



Balfon Nursery & Primary School Parent Council

Parent Council Meeting

4 November 2025

Balfon Primary School

Attendance: Angus Black - Head Teacher, Ewan Logan – Deputy Head Teacher, Katie Graham – Chair, Rachel Moir – Treasurer, Ashley Larkin- Le Vin (minutes), Anita Crozier, Emma Sutherland, Sarah Catnach and Christos Tachtatzis. Online: Emma Patrick, Claire Cattrell, Michelle Montague, Lindsey Taylor, Emma Patrick and Nisha McDonald.

Apologies: Catherine Cameron

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| 1. | Welcome and apologies |
| | Katie welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies noted. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. |
| 2. | Treasurers Report |
| | <p>Rachel outlined that the PC account balance was just under £3000.</p> <p>There is £54 from Halloween costumes and the disco still to come in. Halloween claims are to be submitted please for reimbursement.</p> <p>An audit of the Balance Ball fundraising is to be carried out. There is presently one number available.</p> <p>Re the Trim Trail, Rachel confirmed that the £7450 has been transferred to the school account as per previous agreement by PC to pay half up front.</p> <p>Exciting news regarding the Trim Trail. Katie advised that an application to the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust had been successful. The PC has been awarded £6000 towards the Trim Trail. We have received a formal offer letter and once the work is completed and we have an invoice we can put in a claim for the funds.</p> <p>Money is a fund from landfill tax – so for environmental and community reasons for money to be used.</p> <p>In order to comply with the terms of the grant offer, Angus had to cancel order as the funds from trust needed to not have been spent yet. Katie provided a copy of the terms and conditions of the grant to the PC. Angus confirmed that since the formal offer letter has come in the Trim Trail has now been reordered and will be installed next week. It should be completed in approx. a week.</p> |

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| | <p>Rachel confirmed that with the grant funding, this will leave a further £450 remaining that we need to pay for trim trail (£2000 was sent from CC transferred directly to the school). Rachel will transfer this asap.</p> <p>Angus was asked if there was more groundwork needed for the base of the trim trail. Angus confirmed that woodchip is best as recycled tyres have been trialled in past and was not as good. The plan is to hand dig out the old bark and equipment so should cause minimal disturbance. Any additional bark required the school will use their planned maintenance money to get any new bark. The bark does need refreshed every year or two, so it is always ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>It was suggested that rubber matting may be better. It was discussed that while aesthetically it would look better it was fairly expensive and may need drainage as well. Angus confirmed that woodchip meets the required safety standards. Need to ensure membrane under woodchip doesn't get exposed and become a trip hazard – so need to refresh woodchip to ensure this.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Headteacher Report</p> |
| | <p><u>Crossing Patrol</u></p> <p>Anne expects to still be in post for another 4-6 weeks and then this is likely when she will finish. So approximately Christmas – still waiting on letter confirmation.</p> <p><u>Parental Partnership Survey</u></p> <p>A survey on parental partnership was carried out before the summer holidays. There were 33 responses. The results were discussed generally. A copy of the results is attached to this minute. Discussion surrounded, in particular, notes from parents; there were some notes on additional needs. It was highlighted in the survey comment regarding training for staff regarding neurodivergent/ASN children and also a comment about bullying and that bullying should be dealt with more harshly. The responses were generally quite positive and there was a good feeling of partnership between the school and parents/carers. Angus described how survey results and comments feed into helping identify strengths of the school as well as possible future improvement priorities.</p> <p>Angus had met with representatives from Braehead, Kippen and Deanston Primary Schools to discuss partnership working – they thought results were positive around partnership working.</p> <p>Angus was asked if, given the results of the survey, if there could there be a specific questionnaire for parents with children with additional support needs which could ask if there was anything more that could be done. Angus explained the Staged Intervention process, where each child that requires additional support, already has a plan in action for each individual child. Sometimes it may be parents who have children waiting to be assessed for ASN that may be frustrated.</p> <p><u>Playground</u></p> <p>Angus raised that there have been a couple of situations where parents have spoken to staff about concerns about another parent in the playground may be interacting with their child. Angus confirmed that through a recent newsletter he had asked parents to stand a bit back from</p> |

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| | <p>lines in the morning to give some space as it can be quite daunting to some children to have all the parents so close.</p> <p>There has been concern raised that another parent has spoken to a child that is not theirs and from another parent that they had been made feel not felt welcome by some other parents in the playground or walk to school due to their child's additional needs. This was 3 separate incidents across from between P1-P4. Angus advised that these types of incidents were uncommon for our school.</p> <p>Angus is planning to send a specific email to parents including reinforcing that if there are issues then speak to the teacher, not to pupils. It was suggested that this could include communication about the purpose of the morning line is for staff to speak to the children and check in with them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action – Angus to send email to parents <p>There was discussion about the need for parents to have the ability to catch the class teacher in the morning, if for example it is something small that they need to note to the teacher – like a bad night's sleep – this is maybe more important in younger years. But largely speaking emailing staff is more appropriate or contact on seesaw. Perhaps school could post a list of staff email/seesaw more regularly.</p> <p><u>Dogs</u></p> <p>It was raised that that there have been some dogs in the playground again. Angus confirmed that dogs are not to be brought into the playground even in arms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action – Angus to send email to parents <p><u>Stirling Council Admissions Policy</u></p> <p>HMI are coming to do a visit/consultation – looking for a parent focus group next Wednesday at 9am. The High School will send a parent and hopefully a nursery parent will also be able to attend. Christos agreed to attend on behalf of the Primary School.</p> |
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| 4. | <p>Road Safety</p> <p>Spoken about crossing patrol as outlined above.</p> <p>The question was asked if there had been any reported incidents since removal of crossing patrol on campus. Emma S confirmed that she had been involved in a near miss. Emma had reported to the school and Angus had contacted campus PC Barclay. It was noted that any incidents should be reported to the police for the police to deal with. Emma P will follow up on the incident with the police.</p> <p>It was noted that there are still parents dropping children off by car from the bus circle in front of the school Request for another reminder to not do this. Is there something more targeted</p> |
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| | <p>that could be done to specific individuals as it is often the same people. A polite word to them? Campus police to perhaps chat with them. It was noted that, particularly on wet days, there was a lot of high school students being dropped off. Mr Black has spoken to PC Barclay – his advice was not to approach people and he would not be approaching either. Mr Black has mentioned it to a couple of parents politely, but seems to have little effect.</p> <p>It should also be noted that there are some people parking outside school that have genuine reasons for needing to do this.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Fundraising/ Event Planning</p> <p>Funding applications</p> <p>Katie advised that Michelle and Lorna had previously submitted funding applications to the Ford Trust and Tesco but to date there had been no response from them.</p> <p>Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust we got £6000 as above.</p> <p>Fundraising ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wreath making - try and go ahead for 30th November – price point was decided at £25 max <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Action – Ashley to go ahead with planning - Has there been a quiz night recently? What was cost/money made for casino night. Was well received! Emma S has all the décor. - Roller skating disco – could be done in McClintock hall. - Christmas – no stall event this year. - Colour run for kids and families – could be incorporated with trim trail opening. Nisha - Holi festival March time – happy to also give a little blurb about the festival for educational value. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Action – Sarah to go ahead planning with Nisha to do an intro to Holi festival to kids - Family ceilidh – earlier in evening - Quiz night/pub quiz - Beetle drive – roll a dice to draw a beetle – winner draws it first – different numbers correspond to different parts. - Book fair - selling books that parents donate - Sponsored silence! - Non uniform day or crazy hair day. - Balfron Christmas bonus - £5 a name and winner gets half the money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Action – Emma S to do bonus wheel pre-Christmas - Could we charge to put a plaque on the trim trail? Buy a plank! Some signage to say about sponsors and possibly also put in additional funders. - Something for the kids at Christmas – last year was Santa dash as part of daily mile. All kids got a selection box. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Action – Rachel to organise event. Katie to buy selection boxes. - Crisps and juice for Christmas party. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Previous contact could get us capri suns, but not better for recycling. Plastic bottles can at least be recycled. |
| 7. | <p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katie thanked everyone for being so attentive with their PVG applications. All but one had been completed and this was now submitted. Think valid for 5 years - The Halloween Disco was deemed to have been a great success! - It was agreed that the PC would fund crisps and juice for school Christmas parties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Action – Katie to buy crisps and juice for Christmas parties. |
| 8. | <p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 7pm in school and also available online.</p> |