

## Cambusbarron Primary Parent Council Minutes

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Online Meeting

In Attendance: Farrah Bett (FB), Keiran Meiklejohn (KM), Alayne Finlay (AF), Lisa Nicol (LN), Mark Hill (MH), Danielle Smith (DS), Claire Squires (CS), Emma Archibald (EA), Laura Robertson (LR), Jennifer Fraser (JF)

Apologies: Toni Swain, Claire Templeman

Agenda Item	
1.	<p><b>Minutes/Actions from last meeting (FB)</b></p> <p>Minutes agreed with no amendments.</p> <p>Actions from previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) MH to request meeting with Stirling Council to be scheduled for first 2 weeks in January – closed (meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> January)</li><li>b) MH was going to speak to contact involved in community payback for potentially getting non-financial help for e.g. outdoor painting – ongoing (have contacted but not heard back – will continue to chase)</li><li>c) MH was going to speak to Mrs P Smith regarding support for reading/reading list as raised at previous meeting – closed (covered in parent rep feedback)</li><li>d) MH to look into issue of music tuition and whether there was communication regarding applying for spaces – closed (emails sent in May 24 regarding various music opportunities)</li></ul>
2.	<p><b>FREG Update (LN)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everything is generally going ok but down to 3 full members as some had to leave due to other commitments.</li><li>• Friends of FREG WhatsApp group has been set up with people who have previously volunteered to try help with the efforts.</li><li>• Summer fayre – date confirmed Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May (11-2). Perhaps an error in the newsletter but Mrs Brewster been advised of date.</li><li>• Cambus Bars to be run again and FB leading on this, and started organising prizes. Raised £300-400 last year so hoping for same again. Will be doing pre-order again 2 weeks before they go on sale just before Easter break.</li><li>• Halloween parties – date to be confirmed</li><li>• LN applied to Bridge of Allan roundtable small grant fund for playground equipment at request of DS. Think they will need £1200 for all the items (benches, mats, cushions etc) and have applied for £600 (last year received £500)</li><li>• <b>Action 1: FB to pull together poster to send out to parents again as reminder about the events FREG hold and what this is used to fund to try and gather support</b></li></ul>
3.	<p><b>Treasurers Report (KM)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A note of finances was circulated ahead of the meeting with key points –</li><li>• Current balance of just over £2000</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected income from: Summer/Christmas Fayres (generally around £1500 each); Wonka Bar (approx. £300); Cauliflower Cards (£322.50)</li> <li>• Some of the expected funds are already semi-committed for XC travel for P6/7 and request from school for some funds</li> <li>• <b>Action 2: KM is going to look into setting up a 100 club to bring in extra funds</b></li> <li>• Main thing that needs decided is whether a Panto trip is being funded this year as this is a significant expense – approx. £3000 for tickets for whole school (includes free tickets for teachers/parent helpers) and last time buses were around £1500 but could be more.</li> </ul> <p>Panto discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was hoped to offer this every 2 years but wasn't considered that this had been given as a definite position previously</li> <li>• Could likely be funded from PC funds with some money left over but perhaps not sufficient for all the things usually funded e.g. requests from school for support for educational apps (TT Rockstars/Heineman etc)</li> <li>• Expected that classes will have an experience this year – either class trip or in-house experience which could have high costs, particularly if needing buses which is biggest constraining factor currently</li> <li>• Need to consider that a bad weather day for Summer Fayre could result in significantly less than the expected £1500 being brought in</li> <li>• Could possibly be part-funded by PC and partly by parents (with possible option for paying for extra child for those who wish to create a pot to allow all to go)</li> <li>• In-house Panto considerably cheaper option – <b>Action 3: MH to feedback on response to email to M&amp;M Productions for cost</b> (but expected less than a third of price of Macrobert trip)</li> <li>• Also raised that other sources of funding could investigate – <b>Action 4: KM going to look into Gwen Mayor trust</b></li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Parent Rep Feedback (MH)</b></p> <p>MH had a list of the questions raised by Parent Reps in advance</p> <p>Q1. Multiple questions raised (from parents/carers/staff/community) about inconsiderate/dangerous parking around the school. Issues primarily in school car park itself (causes issues for support staff coming in), Thomson Place, immediately outside car park and general inconsiderate parking around the area with driveways being blocked.</p> <p>School have been continuing to try and address this with messages going out in newsletter etc. They have signs out and are getting more. Have asked Stirling Council about closing the top of Thomson Place after garages but not possible. MH outlined they are going to have a staff presence and will speak to repeat offenders. MH has also asked council roads team to repaint markings but waiting on response – asked for parents to also request this for additional support.</p> <p>It was mentioned that St Ninians have a 'Park and Stride' scheme with car park at old bowling club used and suggested possibly could ask Cambusbarron bowling club whether they would allow use of their car park for this. <b>Action 5: MH to speak to Janine Rushton (St Ninians HT) to see how this is working</b> and <b>Action 6: FB to speak to Bowling Club to see if they would be open to this.</b></p>

Q2. The issue of dog poo in and around the school grounds has been raised a number of times.

School is aware of the issue and with the problem getting worse have acquired specialist equipment for the janitor to help deal with this. Posters were made by children last year and put up around the grounds. Going to look into whether they can check their CCTV to see whether it can identify offenders. The dog wardens have increased patrols at the request of the school and been round twice in January during the school day which has never previously happened. It was suggested that perhaps if the wardens came at drop off/pick up to be more visible it might help and MH going to suggest this. However, acknowledged this is an increasing problem everywhere and difficult to deal with.

Q3. Issued raised of an increase in dogs in the playground.

This will be raised in newsletter again as reminder and notices up in the playground. MH is trying to keep an eye out and will have a quiet word with anyone with dogs in the playground which is generally sufficient to address the issue.

Q4. Question raised about mobile phone policy and whether will follow Stirling High in having no phones.

MH explained that the policy at Cambusbarron is that all mobile phones go into teachers drawer or in bags for the full day and they haven't had any issues with this. Currently phone watches not an issue that has occurred but will keep an eye on it. Trying to also have children not using phones until off school grounds before/after school, although noted this is harder to enforce.

Q5. P3 raised a query over how Dojo points were awarded and regarding a maths game but these have also been raised with the teacher who has responded to the parents.

Q6. Is the MUGA being re-surfaced and if so when? And is it worth spending money on this when plans for larger works to school?

Yes, grant funding was secured with the help of the CC which will cover re-surfacing and this will take place over the February break. MH stressed importance of not putting school on hold for the development of the school and need to invest in it as it is.

There is also a chance to get further funding to carry out repair works to the existing equipment on the trim trail as an audit of this was carried out at time of audit for MUGA and highlighted works needing done. School probably won't be able to get funding to extend the trim trail but rather just fix what is already there.

Raised whether PC could also apply to CC for funds for extending trim trail, given it also benefits wider community, **Action 7: FB to contact Ann Finlayson to discuss**

Q7. Further queries were raised regarding support for reading and provision of reading lists.

MH outlined that a reading list was not being provided as not sustainable/feasible to create and maintain such a list as would change to frequently. Also not considered helpful as teaching reading is so complex and nuanced and they change levels in class depending on what particular skill they are focused on so not a straight transition through the levels. MH going to revisit sharing information on how reading is taught in school and also outlined the using the library, and especially with help from Laura, could help any parent/carer struggling to pick

	<p>books but really it should just be reading for enjoyment at home and can be any book the child is interested in without worrying about the level.</p> <p>Q8. Is access to Sumdog going to be provided again. No. A review was done of the use of the app and it wasn't sufficient to justify the cost given there are other apps (TT Rockstars and Heineman) which can provide the same benefit.</p> <p>Q9. P6 raised query as to whether home work was being reviewed. MH spoke to Mr O'Donnell who confirmed reading/spelling is checked in class but he will make this clear so there is no misunderstanding.</p> <p>Q10. P6 queried whether there would be school trips this year as they hadn't had many through school. MH confirmed Mr O'Donnell is currently looking into an option for a school trip</p> <p>Q11. P6 asked whether there was any idea of costs for next years residential trip to Lockerbie Manor. MH confirmed that this had been provisionally booked for next year with cost of £230+bus (expected to be around £260 per head). This will be on ParentPay by June.</p> <p>Q12. Query over whether the Digital Leaders group could be taken forward by someone else in Mr Brown's absence. <b>Action 8: MH to provide further update on this</b></p>
5.	<p><b>School Update (MH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School undertaking Validated Self-Evaluation (VSE)</li> </ul> <p>On 5th and 6th March we are welcoming an inspection team from Stirling Council to our school. This team will comprise of 3 Headteachers and an Education Officer. Their role, will be to look at 2 areas of development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learning Teaching and assessment ( quality of teaching, learning and engagement / effective use of assessment / planning , tracking and monitoring)</li> <li>- Leadership of change (strategic planning for improvement / how we develop our shared vision, values and aims)</li> </ul> <p>During this time they will meet with myself and Danielle as we share our School Improvement Plan and discuss our strengths and areas for development. The team will then review our documentation and data, visit all classes and meet with children, parents / carers and partnership agencies. The visit will be robust but we welcome it as an opportunity to review our progress, discuss next steps and engage in professional dialogue.</p> <p>A report will be shared with the school following the visit. I will share the key messages from this with yourselves, the children and the staff team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework Review progressing and on step 3 of 4. Have looked at data from staff, parents/carers and children. Following this have updated draft policy and</li> </ul>

	<p>the next step is to share this with parents/carers which will be in the next month or two.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing – trying to provide as consistent learning as possible for children. Mrs McGreachan is off so change has been made and P1M currently have Mrs Quinteros (was RCCT). P5/6 did have Mrs Kay and now Mrs Calder whilst Mr Brown is absent. The teachers have stepped in and picked up an already planned curriculum. This means that the RCCT is less consistent but less of an issue given relatively small amount of time in each class.</li> <li>• School building and grounds survived the storm quite well. There is a small leak in a corner of the hall due to backing up of a downpipe but not impacting use and being dealt with. Current maintenance/improvements include: floor joints in some classes being laminated; roofs/guttering been cleared; hall strip lighting has been replaced with LED's; emergency lighting in process of being replaced with LED's.</li> <li>• Miss Pollock is working with Miss Denton to create book bags to help with reading and comprehension activities. They have sourced some money already but looking for £40 from PC to top up and allow a trial to be run in P1 and P2. Will then rollout to rest of school if successful. PC agreed that this funding can be provided.</li> <li>• Proposed Stirling Council funding cuts are not considered to impact the day to day teaching/learning staff at Cambusbarron with no predicted changes to staffing or leadership teams as is being proposed in High Schools.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Nursery Update (CS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing: Nicole is going on maternity leave after the February break. Kirsty has been recruited which is great news as been in the nursery for the last year. Amy has been on mat leave since November last year and interviews for her backfill will be after February break.</li> <li>• Nursery held a community tea party which went really well and they are continuing to build links within the community.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>EA asked whether anyone had looked into the Education Scotland Food for Thought grants as ways to improve garden/outside space – needs a link to curriculum. LN had previously offered to meet SLA with experience of grants so could pick this up together <b>Action 9: MH to arrange contact between SLA and LN.</b></p> <p>JF asked whether the notes from the meeting with Stirling Council could be shared. MH confirmed he had put these on the school website. <b>Action 10: MH to chase Stirling Council for copy of updated slides.</b></p>
8.	<p><b>Dates of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May</p>