



Minutes of Meeting held 15th September 2022

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting (17th May 2022) and matters arising
3. Head Teacher Report
4. Treasurer Update
5. Fundraising Group Update
6. Stirling Council Organisation of Classes Policy
7. Wind Farm Grant Application
8. Dates of Future Meetings

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present:

David Williams (Chair)

Andrew Buchanan (Vice-Chair)

Anneli Spence (Secretary)

Jay Burgess

Rona Lockyer (Member)

Denise Kelly

Nicola Smart

Laura Whyte

Lorraine Slabbert (Head)

Shirley Gallivan (Depute)

Ruth Allan (Depute)

Ruth Bland

Nicola Bonham

Ewan Kinnear

Lauren Freckleton

Kath Grainger

Apologies:

Alison Webster (Member)

Susan Henderson (Treasurer)

Morag Sorbie (Member)

David welcomed everyone to the meeting (held virtually over Google Meet) and to the new academic year.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved by David; seconded by Andrew.

Actions from previous minutes:

- **Grant Funding / Outdoor Play equipment** - see later discussion regarding Windfarm Grant.
- **Doone Road lollipop person** - Lorraine has heard nothing further from Stirling Council about this since our last meeting in May. Hiring for this role is Stirling Council's responsibility, it has nothing to do with the school. Lorraine will send contact details for the appropriate person at Stirling Council to Anneli and David so that we can follow up directly with the Council about this on behalf of the PC. It is important to get a safe crossing solution in place here as the road is busy and dangerous with lots of parked cars etc.

3. Head Teacher Report

See Appendix I.

Lorraine also noted that the start of the year has been very successful. It is great to be back to some normality for the children and the staff.

4. Treasurer Update

At the last meeting the Treasurer reported £4,388 in the bank account. This has increased to £9004.07 primarily because of the very successful return of the Fete in June. The movements are as follows:

Item	Value (£)	Note
Balance b/f	4,388	
Leaving gift	(18)	
Summer Fete (net)	4,654	Income £6,525, expenses £1,871
Book Bags for P1	(120)	
Parental Donation	100	
Balance (of available funds)	9,004	This is also the balance at 31 August 2022 (year end)

There have been no transactions in the new school year yet.

Despite a blustery and showery day the school fete had a fabulous return in June and raised just over £4,600. Many thanks to everyone involved in making it happen! This has provided a welcome boost to funds for the forthcoming school year.

The parent council received a donation from parents at the end of the term (above), for which we extend our grateful thanks.

The accounts to 31 August 2022 will be presented at the AGM in October.

A discussion followed this report regarding items to be funded from the PC account:

- **School Cloud** - In the HT Report, the school has asked for up to £618 to pay for the School Cloud appointment system for parents' evenings. Part of this (£229) is to add the option for video calls. The parents' evenings in the autumn will be face to face and the question was raised of whether we need to fund the video appointment option or not. Lorraine advised that the school has asked parents and carers for their thoughts on whether they would prefer video or face to face appointments going forward. The response to that was mixed. On balance the school wants to go with face to face appointments in autumn, especially given that lots of parents have not had a chance at all to come into the school itself over the last couple of years. Face to face meetings also help to build good parent / teacher relationships. It was noted, however, that video appointments can be very useful for some families, for example if one parent is working away from home, etc. After discussion it was agreed that a good compromise would be to have face to face appointments in autumn and video appointments in the spring. Hopefully this would be the best of both worlds. The PC will therefore fund the full amount of £618.
- **Hardship Fund** - Lorraine also raised the question of using some PC funds to establish a school Hardship Fund. This is something she is aware is happening at other schools and there is likely to be an increasing need for it over the next while, given the cost of living crisis. Until now, the school has used money from the school budget to help out families in need with the costs of school related activities. The school can continue to do this and will also strive to ensure that no child ever misses out on anything for financial reasons, however the school budget is also coming under increasing pressure. School PEF funding generally goes towards helping to raise attainment with increased staff costs etc. Following discussion, all at the meeting were in favour of establishing a Hardship Fund using some of the PC funds. It was agreed that a sum of £1000 would be ring-fenced for that at the moment. The figure will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. This fund will be used to assist with paying for activities such as the Dalguise trip in P7, the pantomime, P7 leavers hoodies, etc - generally, activities which are for all of the children, but which perhaps not all families can actually afford to fund.

5. Fundraising Group Update

Lauren confirmed that the fundraising group is planning a full programme of events for this year. The first meeting of the group has taken place and there are lots of new members, which is great news.

The dates for the Halloween Disco have been booked and advertised. The event will be split into 3 age groups this year to increase capacity. All activities will be included in the ticket price. The youngest children will also get a goodie bag; the older 2 age groups will have access to the tuck shop.

There are also plans for the Christmas movie nights, a bingo afternoon and a parent/carer event such as the quiz. The movie night will be a 'pay what you can' event. The fundraisers are focussing on keeping costs for families as low as possible this year, even if it means lower profits.

6. Stirling Council Organisation of Classes Policy

Stirling Council has been in touch with the school to confirm that this policy is now being reviewed again. Officers from the Council would like to meet directly with parent council groups / members to get input into the policy and have suggested coming along to one of our meetings. It was agreed that an Officer will be invited to attend our November meeting to discuss this and get feedback from parents and carers. The meeting will be held online to ensure as many interested parents and carers as possible can attend to hear the Council's presentation and give their views. The PC and the school are both aware that this is an important issue for many DPS families.

Lorraine advised that Stirling Council will also be putting out a survey on this issue to all pupils over age 13 and parents and carers. The link for that will be shared in due course.

7. Wind Farm Grant Application

One of the issues flagged at the last meeting in May for further discussion was potential PC funding for more outdoor play equipment for the school.

Shirley advised that the picture has now changed for this. A fence has been put up in the P3/4 playground (for safety reasons) and as a result the wooden fenced area by the totem pole is to be removed. The school is keen to develop play further within the school, as well as outside. An empty classroom is being developed as an indoor play space for P1-4. New resources will be needed for that.

The school is also applying to the local Windfarm Grant Fund for funding for further outdoor resources and a container for storing them securely. Without secure storage, outdoor equipment tends to disappear from the playground, especially at weekends. Other community groups (such as the Brownies, Kids Club, etc) will also be given access to the container and equipment in it. The windfarm grant does not fund the full cost of this and a contribution from the PC is also needed. The school asked the PC for £850 towards these costs. After discussion, this payment was approved. This payment will also be ring-fenced in the accounts for now, rather than paid over to school, pending the result of the grant application.

8. Dates of Future Meetings

The remaining meetings of this session will be:

Thursday 6 October 2022 (AGM)

Tuesday 15 November 2022

Thursday 26 January 2022

Tuesday 14 March 2022

Thursday 18 May 2022

Appendix I

Parent Council Meeting Head Teacher's Report September 2022

STAFFING UPDATE –

New staff :

**Class teachers: Mrs Jo Jones,
Miss Orlaith MacQueen.**

Miss MacQueen is with us for her probationary year.

Mrs Jo Jones is joining us this year funded by our covid recovery money to target children who have their learning affected by poverty. Therefore, she has target groups that she works with. She is also covering some NCCT to allow Mrs Stevenson to do direct teaching with that same group of children.

Support for Learning Assistants: over and above our permanent members of staff we have been joined again this year by Miss Rebecca Lindsey, Mr Grant Craig, Ms Sabah Bhatti, Mrs Elaine Hendricks and Mrs Kerry Bunting Gray for another year till June 2023.

We have fully committed our PEF,ERN and Covid recovery money to target children who require additional support with their learning.

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS/ PROJECT LEAD TEACHERS

We have four this year supporting our school development work. Miss Aylott with Health and Wellbeing her focus. Miss Hutton with Learning for Sustainability, Mrs Anderson with Digital Learning as her main focus and Mrs Hislop who has returned from her maternity leave and is working on Equity and Diversity, Play as well as social media for the school.

Staff Absence

With rules around covid isolating and positive cases it will be likely that staff will be absent more than would be the norm going forward again this year. We will not always be communicating that to families unless the absence becomes substantial. Currently this school calendar year we have had 3 staff members who have been absent due to this so we do expect this to continue throughout the year. The school will continue to track covid absences of children that we are made aware of to see the picture across school.

CLASS STRUCTURES:

Re – organisation took place in June.

Current role is

Nursery Numbers – total 42

School Numbers – total 379

Total overall: 421

P1-7 (split over 14 classes) and Nursery (various patterns)

News/enquiries

- P1 have settled extremely well. Major thanks to the PC for their book bag contribution. · P3/4 Playground have had the fence erected as a health and safety measure regarding children with very specific additional support needs.
- School has been approached by a link officer to take part in consultation process with the local authority regarding the review of class composition policy this coming year. The officer will be invited to the November PC meeting. Can I suggest we do this remotely so that as many people as possible can attend to have their views heard.

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. Our children take an active role across the school in leadership of learning also and the Sustainability Squad and Junior Leadership Team will be represented at the up and coming Pupil Voices conference in Stirling. Our Young Leaders of Learning also will be showcased at the event. This year we are fortunate that our citizenship groups and house meetings can begin again and these all feed into the children playing an active participatory role in the work of the school.

Since Returning:

- Health and safety focus
- Baselining Learning
- Promoting and supporting wellbeing across the board
- Integrating a large number of new pupils to the school who have come from a variety of settings to us.
- Re-establishing the clergy and religious observance back into our assembly programme · Revamping elements of what was traditional practice in DPS such as achievement assemblies, house meetings and Citizenship groups.

School Dinners

All children have begun to eat in the main halls again for lunch again which has been seen as very positive for all since our return.

Standing Inputs from PC this year

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

1 year subscription

Parents Evening - £389

Video Add - £229

Total :£618

P1 bags for next academic session later in the year.

Burns medals in January.