

Meeting of Papdale Parent Council
Monday 26 November 2018 at 5.30pm

In Attendance: Michelle Dufort, Kevin Balfour, Tanya Blowfield (Chair), Craig Spence, Paula Craigie, Dawn Stanger, Audrey Waterson, Katie Croy, Ruth Drever, Nicola Reid (minutes).

1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Joanne Tait, Tracy Linklater, Karen Allen, Lorna Robertson, Jos Tulloch, Shayron Mooney.

2. Minute of Previous Meeting (8 October 2018)

The minute was agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by Tanya Blowfield, seconded by Audrey Waterson.

3. Shopping Night

The annual shopping night was another great success this year, well done to everyone involved and a special thank you to Lorna and Katie for all their hard work pulling it together. Katie updated that she and Lorna were happy to take on the organising of the shopping night again next year.

It was agreed to look at whether it might be possible to make the rectangle of tables in the centre of the hall slightly narrower to allow wider isles for customers to move through. It was very busy at points throughout the night and hard to get through or to get access to the tables.

Serving the teas and coffees on the stage seemed to work well as did the parent council rota which allowed everyone to have a turn of shopping.

Numbers were slightly down on last year but it was noted that there were a lot of very similar sales taking place in the county this year.

Next year we will consider adding a bake sale or bottle stall table, run by the parent council.

4. Head Teachers Report

The newly appointed Head Teacher, Wendy Bowen will hopefully be starting in post on 7 January 2019, this is still to be confirmed by the Education Department.

Amy McCracken returns from maternity leave in January 2019 and is reducing her hours from 1.0FTE to 0.6FTE, the remaining 0.4FTE is out to advert.

Helga Flett will go on maternity leave in January, her post has also been advertised.

PEF Funding has been used to buy in extra Support for Learning staff including Sandra Irvine who is a pupil support/Autism teacher who has been working 1 day a week in the school since August; she works with pupils, teachers and parents. PEF funding has also

been used to buy “Reading Eggs” which is an online reading programme which children can do at school but also at home.

The school had another very successful Children in Need day this year, run by the P7's who did an amazing job and raised the very impressive amount of £2,064.81!

The Shoe Box appeal was well supported again in the school and a thank you card has been received for the school's donations. There were also Food Bank donations collected in at the annual Harvest Assembly which the school has also received a thank you letter for. A big thanks you to children and parents for supporting these.

A two minute silence was observed by all pupils for the Armistice Centenary.

Norwegian Musicians will be visiting the school on Friday, they are in Orkney for the concert at the Kirkwall tree lighting ceremony.

The school has been looking at Global Goals with the Games Parliament looking at “Health & Wellbeing”, the Pupil Council looking at “Affordable and Clean Energy” and the Eco Club looking at “Sustainable Cities and Communities”.

Learners Discussions took place this week, this is where a selection of pupils from across the school (selected at random using a computer programme), get together with Michelle Dufort to discuss their learning and the pieces of work they're most proud of.

The Nurture Room continues to work well, this is a relaxed space where children can learn emotional resilience and practical skills.

The school is focussing on Priority 3 from the School Improvement Plan, “Health & Wellbeing” they have been using the Jigsaw programme and have been looking at having a “safe word” to help recognise if someone is feeling uncomfortable with a situation they find themselves in.

5. Parent Council Chair and Head Teachers Meeting Feedback

This took place on 8 November 2018 in the St Magnus Centre, both Tanya and Michelle attended. There were attendees from all schools across Orkney (both Primary and Secondary) Eileen Prior from Connect attended and gave a presentation which included topics such as “the role of the parent council”. Tanya will circulate the information she received from this event.

6. School Meals Payments

It is recognised that the current system of having to go to the school kitchen to buy tickets (paying only by cash or cheque) can be quite cumbersome to some parents, it would be great if it was possible to purchase tickets online for parents who find it hard to get to the school. KGS and Stromness Primary use a card system but Kevin has spoken to Anne Harrison and it looks unlikely that anything like this will be implemented at Papdale in the foreseeable future.

7. Bike Shelters

The location for the new bike shelters has been decided, Keith Foubisiter from OIC is happy with the plans so we're just waiting for confirmation from Leslie Miller that the location is free of underground drains etc before we can proceed. McAdie & Reeve will be used to bring the shelters home for us, saving us £1,000 in carriage charges. 21 March

2019 is the deadline to finish the project. The Parent Council will donate towards the cost of this project.

8. Fundraising Ideas

Craig clarified that the Blue Door doesn't accept applications from Parent Councils. Jo has added us to the waiting list for bag packing at Tesco's, there is a long waiting list for this so we are unlikely to be allocated a place before next Autumn.

We could apply to be considered for Tesco Bags of Change but would need a specific project to raise for as the bike shelter project would be completed by the time we were allocated a space. Michelle updated that they have been considering plans to create a Bereavement Garden at Papdale where children who have suffered a loss in their family could go for some quiet time and possibly plant something in memory of the person they'd lost. This could be considered.

9. School Discos

Kevin confirmed that there is no Lagganlia fundraising group this year. It was agreed that we would hold discos on 12 February and 30 May 2019. Tanya to contact Party Fun Time to see if he can provide the entertainment at the discos for us. Ruth will order some goodies for the sale table and Tanya will look into booking the school hall. It was felt that it might be a good idea to put out a plea for parent helpers, explaining exactly what they would be required to help with and that they wouldn't have to help at more than one disco, this could be done via the school Facebook page.

10. Parent Council Night Out

Tanya has booked the table at the West End Hotel for 7.30pm on 11 January 2019. All welcome.

11. AOCB

Craig asked what the main challenges were for the school and how we could best help as a Parent Council? Kevin and Michelle said that budgets were probably the main challenge as money was needed for essential things such as staffing and bringing in extra learning support, often meaning that there isn't much left over for resources they would like to provide for the children to enhance their learning, this is where the PC fundraising money is a lifeline. It can be expensive to keep online resources up to date. Another upcoming challenge for 2019 will be space as the Nursery is expanding and taking over some more of the school rooms in order to provide the level of service required by the Scottish Government, this will put a squeeze on the rest of the school.

Tanya mentioned the Dojo app which is being used by some teachers and which seems to be a good way of updating parents on what their children are covering at school and giving feedback. It's good to look at different ways of reaching and engaging with all parents.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 1850.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4 February 2019.