



Minutes of Meeting held 23rd September 2021

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (27th May 2021) and matters arising
3. Head Teacher Report
4. Treasurer Update
5. Fundraising Group Update
6. Living Streets
7. Parent Council survey
8. Dates of Future Meetings

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present:

David Williams (Chair)
Anneli Spence (Secretary)
Susan Henderson (Treasurer)
Andrew Buchanan (Vice-Chair)
Sarah Begg
Laura Whyte
Graham Mowat
Nicola Smart
Liz Wilson
Nicola Macleod
Joanne Gudgeon
Lesley Fulford
Merrell Bennet-Levy

Morag Sorbie (Member)
Rona Lockyer (Member)
Kirsten Rodger (Member)
Alison Webster (Member)
Lorraine Slabbert (Head)
Ruth Allan (Depute)
Shirley Gallivan (Depute)
Kath Grainger
Alan Wong
Rabia Tahir
Angela Lunan
Lauren Freckleton

Apologies:

Emma Carter (Member)
Diane Jack (Member)
Alison Bonner

Jo Falconer (Member)
Mairi Taggart

David welcomed everyone to the meeting (held as a virtual meeting over Google Meet due to the current social distancing rules).

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved by Andrew; seconded by Anneli.

David advised that the DDT have been in touch with Stirling Council about taking over the maintenance of the memorial garden but David does not think they have heard back as yet. Lorraine stated that she thinks the DDT have not had any information back from the Council but they are just going to get on with the maintenance themselves and keep trying to contact the Council in the meantime. **Action: David to follow up with DDT contact to check status before next meeting.**

3. Head Teacher Report

See Appendix I.

Lorraine explained that “Talk for Writing” as mentioned in her report is another tool that school staff will be using to promote writing skills and links between speech and writing.

The items flagged in the HT report for possible PC funding were discussed. It was noted that the PC account balance is currently £3884, which is a good bit lower than it usually is at this time of year. This is due to the impact of Covid on our usual fundraising activities over the last 18 months. Of the items noted for funding in the HT report, the first priority is the video conferencing for parents’ evenings. Lorraine explained that it is likely the school will need to keep using this tool as face to face meetings are still not permitted. There was a discussion over whether the PC should approve 1 year or 3 years’ funding at the moment. It was noted that paying for 3 years now would give a 10% discount but all agreed this was too much for the PC to fund at this point as it would not leave enough of a buffer in the PC account for emergencies etc. All agreed to fund a 1 year subscription at this time.

Lorraine explained that the school is having ongoing issues with litter from the P3/4/5 playground finding its way into neighbouring gardens. This is likely to be because of the ditch along the fence line where litter can get blown and gather. There has been a lot of correspondence over the last year from neighbours who are understandably unhappy about litter in their gardens. The school has asked the children not to play in the ditch, but the children like to play there, to build dens, etc, and it is very difficult to get them to stop. The ditch is also used by teens at the weekends which adds to the neighbours’ concerns.

Lorraine advised that, other than fencing off the whole area, she does not think there is any easy answer and is looking for input from the PC about what could possibly be done.

Alison W asked if the Council could fund some new fencing. Lorraine explained that any

items needed in the school grounds must be funded from the school's own budget, it would not be paid for by the Council.

During the discussion, it was noted that the issue is compounded by litter being blown around while the children are having outdoor packed lunches, which is still required as much as possible due to covid restrictions. It was suggested that perhaps there are not enough bins in the playground and the PC could potentially pay for more. Lorraine explained that more bins might not necessarily help as there is an ongoing issue with having the bins emptied. If they are not emptied often enough then rubbish blows out of them, even when it has been put in there in the first place. Lorraine advised that the school is aware of this issue and a plan is currently being put in place to make sure the bins are emptied more often. This will hopefully help the situation.

Several parents noted that they would be happy to volunteer to come to do a litter pick if that would help. This was noted by the school with thanks. It was also suggested that the children should be involved with this to help encourage them to have respect for their own school / playground. Lorraine noted that unfortunately even this has been affected by Covid as normally the children would be doing this sort of thing through the citizenship groups but at the moment that is not able to happen.

After discussion it was agreed that this issue would be revisited at our next meeting in November. By that point the new plan for bin emptying should be in place and we could check if that was helping or if more action was still required. **Action: Anneli to add to November meeting agenda.**

4. Treasurer Update

At the last meeting the Treasurer reported £5,124 in the bank account. There is currently £3,885 and the movements are as follows:

Item	Value (£)	Note
Balance b/f	5,124	
Donation to DPS - Loose parts play sets	(1,014)	As reported at last PC
Donation to DPS - book bags (paid to Scotcrest)	(225)	Requested by DPS and agreed by PC Exec Committee
Balance	3,885	

There are no outstanding cheques/deposits.

5. Fundraising Group Update

Lauren F explained that last year had been a very different one for the fundraisers. The group had adapted to the very different circumstances, for example with a pumpkin trail instead of the Halloween disco. Over the year, engagement with online events fell off when families were asked to

actively “do things” such as art competitions etc. Online raffles were the most successful events.

The first Fundraising Group meeting of the year is scheduled for 28th September and they are hoping to get some new volunteers. Lauren is stepping back this year as the Chair. The plan for the year ahead will be discussed at the meeting. Things are still limited in terms of the “normal” calendar of events but we are hoping to be able to hold the summer fair again next June. Lorraine confirmed that the covid risk assessment still says that no in person events can be held at school.

6. Living Streets

Graham Clark and Kate Joester of Living Streets joined the meeting.

Graham explained that Living Streets (LS) is a charity that works to improve our streets by reducing reliance on cars, improving pavements and pathways, etc. Their emphasis is on walking routes. They focus on helping to create behaviour change in schools to encourage and empower everyone to get out and walk more, including helping those who are less physically able.

LS is currently working in partnership with 6 primary schools in the Stirling Council area. The Council had suggested that DPS would be a good place for them to work due to the long running issues with traffic and congestion around the school gates.

LS can give the school resources to help improve things, such as the WOW programme which records how the children get to school each day by asking them to tap on the appropriate icon on the whiteboard when they get to school each day, such as walk, cycle, scoot, etc. This gives good baseline information that the school can use to help to improve active travel and can also be used to measure the effect of interventions such as Bikeability. The project can also help to identify what the barriers are to active travel.

Kate explained that LS is funded by Transport Scotland. They are going to work with Riverside Primary and Bridge of Allan Primary and would also like to work with DPS. LS, the Council, the Health Board and the DDT would all be working together to make improvements. As well as the information gathered by the school, there would also be community surveys and other community engagement to help work out what changes can be made to improve active travel around the school. LS would tap into the local knowledge of the issues and coordinate with the Council’s transport team.

David asked if the school/PC would need to give any financial contribution for this. Graham confirmed that all the funding will be from Stirling Council.

Lorraine explained that the school team thought this was a fantastic opportunity and was

fully in support of DPS getting involved. There are constant concerns about transport around the school and there is only so much the school itself can do to intervene, but hopefully this project can help generate real improvements by looking at the big picture and working as a whole community.

All at the meeting thought this was a great opportunity and the PC is fully in support of DPS working with LS. Andrew noted that the area around the school is challenging and there are particular concerns around the proximity to the High School, the traffic on Doune Road, etc. Anneli asked if funding was also already earmarked for the actual road/footpath improvements that might be identified? Graham explained that at the moment the funding only covered the audit process and any actual road/path changes would need further funding before they were carried out. These sorts of changes are never easy to get done but it is always easier where the whole community is working together and, in this case, Stirling Council is supportive.

Graham and Kate left the meeting. **Action: Lorraine will follow up with them to start the project.**

7. Parent Survey

Anneli suggested that the PC should prepare a survey to gather parent/carer views about what they would like the PC and the fundraisers to focus on this year. The recent focus had been the playground and the trim trail but with the lower PC funds we will probably need to prioritise more this year and pick and choose between different things to spend the money on. All agreed it would be a good idea to get parent/carer input on that, perhaps with a list of options from the PC and the school that parents/carers could be asked to choose between or rank in order of preference. Lauren F also suggested the children should be asked for their input and Lorraine agreed. **Action: It was agreed that the PC and the school would each draw up a list of things that the PC could be asked to fund and the PC will then prepare a shortlist/survey to go out after the October holidays.**

Kirsten also mentioned that it would be worth reminding parents/carers that the school can accept donations at any time.

Lauren F asked if ParentPay could be used for fundraising donations as she understands that is what happens at Newton Primary. Lorraine explained that money that comes in to ParentPay goes direct to the school funds rather than the PC account so it could be difficult to manage. **Action: Lorraine will check how this might work and report back.**

8. Dates of Future Meetings:

The meetings this session will be held remotely and will be on:

Thursday October 7th 2021 (AGM)

Thursday November 18 2021

Tuesday 18 January 2022

Thursday 17 March 2022

Tuesday 17 May 2022

Appendix I

Parent Council Meeting Head Teachers Report September 2021

STAFFING UPDATE –

New staff :

Class teachers: Mrs Jo Jones, Miss Emma Ferguson, Miss Aimee Russon and Miss Lucy Somerville all join us this year on varying contracts due to addtionality, staff maternity leave cover and NQT year.

Support for Learning Assistants: over and above our permanent members of staff we have been joined again this year by Miss Rebecca Lindsey and Mrs Kerry Bunting Gray for another year till June 2022 and also Mrs Elaine Hendrick who joins us till June 2022 also.

We currently have a post advertised for another SLA which we hope to fill for start after October holidays. This post is funded through till next June.

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS/ PROJECT LEAD TEACHERS

We have three this year supporting our school development work. Miss Aylott with Health and Wellbeing her focus. Miss Hutton with Learning for Sustainability as her main focus and Mrs Anderson with Digital Learning as her main focus taking over from Mrs Hislop who is currently on maternity leave. Mrs Hislop with Equality and Diversity and Developing the Young Workforce as her main focus has planned for the year ahead prior to her maternity leave and the staff are taking forward this development as a group supported by all members of SMT.

Staff Absence

With rules around isolating and positive cases it will be likely that staff will be absent more than would be the norm going forward. We won't always be communicating that to families unless the absence becomes substantial.

CLASS STRUCTURES:

Re – organisation took place in June.

Current role is

Nursery Numbers – total 32

School Numbers – total 394

Total overall: 426

P1-7 (split over 15 classes) and Nursery (various patterns)

P1 have settled extremely well and are benefitting again from additionality in the form of Allison McKeown our nursery ECP who is supporting the transition thanks to additional funding from centre. Major thanks to the PC for their book bag contribution.

Trim Trail

Trim trail fitted successfully and risk assessed by children for use. Timetabled in school and used frequently by the wider community. Costings went up slightly due to our health and safety team at the council insisting on fencing to be erected over the whole installation area back in July. However team were amazing and worked long hours and Scot Play were very reasonable re additional costings.

Huge thank you to the PC for their contribution and what a difference it makes.

Living Streets (invited to attend the PC meeting 23/9/21)

This is a charitable organisation which works in partnership with several local authorities across Scotland to review and support active travel. They can also support communities to engage in activities surrounding traffic congestions and barriers to active travel. They are working with Stirling Council and the school is keen to work alongside the organisation and the parent council to look at the options surrounding our community. Traffic has and continues to be a constant issue around the school and is something which we could benefit from engaging with the authority and the organisation in partnership with you. It may be that the PC plays a role in in the work we do with them in order that the parent body is heavily involved. Graham Clark is our contact.

Leadership of Learning:

Staff this year will all undertake various aspects of the school improvement plan. Many staff members who are non-promoted are now looking to support peers in aspects of the curriculum which is a strength to them.

We have reviewed how we are delivering our collegiate training and staff meetings this year with there continuing to be a balance between virtual and small group work between staff. Covid and it pathway will very much guide how we undertake these activities going forward.

Staff Development:

Data Champions

Google Suite

Equality and Diversity

LFS/Global Goals

Emotion Works

Talk for Writing

Since Returning:

- Health and safety large focus
- Baselining Learning
- Navigating the changing sands with Covid and all that it impacts
- Promoting and supporting wellbeing across the board
- Launched Positive Relationships Policy and a focus across all classes of ready respectful and safe under the umbrella of nurture and the rights of the child.

Nursery

Gym hall out of action for the foreseeable future due to works in nursery. This will be starting now on 11th October. Was meant to start in August and has been delayed but nursery had moved due to summer provision prior to change of time for works to be undertaken.

School Dinners

P4-7 have successfully been added into the delivery of school dinners this past week. The numbers are very low for that stage at present with most children bringing packed lunches. However once we get to free school dinners for all we expect that to change. Packed lunch children will need to remain separate however as we cannot bring 160 children into the hall together under covid regulations. The classroom and nursery furniture still remains in part in the assembly hall also so for health and safety, capacity for seating needs to be reduced in there also.

Thoughts for PC support this year and agenda items in particular but will deal with during my report time if that's ok.

PC has always supported our School Cloud subscription and this hopefully will continue. The amounts for this are;

1 year subscription

Parents Evening - £369

Video Add - £219

Total : £588

3 year subscription

Up to 500 pupils

Parents Evening

Video Add -

10% discount

Total:£1587.60

Saving of £176.40 if we go for the three year option.

P1 bags for next academic session later in the year.

Burns medals in January.

Fencing along ditch area- discuss issues with this.

Perhaps target the daily mile track and open air amphi area also for fund growing??

DISCUSSIONS RAISED PREVIOUSLY

Discussion around parental concern re dog walkers in the grounds i.e. the field itself during the day. Signs are now in place and school position on dogs and their owners and use of the grounds very clear and communicated. School has no legal rights however to stop only to politely ask dog walkers not to do so during the school day.

Neighbours unhappy with children in ditches. As above.

Upkeep of the school grounds. Spoke to Monica at the DDT who hasn't heard back from her contact at the council and this is because of long term absence but school hasn't heard either more than the teams are still not out doing the maintenance work. We can't be at this point in time encouraging large groups of parents onto the campus either. This will stay on radar for some time I suspect until things return to normal re services. Staff themselves doing bits and pieces when possible.