



Minutes of Meeting held 17th May 2022

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (17th March 2022) and matters arising
3. Head Teacher Report
4. Treasurer Update
5. Fundraising Group Update (and Fundraising / Counting Cash)
6. Parent Travel Survey Results
7. P1 Book Bags
8. Covid recovery/next year - homework, uniforms, in person meetings
9. Dates of Future Meetings

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present:

David Williams (Chair)	Lorraine Slabbert (Head)
Andrew Buchanan (Vice-Chair)	Shirley Gallivan (Depute)
Anneli Spence (Secretary)	Emma Carter (Member)
Susan Henderson (Treasurer)	Kirsten Rodger (Member)
Rona Lockyer (Member)	Morag Sorbie (Member)
Ruth Allan (Depute)	Jo Gudgeon
Nicola Smart	Nicola Sutherland

Apologies:

Alison Webster (Member)	Denise Kelly
Mhairi Bowley	

David welcomed everyone to the meeting (held virtually over Google Meet).

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved by Emma; seconded by David.

Action from previous minutes: We have now been awarded grant funding of £400 from the Stirling & Bridge of Allan Round Table to go towards outdoor equipment and loose parts for the playground. The PC extended a huge thank you to the Round Table on behalf of all at DPS. With the recent Stirling Council grant of £519, this brings the total grant funding for outdoor equipment to £919. Shirley advised that half of this has been spent on playground 'grab and go' bags, hula hoops and PE kit; the other half has been spent on outdoor play equipment for the fenced area on the grass by the P1/2 playground. We had applied for around £1500 of grant funding in total, so a further £500-600 would cover the rest of the school's wish list for outdoor / playground equipment. It was discussed if this should be funded now from the balance in the PC account. After discussion it was agreed that the money would not be spent right now as we have the fete coming up and need to keep a good balance of funds in the account for that to cover expenses, floats, etc. **Action: Include this on the agenda for the first PC meeting after the summer.**

3. Head Teacher Report

See Appendix I.

Anneli asked if there is any information available yet about class structures / possible composite classes for next session. Lorraine advised there will likely be 15 classes next year but this is not yet confirmed. New pupils are constantly enrolling and there is also a high number of placing requests. The school also does not have any information about probationer teacher allocation for next year. Class structures should be confirmed to parents in early June, with children being told their actual class & teacher the week after.

Lorraine confirmed there are no Ukrainian refugee children at DPS at the moment.

Anneli advised that an email had been received from a parent who is disappointed that the school has decided to keep homework on the google classrooms. The parent in question feels that this passes significant costs onto families (the need to have a printer, up-to-date toner and paper) and also that it means parents sifting through multiple documents, working out what levels might be right for each child, etc, This is time consuming, and the children lack the teacher feedback they had previously. Lorraine responded that parents should ask their child's teacher if they are not sure of the correct level for their child. Worksheets do not need to be printed and children can do the work in jotters or on paper if they prefer. Teachers can offer support with devices to access the google classroom. Parents can also ask their child's teacher to provide paper copies of the homework if that is what they prefer.

Lorraine also pointed out that homework is not compulsory and children do not need to complete it (although the school would always encourage the reading homework to be done

every week).

4. Treasurer Update

At the last meeting the Treasurer reported £4,388 in the bank account, which remains unchanged. The movements are as follows:

Item	Value (£)	Note
Balance b/f	4,388	
Grant – Stirling Community Mental Health Fund	519	To be used for 'grab and go' PE bags
Grant – Round table	400	To be used for outdoor classroom resources
Grant money sent to DPS for ordering resources	(919)	Cheque uncashed
Balance (of available funds)	4,388	

The school fete on 11 June is in planning and a budget will be pulled together. The last fete in June 2019 was hugely profitable and we all hope this years' event will be equally successful.

Susan also confirmed that she is liaising with the fundraisers about the fete preparations, cash floats etc. They are also looking at the insurance rules about counting cash, banking, etc. We need to make sure we comply with all of the rules or we might not be covered by the insurance if anything goes wrong. It was agreed that the office bearers and fundraising team will meet separately to discuss this and agree the procedures to be followed for the fete.

5. Fundraising Group Update

The planning for the summer fete is now well underway. There will be a variety of stalls, games, etc as usual. The Dunblane Centre will be providing teas & coffees. Lots of great raffle prizes have been donated and tickets are being sold online already. It is also hoped to have tickets to sell on the day. There will be lots of free activities or activities that can be done by donation to try to keep costs down for families and keep the day as inclusive as possible. There is no entry fee.

More volunteers are needed for the stalls and for set up and the fundraising group is coordinating this. This year the P7s are also being asked to volunteer to help run some of the stalls.

David thanked the whole fundraising team for all of their efforts so far.

6. Parent Travel survey Results

There were a total of 77 responses to our recent active travel survey. A summary of the results has been emailed out to parents / carers.

The PC acknowledges that there are some ongoing issues that impact on safe active travel to school, such as the busy roads surrounding DPS. These issues are complicated and it is not within the Parent Council's power to solve them by ourselves, but surveys such as this help us to understand parent / carer concerns, which can then be raised with the school, Stirling Council and other relevant bodies.

Lorraine and David also had a productive meeting in March with Sustrans, who are working in partnership with the local authority about active travel matters. It was very helpful to have the results of the survey to hand and the information from the survey was passed on to Sustrans. It is not clear however what practical impact all of this will have.

Anneli asked for an update about the lollipop person for Doune Road. Lorraine advised she had chased this up with the Council last week because she hadn't heard anything else from them. She had been told that the PVG checks were still ongoing. This is very disappointing. There is however a real problem with recruitment for these kind of roles. Anneli asked if we should perhaps be asking the Council to put in a pedestrian crossing on Doune Road instead. It is a very dangerous spot with all the parked cars and other traffic. **Action: Review where we are with this at the first meeting of next session - possible campaign to Stirling Council for new pedestrian crossing.**

7. P1 Book Bags

Shirley asked for PC funding for the book bags for next year's P1 intake. There are 25 P1s enrolled for next year at the moment and the bags cost £5 each. All approved the spend of £125 from the PC funds for this.

8. Covid recovery/next year - homework, uniforms, in person meetings

It was noted that these points were all covered in Lorraine's report and in earlier discussions.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

The first meeting of next session will be on: Thursday 15 September 2022.

Appendix I

Parent Council Meeting Head Teachers Report May 2022

STAFFING UPDATE

As we near the end of the year we will see many of our present support staff contracts come to a potential end. We as of yet have no indication of certain budgets that we can draw from to employ them on an ongoing basis but hopefully we will know more by the beginning of June.

We have also not had our full class teacher compliment confirmed and without that I am unable to give you a full picture of classes etc. going into session 22/23. We will however have two project lead posts advertised internally for a continuing lead on Learning for Sustainability and a Digital Lead in school also.

Emotion Works

As part of our nurturing school approach we have been delivering Emotion Works as a way of supporting children in their emotional health and wellbeing led by PT Rachel Aylott. We have this week been awarded our bronze certificate with a silver on the way also.

Grants

Council Health and wellbeing fund - £519

Round Table £400

Total £919

Mrs Gallivan will detail the thinking for the spend.

Work is underway planning the work ahead for school and the DDT to work together both in the school environment and outwith. Many thanks to them who, over and above the school staff who were involved, helped us tidy and spruce up the garden of remembrance last week. We hope to develop a partnership which will encourage more families in the community to be supporting their work.

Health and safety Measures

The school continues within the recovery period following Covid restrictions being lifted in the wider community. As communicated with all parents via email, the school is very much looking at this within its own context with the background of consultation with those working within, as well as the covid picture within.

I met with the Council health and safety representative to discuss our step change plan and he was extremely supportive of the way we had planned things going ahead until the end of term. We also discussed matters regarding the world of school and risk assessments going forward and the update from the Council with covid now being incorporated as a transmissible virus within every day practice that we must live with. The advice is that for any opportunity we need to undertake a risk assessment for, we should be including that approach as part of it e.g. the wearing of facemasks is strongly recommended when using transport as an effective control measure and would need including within risk assessment.

The school will need to incorporate the control measures going forward and dependent on the particular situations and virus prevalence our risk assessments may require different things going forward. For example where we previously undertook whole school assemblies we may well continue with an upper and a lower school assembly because this is the sensible control measure to take when living with a transmissible virus within our communities.

NEXT TERM

As we head to session 22/23 we will indeed be returning to some of the pre covid arrangements

- Children should once again return to wearing school uniform. This will be communicated via a parent newsletter with links to information regarding that. As ventilation of classes will remain a core feature of the every day practice when living with covid, parents will be advised to ensure children do have layers etc. to ensure they stay warm. Throughout the day class teachers will monitor temperatures and windows will be closed if they fall beneath the accepted readings to allow classes to warm up again.
- PE kits will go back in bags again and children will get changed for gym.
- All halls and areas of the school will be back in use.
- Face to face meetings for staged intervention, parental concerns and any other reasons will resume. However remote meetings will still be offered to parents as an option given that we have seen how well this works for working parents who have been able to take part from workplaces and not require time off to attend meetings or those who have child care issues.
- A consultation will begin at the start of the school session with parents regarding parent night meetings. There has been mixed feedback regarding the return to face-to-face as the remote scenario has benefited many parents whilst many have encountered problems and would much prefer a face to face meeting. The likelihood is that we would deliver a hybrid approach to the meetings but we will consult first.
- Parent events within school will return across the board but again as stated above, risk assessments and control measures must recognise the transmissible virus.
- Learning communities and across stage opportunities will be reinstated without hindrance.
- Whilst many of the practices we introduced during Covid, such as parents standing back from being within the main areas of the playground with their children, will not be specifically encouraged or discouraged, we would be asking all parents who come to school to be covid aware and covid sensible in line with living with a transmissible virus in the community.
- Homework will continue to be on google classroom or see saw. As a reminder, homework is not a compulsory activity and only there for the purposes of reinforcement of learned contexts/ information at home. Teacher interaction and feedback will generally happen in class and the ongoing record of progress will be based on class work rather than homework. Should parents have challenges with the use of google classroom staff are only too happy to help and assist. Children are supported in class as part of digital skill development on how to use it. Should a family feel they do not wish their child to undertake homework digitally like their peers then a separate arrangement can be made for them. At the beginning of session 22/23 please make your child's teacher aware of this. We already have processes in place to support those families who may well be unable to access hardware or connectivity.

We are also a school that has developed a sustainable practice within, winning awards for our approaches. Therefore, online is much more sustainable than hundreds of homework jotters across school and financially astute regarding the school budget.

It is also developing a skill base for our young learners for when they enter High School where all work is delivered via a chrome book. There is a sustainable plan for this across the authority and therefore this is an approach supported by the Council.

A newsletter towards the end of term, which is a timeframe which would give the optimal reach to the most parents for the retention and understanding of information pertaining to next term, has been planned for.

Still to Come This Term:

Friday 20th May Sports day for pupils.

Monday 23rd May and Tuesday 24th May P7 Transition to High School

Wednesday 25th May till Friday 27th May P7 trip to Dalguise

Monday May 30th till Thursday 2nd June Health Week

Friday 3rd June additional holiday for the Queen's Jubilee

Tuesday 7th June P5 Soundstart Performance

Monday 6th June till Friday 10th June school literacy study week

Thursday 9th and Friday 10th New P1 tour

Saturday 11th June summer fair

Monday 13th June till Friday 17th June Sharing The Learning Events

Tuesday 14th June P7 Graduation Event

Wednesday 15th June New P1 Tour

Thursday 16th June Moving up afternoon for classes

Friday 24th June end of term at 1.30pm