frozen for the last two years. A review of the costs of the residential with parents will be undertaken in year 3. Residential is a positive experience for children. • School class trips – no decision has been taken as to whether these will happen due to the costs associated with this. Issues are with buses and driver availability. Potentially, costs would be passed to parents for the continuation of the trips. Public transport for older classes has happened in the past, e.g. trip to Stirling Castle. • MC suggested that activities be brought to the school which could be potentially funded by the BPPC. AB confirmed that as this would happen during a school day then the responsibility would sit with the school. • AC questioned the situation with regards to those that could afford and those that couldn't. AB confirmed that no one would be excluded but it was hoped that parents would meet the costs themselves. The school is adaptive to ensuring that no one is left behind on their own and pupils are not forced to attend school trips. AB confirmed that residential non attendees would go into another class during the week. 	AB and parents to undertake a review of the Residential costs.
6.	Reading Scheme	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GM provided a poster for the group to review the proposed new reading scheme. • The PTA recognised that there was a need for a new reading scheme for lower primary and upper groups. • The School and the PTA will work together to replace the current reading scheme (StoryWorld) which is used for P1 to P3 children. The new proposed reading scheme is called Wordsparks and this will be introduced for the youngest classes. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was discussed that the reading scheme for P4 to P7 would also be upgraded. It was proposed that a 3-year license for Oxford Reading Buddy which is an online resource used for comprehension would be purchased. Books for dyslexic pupils can also be updated with the new reading scheme. The total cost of the new reading resources is £6,020.50. If the new reading resources were purchased before the end of January, the school would benefit from a 40% discount. The new reading scheme resources would be introduced to staff during the February in service days. BPPC agreed to support the reading scheme and agreed to ringfence £3,800. <p>*Please see Addendum to Minute</p>	
7.	School Lunches	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group felt that this subject required revisiting. JB stated that the purpose of the school meals is to ensure that children eat healthily. It was felt that the food choices offered had reduced in quality and options are less than what was previously offered. It was agreed that JB, CC and AC would visit the school during lunch to review as the menu had received mixed feedback. AC felt that the ongoing issues relating to school lunches should be raised at Council level rather than at school level. AC suggested that a meeting be organised with a Council representative, Belrock representative, Parent representative(s) and School representative to discuss the food menus in detail and to raise parent concerns. 	<p>JB will liaise with AC and AB to set up a meeting with catering.</p> <p>Parent group to provide a synopsis of concerns with key points to be raised.</p>
8.	Bullying Policy	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MC requested that the policy be refreshed as currently the focus assumes that bullying has occurred. There is no guidance for parents if your child has been accused of bullying. What is the process if an allegation is made? This is an area which requires more information. It was requested that further guidance is required with regards to the full process from start to finish and not solely on how bullying is managed. AB stated that this is a fair point and that the word bullying should be based on relationship breakdown. The focus should be on what the issue is. GM suggested a flowchart of stages from both sides and clarification and guidance would be required from the school as nothing is linear. 	GM to review the policy with the implementation of a flowchart.
9.	Fundraising Ideas / Event Calendar	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group agreed that a review of fundraising is required. Volunteers are required for the Primary 7 and S1 shows. <p>Suggested Fundraising Ideas for 2023/2024 were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2024 – Easter Themed: HOP Movie Night within the School Fire Brigade and Easter Bunny handing out Easter eggs for the children. May 2024 – Casino night / Race night / Murder mystery night. Save the date (End of March). May 2024 – **End of April, beginning of May – Fun Run 28th May 10K, easy entry (Rachel), Two elements: Catering – Doyles can't make the date, therefore BPPC will cover catering requirements. Chris from Active Stirling will be there for the kids (orienteering course round the school with parents, and sports activities.) Rachel asked for school involvement from the pupils and suggested school group work as a display. AB will review this request. June 2024 – Sports Day (selling refreshments) July 2024 – End of Term Fun Day 	AB to review the pupil involvement in creating a display for the Balfour Fun Run.

	Further Fundraising / Event Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 7th March 2024 - World Book Day 	
10.	AOB	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group were notified that Crossing Patrol staff across Stirling Council will gradually be removed. The group raised concerns with this decision and CMC will take to the next Balfron Community Council meeting scheduled for 1st February. JB raised concern with regards to the removal of the crossing at Station Road and asked if this was going to be reinstated. AC suggested the review of Living Streets in the event that they could assist with the forthcoming changes (walk to school). The group questioned whether the contracted bus drivers had been consulted on the new traffic calming areas within Balfron as the group felt the area had become more dangerous compared to what was previously there. 	Rachel and Claire will action
11.	Date of next meeting	Action
	Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 7pm, Balfron Primary School.	

Minutes of Meeting, Balfron Primary School Parent Council, 24 January 2024

29 January 2024

ADDENDUM TO MINUTES – Item 6

The reading scheme resources have been very generously purchased by a grandparent of one pupil. The grandparent made a very significant contribution based on the love of literacy.

The BPPC and Balfron Primary School would like to give thanks for this amazing generosity.

Parent Council	£936
Individual donation to Parent Council	£5,084.50