



Balfon Nursery & Primary School Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting

9 September 2024 at 7pm

Balfon Primary School

Attendance: Angus Black - Head Teacher, Gillian McMillan – Deputy Head Teacher, Michelle Conway – Chair, Lorna Christie – Chair, Rachel Moir – Treasurer, Emma Patrick (minutes), Anita Crozier, Claire Cattrell, Sarah Catnach, Michelle Montague, Ainsley Berry

Apologies: Claire McIlvenna - Secretary

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>The new Co-Chairs Michelle Conway and Lorna Christie welcomed everyone along to the first meeting of the new session. Outlined their hopes for the year ahead. They acknowledge that everyone has very busy lives and give up time to volunteer for PC and therefore want to ensure that activities can be run that require the minimum amount of time and input and can maximise impact.</p> <p>We are still in the process of the handover from previous PC committee.</p>
2.	<p>Treasurer Report</p> <p>The new treasurer Rachel Moir has not yet had access to the bank account and full handover has not yet taken place.</p> <p>Michelle advised that the bank account has £3001 at present and is very healthy. We have the ongoing Bonus Ball which raises on average £120 per month. No fundraising events are planned yet and this will be picked up once the handover is complete.</p> <p>Lorna highlighted that although we are not a registered charity it may be worth considering having the accounts audited going forward.</p> <p>Action- Michelle to complete handover of accounts to Rachel once she has full access to the bank account.</p>
3.	<p>Headteacher Report</p> <p>Crossing Patrol</p> <p>Changes will go ahead to the school crossing patrol and zebra crossings will replace the crossing patrols. We do not have a date for this as yet.</p> <p>The primary school has been engaging with Anna Barrie (Art teacher from Balfon High) to discuss a selection of primary school children working with the high school to design and develop a visual banner to raise awareness of safety concerns. Angus requested that the PC will fund this initiative, with estimated costs expected to be £75-£100. Suggestions have also been made about a cardboard cut-out of a policeman on campus.</p> <p>Angus advised that the local policeman PC Matt McCammon had attended the primary school to reinforce road safety with the children.</p> <p>Michelle Conway confirmed the PC had already ring fenced some funds to support the road safety campaign.</p> <p>Further discussions and suggestions around how the school could be supported with the road safety campaign included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● using visuals such as school jumpers on the road ● highlighting Road Safety week 19th -25th November

- using a survey monkey questionnaire to understand why people within the village drive their children to school.
- using positive reinforcement by trying to ascertain how many people currently walk or cycle to school.

Angus explained that all schools take place in an annual Hands-Up survey which collates how children normally travel to school each day. The results from this month's survey will be shared through the next newsletter as positive reinforcement.

Action- Anita Crozier agreed to lead on Road Safety campaign with the support of Emma Patrick and will liaise with the school around plans for Road Safety week.

Trim-Trail

The current trim-trail is around 15 years old and was a PC funded project. Scotplay attended to review work required and provide estimates. The following estimates have been provided for required work-

- Option 1- repair identified problems on existing trim trail £3655.50 plus vat
- Option 2 - remove and replace with smaller trim trail - £5454.15
- Option 3 - £16299.50 to replace whole trim trail

Discussions around options led to an agreement that ideally, if funding allowed, it would be good to replace the Trim-Trail in one go using option 3 as this would mean longer term savings.

Angus has spoken with the National Lottery about applying to Awards for All Grant. Normally school playgrounds are not high on their list of projects to fund, however the advantage to our situation is the fact the playground is accessible to the community outside of school hours. Funding officer has suggested it would be worth applying and Angus will lead on this.

It was suggested that consideration should be given to how the Trim-Trail could be made accessible as part of any upgrade, which could also add strength to an NL application.

Further discussions highlighted that at this point the ROSPA report has not highlighted that any immediate work is required and therefore we should consider all the available grants we could apply to before making any decisions on which option to go with.

Actions

Lorna Christie will lead on the Tesco Grants where we could receive up to £1500
Angus Black will lead on NL application

4.	School Crossing
	This was discussed as part of the Head Teacher report.
5.	Fundraising/ Event Planning
	<p>The trim-trail will be the main focus of all PC fundraising activities during the school year 2024/2025.</p> <p>Discussions were held around whether we attempt to run the Christmas Cards again this year. Last year had been challenging and many parents reported issues with the final product and were not happy with the designs. It was requested that if we go ahead with them this year that we are given the support of class teachers to ensure that card designs are of a better quality.</p> <p>Actions</p> <p>It was agreed that the PC would research different companies and options and Gillian McMillan will lead on this from a school perspective. Cauliflower cards was given as an option as had been used in previous schools and were offering a 20% extra income for the school on orders placed by the end of September. It was agreed that we would get designs complete before the October holidays.</p> <p>Discussion around feedback from the PC Online Survey- parent have highlighted that childcare is an issue. Examples were given of a couple of family friendly events members had experienced in a previous school that had been successful and suggested that giving lots of notice and holding events on the same date each year could help to encourage people to attend,</p> <p>It was discussed whether there would be any appetite to set up a separate fundraising committee to take fundraising discussions away from the main PC meetings. No resolution or agreement was reached on this.</p> <p>Halloween Discos- it was agreed the Halloween Discos would be held on the 29th October with P1-P4 from 6.15-7.15 and P5-P7 from 7.30-8.30pm. Due to time constraints at the meeting it was agreed to set up an online meeting with all those who could support the organization of the discos and details will be circulated for this after the PC meeting.</p>
6	Trim Trail Report
	This was discussed as part of the Headteacher report.
7.	AOB
	<p>School Lunches had been raised as a concern at previous PC meetings and the new chairs have been trying to get feedback on where discussions had progressed to. It appears that Stirling Council have been out to complete an inspection to check if Bellrock are meeting their standards as a private contractor but it is not clear of next steps.</p> <p>One member of the PC raised concern that she is having to provide the Bellrock Team with specific foods to support with her child's allergens, due to Bellrock not providing these.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Lorna Christie will attend a PC networking meeting on the 26th September where members of Stirling Council catering team will be present. She will raise questions regarding who and how to raise concerns around the catering provision.</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>The PC Online Survey is still open and it was asked for reps to ensure the link is shared again on social media and class whatsapp groups. So far 30 people have submitted responses and there have been a lot of suggestions regarding family friendly events.</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Michelle will aim to have feedback available to be presented at parents nights in November and at the next PC meeting.</p>

	<p>Parent Forum Feedback A primary 3 parent has raised concern about the focus of religious education being Christianity over other religions.</p> <p>A request has been made for greater visibility of the headteacher report.</p>
8.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>
	<p>Tuesday 12th November 2024</p> <p>It was suggested that we try to change the day of the meetings to enable more people to attend if possible.</p> <p>To Note</p> <p>Dates of future meetings for the remaining of the 2024/2025 school session</p> <p>Tuesday 12 November 2024 7pm to 8pm</p> <p>Monday 20 January 2025 7pm to 8pm</p> <p>Monday 31 March 2025 7pm to 8pm</p>

