

FRIENDS OF GLAITNESS SCHOOL
Thursday 18th March 2021 at 7pm
(Virtual Meeting via VScene)

Present:

Steven Johnston (Chair)
Karen Rorie (P1W and P5 Rep)
Barbara Brown (P2 Rep)
Jess Smith (P1/2/4 & P2 Rep)
Emma McConnachie (P5 & P7 Rep)
Donna Reid (Class Teacher – P2)
Ingrid Rendall (Head Teacher)
Sharon Muir (Deputy Head)
Claire Darbinyan (P1S Rep)
Ola Slater (P6 Rep)
Alice Peace (P3 & P6 Rep)
Anna Kratiuk (P4 Rep)

Apologies

Helen Killeen (Business Manager)
Shaun Tulloch (ELC Manager)
David Johnson (P2/3/4 Rep)
Gemma Dorricott (Treasurer & P6/7 Rep)
Erin Thomson (Minute Taker)

1. Opening of the Meeting

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting. Donna agreed to take minutes as Erin couldn't make tonight's meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies can be seen above.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes 20th January 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and there were no amendments to be made.

4. Action Log Update

See action log for details

5. Playground equipment and Safety

The climbing frame had previously been deemed unsafe and has been closed off to the children. Ingrid updated that Helen had received a price of somewhere around £300 to repair it. School decided that it was worth the cost of fixing as the children use and enjoy the climbing frame and this is now in progress. No other items in the playground were deemed unsafe but there are general costs involved in keeping it maintained. Steven suggested since there is a general lack of play areas around the school it may be an option to

focus FOG fundraising on the playground for long-term more substantial projects. Neither Steven nor school had heard any more from the parent that had been concerned previously about the stone circle after it was raised at the previous meeting.

6. Traffic Update

David Bowen continues to be placed at the Muddisdale end crossing. There is still to be a crossing patrol review, but this has not happened yet. Steven asked for any comments from parents on the co-op side that is now without a crossing patrol officer. Jess shared that it has been quieter and a lot less parents are now using the peedie sea car park. Donna agreed that it has been much better since the changes were put into place. Schools have only just opened to all pupils this week and it was busier in the main school car park this week with everyone back and with Picky being used for vaccines. Jess mentioned that she has noticed parents from ELC waiting/blocking the path round the curve to the school office entrance. Parents of ASN children/ASN transport children also need to use this path. Ingrid said they were aware and had discussions with Shaun about this already. She spoke of the difficulties in finding a solution – parents of bairns in nursery bubble 3 have to collect from this area, they need to be seen by staff and the bairns are not all being picked up at the same time. It would be difficult to cone the road off as ASN vehicles need access to the top of the slope. Signage could be put up to remind parents to be mindful of others trying to use the path in the first instance to see if this makes a difference.

7. Head Teachers Update

Helen K asked Ingrid to ask the parent council if they thought it would be ok for staff to write names on water bottles with marker pens. Lots of water bottles taken in to school look the same and end up in lost property. Steven suggested a *Dymo* labelling machine then if folk objected they could take the labels off again. Barbara said sometimes names rub off after time but thought most parents would be ok with staff popping names on as it would mean they would be more likely to be returned if they got lost. With Covid measure in place labelling bottles is important to avoid accidental sharing.

Ingrid started by saying that it was lovely to have all the children back in school on Monday and that it felt more like a whole school community again. They held a virtual assembly on Wednesday and one of the first activities is for the children to write a strength on a piece of paper that will be joined together to create a whole school paper chain as a symbol of us all coming back together.

Signs have been put up at the gates in the front and back playground to remind parents about social distancing and the wearing of face masks in the playground. School needs to follow the guidance to keep folk safe and so that we can get all back to normal sooner rather than later. There has also been a board put up to keep parents from coming in to the area where the children line up. The bairns are well settled and they really need to ask parents to be mindful to drop bairns off and go without hanging around to blether to other parents which just can't be encouraged at the moment.

Pupil Equity Money has been used to purchase some new equipment including a set of 16 ipads with a charging trolley. These will mainly be used at the lower end of the school as ipads are easier to access for younger bairns than laptops used at upper stages. They will also be useful for STAR assessments and other learning activities. Other technology

resources including programmable toys/blue bots have been purchased. Sharon added that the school had also secured some STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) funding via Colin Nisbet to buy Beebots, Meccano and car sets and that there is still some science equipment to come. Ingrid explained that these pieces of kit really are required to be able to teach technologies outcomes properly.

Additional reading books have been purchased to replace missing books in the main Oxford Reading Tree Scheme. Literacy Circle materials to widen the range and inspire/motivate reading were purchased for upper stages. Kate Towsey continues to look for resources and find ways to engage more reluctant readers. Corey Symonds has been working on sorting and organising the new resources.

The school has also had a funding bid accepted from Catherine Diamond. Ingrid put together a list including new furniture and resources to enhance the learning environment and support play in Primary One. Everything Ingrid requested was accepted. A delivery of items arrived in school the other day and is worth somewhere in the region of £13 000.

Parents had no questions for Ingrid. Steven passed on that David Johnson who had given his apologies tonight would like to thank teachers and school staff for their support with the peedie bairns at school over the past few weeks.

8. Early Learning and Childcare Update

All ELC bairns were back in nursery on 22nd February. They continue to be split into 3 bubbles using 3 different entrance/exits. The bairns have settled back in well to routines and there continues to be enhanced hand washing and cleaning etc. ELC registration week has been and they are expecting 70+ 3 and 4 year old bairns next session. Due to problems around capacity 2 year olds are not currently being enrolled at Glaitness these children are being offered other settings in Orkney. The care inspectorate has given permission to use the old parent waiting area as part of the space for bubble 3 to accommodate current requests. As yet there has been no progress on the Nursery extension. The latest information is that the build may begin in the Summer and it is hoped that by January 2022 they may be able to move partially into the converted existing part of the building. This would allow school to reclaim the corner classroom that is currently being used by nursery. They don't expect to be fully moved until August 2022. When this happens the current nursery space will be given back to the school and the new extension should be able to provide 1400 hours for 80+ children. Carol & Susan have been on Forest school training and they are using Muddisdale often. They hope to have a parent session up at Muddisdale after Easter. ELC secured a grant for a polycrub which has arrived and is going to be put up at the fenced off area at Keelylang. The area will be developed by Nursery as a space to explore and grow vegetables, plants etc.

Steven asked about potential pressures on the school through the nursery build and whether this means that children who might have deferred entry to P1 may not now be able to. Ingrid spoke about current pressures relating to space and the school building in general. She also said that there may be more folk wanting to keep bairns in nursery for another year since they have missed time due to COVID so this would possibly have an impact as well. They are expecting 30+ bairns in P1 again next session (class and a half) which means they will need to explore different models of how classes will be configured. There will be no

access to the music/art room and rooms that a few individuals are currently using as a classroom space. The resources will all have to be removed and there is a lack of available space to store them while the nursery build is happening. This will mean there will have to be a logistical juggling of spaces. There is an ongoing dialogue to find the best solutions with every room in the school being considered as a potential space. Ingrid suggested it may be useful to discuss again and come back to this at the next parent council meeting. Steven asked about maximum class sizes and also at what point is the question asked regarding capacity when many spaces around the school continue to be developed for new family housing. Ingrid said that there can be no more than 30 children in a straight P2 & P3 class. This number increases to 33 further up the school. There can be no more than 25 children in a composite class. There is a projected roll and a formula that is used to calculate capacity for the next 5 years. Ingrid thought Glaitness was projected to be at around 96% capacity but said she had questioned this as it does not appear to take account of the space needed for support classes and space needed for children with additional support needs at Glaitness. Emma asked if the calculation takes into account potential housing developments as well. Ingrid said she was not sure about that but she would enquire to find out. There was then a general discussion about more houses being built all around Liberator and fields behind Glaitness Road which will potentially increase the school roll even further.

9. Library Update (Tesco Award)

The Tesco money has now been spent mostly on buying new books with around £90 of the £2000 award remaining. The books will be used to update class libraries and are mainly fiction. Some dyslexia friendly books were purchased to provide age appropriate reading materials for children who find reading difficult. Sets of atlases were also purchased for each stage Early, First and Second Level and although online maps are mainly used nowadays there are some key skills children acquire from paper atlases.

10. Treasurers Update

Steven explained that he and Gemma have now managed to set up online banking and received card readers etc. However, RBS then said that they are still not able to use it to make online transactions as a club/society. They have looked into moving banks but they are not taking on new clubs/societies at the moment so we will have to continue to bank with RBS and keep paying for things by cheque.

The bank balance at the moment is relatively healthy £7637 although there are a few big expenditures still to come out such as the remainder of the TESCO money and a large amount that is due to be paid to class fundraising Christmas gifts. Gemma has sent more than one cheque to class fundraising but the amount still hasn't come out the account. OIC paid in what they give to parent councils annually, somewhere around £290.

Ingrid read a letter from the P7 charities group that has been sent to her and Steven (though Steven hadn't yet received the letter yet) The charities group have decided to focus their fundraising efforts on improving the sensory room and have a list of items/equipment they would like to purchase. The items on the list total around £950. The bairns have written to the parent council to ask if we would consider helping them with this project. Steven asked for thoughts and said that he would need to check what was left in the account after

everything still to be paid has been taken off. He would then have a discussion with folk to see if this is something that the parent council would want to help fund.

11. AOCB

Steven asked folk for thoughts about a handful of cheques that some parents had sent in to pay for extracurricular sports last school year in around February 2020. The cheques had not been banked prior to lockdown last March and they have now expired. To keep it fair on folk who paid by cash Steven thought he might draft a letter with the old cheques attached to see if folk would mind reissuing a cheque. All bairns missed out on a couple of sessions before lockdown but got most of what had been paid for. Emma thought the cost of these couple of sessions would likely have been minimal. Neither Friends of Glaitness or the school had received requests from parents for any part refund.

Steven asked Ingrid if there was any update on the resumption of extracurricular activities by OIC. Ingrid said she hadn't heard anything but that P.E is back outdoors again for all bairns. Emma and Karen spoke about how the space in the picky is being used as the gym so it's no looking like it would be able to be used even if they were allowed to resume. The conclusion from the discussion is that it's no looking likely that there will be any clubs/sports this school year.

12. Correspondence

No correspondence received though the letter from P7 charities group will be forwarded to Steven.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 3rd June at 7pm (via VScene).

14. Closure of Meeting

Meeting closed – 20:15pm.

Action Log 2020-2021			
No:	Owner	Action	Date Complete
1.	SJ	<p>Fundraising - Family Photographs in 2020 – Steven to contact Fiona Scott. 16/01/20 – Steven contacted Fiona Scott and she has said that this is feasible. Discussions about when and where photos will take place. Facebook poll to be conducted 19/01/20. On hold due to COVID-19. Possibility of doing this before Christmas still, to be discussed at next meeting. 25/08/20. On Hold Due to Covid19. 30/09/20. Still on Hold – 18/11/20</p> <p>Other FOGS fundraising ideas – book sale, bingo, quiz, Cube/game show. On Hold due to Covid19. Possibility to do some fundraising virtually, such as the quiz. To be discussed further at the next meeting. 25/08/20. To be discussed out with the meeting through Messenger. 30/09/20. David suggested hosting a virtual pub quiz. 18/11/20</p> <p>May be easier to arrange when social gatherings allowed hopefully in not too distant future. 18/03/21</p>	
2.	SJ	<p>Library Update – Touch base with Karen Miller about what can be done without her being in the school and what stage she got to. 30/09/20</p> <p>Looking at upgrading the equipment that is already in the Library. Currently also looking at a device similar to a kindle that kids can read books on and do learning activities. 18/11/20.</p> <p>Looking at purchasing Barrington books, teachers will order the books that they think will be suitable for their class. Also have looked further into kindles for the children to use, but are still looking into this further.20.01.21</p> <p>Money more or less all spent. Balance of ~£90 from £2k. Spent on books to update the library collection as this was identified as a need, more so than furniture. Once items received, feed back to Tesco with thanks. 18/03/21</p>	
Recently Completed Actions			
	SJ	<p>Treasurer's Update – Still waiting for online banking 18/11/20</p> <p>Still waiting for online banking, may have to change a few things to make it work. 20.01.21</p> <p>Online banking set up. Unfortunately RBS then notified us that online payments are not possible with our account type. Looked to other banks but they are not taking on new small society customers at this time due to Covid. Therefore, need to continue with cheques for the foreseeable future. 18/03/21.</p>	18.03.21