

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
AUCHENBLAE PARENT COUNCIL  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 7pm - 9pm**

**In attendance**

Lindsay Cochrane* (Chair)	Mrs Blakemore
Karen Carmichael*	Miss Currie
Sue Barrie* (Secretary)	Mrs Wallace
Clare Ptaszek*	Miss Thomson
Jim Titmuss	Mrs Young
Therese Hendry*	
Graham Milne	
Lizzy Dixon*	
Sheila Morgan	

\* indicates Member of the Parent Council Committee

**Apologies**

Steve Vickers*	Julie Butler
John Forrester*	Sally Stott
Isabelle Riddoch	Trish MacEachern
Marieke Wood* (Treasurer)	

**Action**

**1 Minutes of previous meeting**

A correction to the figures was made on page 2 of the last minutes. A cheque for £1840.05 had been paid to the school, including £576.45 for the Panto trip.

With this amendment, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**2 Matters arising from previous minutes**

The car project was up and running.

The cinema licence had been renewed.

Sue Barrie and taken on the running of the school swimming club.

Snow shovels had not been purchased as they had not been required since the last meeting.

**3 Headteacher's report:**

**Life and work of the school**

We continue to work very hard and participate in a range of activities for learning and in the wider sense of involvement and achievement. Feedback from the recent parents' evenings has been very positive.

Current projects include

- Our recent book challenge fortnight
- The garden, play equipment, sandpit etc
- The JRSOs are updating our Travel Plan
- The Primary 4 have a 10 week block of swimming and the Active schools coordinator will work with us on more activities.
- The Leadership visit is planned for Monday 27 May.
- Health Week is planned for the 10 June The cycle training assessment is on Monday 10 and Den day on the Tuesday.
- There could be a link with Mark Beaumont on Monday 10 June.
- The nursery trip is on Monday 10 June. Primary 1/ 2 are going to St Cyrus

beach on Tuesday 18 June.

- Planning for end of term events such as the Sports Day, Leavers Assembly, Young Leader training etc is all underway.
- Transition activities are happening for our Nursery to P1 and P7 to S1.

In terms of evaluating our progress and achievement the staff have looked at Last sessions school improvement plan

- We have added a really valuable resource to link in with Active Literacy and this is currently being used with a group of P3 pupils.
- The kindle project continues to extend with Primary 3 reading Katie Morag
- The non fiction resources are good:
- The Early Level Active Heinemann is positive.

### **What next?**

The policies for nursery have been updated and I am working on the Health and Safety one. The Adult Volunteer policy now reflects the requirement for a PVG.

Resources are all purchased for the forthcoming session and we are reorganising again to try to create more space. Another smartboard will be added to the current P1/2 classroom.

We are working on improving our ICT equipment with the authority but this is something we might need to part fund.

If we had a wish list it would be to update our musical instruments.

We have booked the pantomime for Friday 6 December.

### **Staffing**

Miss Thomson has been appointed as Depute Headteacher in Auchenblae School. This is part of an Authority Pilot until 2014 and is on a 0.5 basis. The aim is to develop management capacity in our school and within the Laurencekirk Cluster. St Cyrus Primary is a similar size school to ourselves and the same pilot system has also been implemented there.

Mrs Massie will now work full time in the Nursery Nurse position.

Mandy has returned to her kitchen and cleaning jobs.

Because of the rising roll there has been a temporary position this session which Miss Taylor is currently undertaking. This has been advertised as a permanent position.

### **Thank you**

We are always grateful to the support of so many parents in a variety of activities extra-curricular clubs, knitting, chess, gardening, the car project, cycling etc etc.

## **4 Chairperson's report**

Members of the Parent Council and Parent Forum have been fairly active since our last parent Council meeting. Thanks very much to everyone who has helped in any way with our activities.

**SPRING FAIR:** Thanks to Clare Ptaszek for taking on the role of coordinating the Spring Fair and to all the parents who helped with baking, providing raffles, helping on stalls, etc. It was another very successful Spring Fair and, after expenses, we raised £1,469.99 for the school. This is fantastic and will go towards funding the pantomime trip later in the year. The Cupcake and Bake Off competitions were a great success and are something that I think we should certainly consider doing again. Likewise, the Chocolate Fountain was popular. Some changes with regard to the amount of baking supplied should probably be taken into account for next year as there was quite a lot of baking left over at the end. Clare will be able to feedback more information to whoever is involved next year.

**LADIES CINEMA EVENT:** Thanks very much to Julie Butler, Sally Stott and Karen Carmichael for organizing this. It was a really fun night and raised over £500 for the Parent Council. Hall fees are still to be paid for this event. Questions are already being asked about when the next Ladies Night will be!

**PUBLIC VIDEO SCREENING LICENCE (PSVL):** Following the success of our cinema events we agreed that this would be renewed. The annual licence runs from 1st May to 30th April each year so I have therefore arranged this and expect to receive our new licence shortly.

**KIT CAR PROJECT UPDATE:** Thanks very much to everyone who responded about the Kit Car Project, and volunteered to get involved. I am delighted to say that we reached the minimum number set at our last meeting that work is already underway. Thanks also to Jim Titmuss for agreeing to manage the project, and to W M Donald (Ewan Riddoch) and Park Brown International (Stuart Cochrane) for their generous sponsorship cheques. These have considerably helped to reduce the financial outgoings of the Parent Council in respect of the project which is really great. The finished car will take part in the Scottish Goblins 2013 Event at Grampian Race Track in Alford on Saturday 15th June. More information will be sent home to all families about that in due course. Anyone is welcome to go along on the day and support our team.

**SWIMMING GROUP:** At our last meeting, we discussed Alison Chree's departure from the group and changes that needed to be made to ensure the continuation and smooth running of the group following her absence. I had put tentative plans in place, but thanks to Sue Barrie for agreeing to follow things up and make sure that everything was organised in time for going back after the Easter Break.

**CYCLE PROFICIENCY:** Thanks very much again to all of the parents who are giving up their time to help with the Cycle Proficiency training which is taking place on Monday afternoons. It has been confirmed that tests will take place on 10th June 2013.

**FOOTBALL GROUP:** Football sessions have started outdoors at the school again on Thursday afternoons. Thanks to Mirjam Currie and Tracy Smith who are now running the group.

**BAG2SCHOOL:** Thanks to everyone who managed to have a clear out and contribute to the collection yesterday. Thanks also to Isabelle Riddoch for coordinating the collection, and to Margo Titmuss for helping her collect the bags around the village.

**COMMUNICATION:** Following our recent Newsletter, a few more parents have signed up and are using our Facebook Page. The feedback is that it is a valuable communication tool and a great way of learning quickly about activities, events, or requests for help and ideas. I have also received more positive feedback about our Newsletters - it seems that even the kids are reading them and keeping up to date with what we are doing! These methods are really helping to highlight the profile of the Parent Council and are encouraging more parents to get involved and help with some of the things that we do. Hopefully they will also have a positive impact come the time of the AGM.

**AND FINALLY:** Although there are just less than 8 weeks left this term, unless otherwise agreed today, this will probably be the last Parent Council meeting of this Committee. I would therefore like to thank to all of the Committee members and parents, Mrs Young and other teaching staff who have regularly come to our meetings and, or helped, in other ways. Considering that we started this year by saying that we did not want to take on too much, I think that The Parent Council has had a very successful year and achieved a lot, both financially and socially. Some new faces have been involved too which has been great and I hope that this will continue into the new academic year. Although I have really enjoyed myself in the role as Chairperson over the last couple of years, like I said at our last meeting, I will not be standing for Chairperson again. I am, however, happy to continue helping in any way that I can.

## 5 Treasurer's report

Present bank balance           £3919.37

Previous bank balance       £2490.05

Includes net profit from Spring Fair of £1469.99 and ladies cinema night £515.00

Kit car has been paid for (see report below)

## 6 Road Safety

A parent expressed concern about the dangers caused by parents dropping off their children right on the corner by the school. Mrs Young will include in the forthcoming newsletter again. There is no one available to come and do road safety training with the children although Joanna Stewart is coming from the Council to assist with updating the School Travel Plan with the Junior Road Safety Officers. Graham Milne offered to organise a police officer to come and speak to the children.

GM

## 7 Car Competition

Jim Titmuss reported that there were 18 children and 13 adults involved with the car project. The kit had been purchased for £1122.20. A grant of £500 had been received from Seimens, and donations of £200 each from WM Donald and Park Brown. This left the Parent Council to pay the remaining £222.20. There will also be some helmets to purchase in different sizes to suit all of the children.

Construction of the car was well underway, and race day is 15<sup>th</sup> June in Alford. The children will all have the opportunity to practice driving the car, and everyone from the school will be invited to come and support the team.

## 8 Wish List

Mrs Young explained that the school was having a lot of difficulty with its internet access. Hilltop wireless was currently being installed. Once these problems had been resolved the school will need to update its computers. The Parent Council may want to help fund this depending on what the Council comes up with. The big projector for the hall was included in this list.

Mrs Young was also hoping to purchase some new music resources, such as chime bars which cost £500.

In the meantime it was agreed that the Parent Council would buy a £150 voucher for Amazon for the school to use for resources as and when required.

MW

## 9 Adult Volunteer Policy

The revised school policy was circulated reflecting the introduction of Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) check replacing the CRB check.

## 10 Health Week

It was suggested that health week could include training on internet security. Mrs Young to investigate via Means Academy.

EY

The Human Body exhibition at Glasgow Science Centre was discussed and agreed to be very good. Mrs Young to investigate, possibly for October.

EY

Mark Beaumont will be passing close to Auchenblae on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June, on his run of the Highland Boundary Fault for a children's charity. A fruit tuck shop will be available that day with proceeds going to sponsor Mark.

EY

The Den Day is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The Parent Council agreed to pay for bottled water and biscuits.

## 11 Fundraising

The Auchenblae Gala day is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Various ideas had been put forward such as candyfloss, guess the number of bolts in the car, human fruit machine, orienteering. Lindsay to coordinate.

LC

Another cinema event would be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

LC/CP

It was agreed to hold a sponsored walk again, in school time on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Sue Barrie to come up with routes etc.

SB

## **12 End of term events**

After discussion it was agreed to hold the sports day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. The leavers' assembly and barbeque would take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Jim Titmuss would organise to include kit car demo races.

JT

The Parent Council will organise teas and coffees for sports day, and Graham Milne will coerce some other dads to run the barbeque.

LC

GM

## **13 Next meeting**

The next meeting will be the AGM, to be followed by a business meeting, and will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.