

**FRIENDS OF GLAITNESS SCHOOL**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7pm**  
**(Virtual Meeting via VScene)**

**Present:**

Steven Johnston (Chair)  
Michelle Kennedy  
Katy Firth (P1/2 HL Rep)  
Karen Rorie (P1/2HL & P6/7T Rep)  
Barbara Brown (P3 Rep)  
Alice Peace (P4 Rep)  
Donna Reid (Parent + Minute Taker)  
David Johnson (P5 Rep)  
Kate Towsey (P6/7 Teacher)  
Susan Krumdieck (Professor, Heriot-Watt University)  
Ingrid Rendall (Head Teacher)  
Shaun Tulloch (ELC Manager)  
Helen Killeen (Business Manager)

**Apologies**

Ola Slater, Gemma Dorricott, Sally Harcus, Emma McConnachie, Kerry Bickmore.

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

Steven welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Ms Towsey shared the children in her class wrote to Professor Krumdieck after hearing her on Radio Orkney. The class had done some prior learning on renewable/non-renewable energy and a little on climate change around COP26.

The project involves bringing academic researchers (5 PhD students) led by Professor Susan Krumdieck together with groups to achieve clear framework for positive changes in response to climate change. The aim would be to reduce carbon footprint of Glaitness School, helping us to work toward achieving Net Zero by 2030.

Success depends on understanding what matters to people in Orkney. What would people need to help them to achieve Net Zero? They would be looking for ideas and responses from the whole community. This will be a brand new project with Professor Krumdieck making the transition from engineering to working with Primary/Secondary school children. The Island centre for net zero very much believe in starting from ground level and working up. Project involves looking at what whole communities can do and designing a programme for change with teacher training. This would include developing and using a teacher toolkit with workbooks and activities to be trialled in classrooms. An app will be used to monitor progress. Glaitness will pilot the programme (1<sup>st</sup> in Scotland) and it would then be rolled out further in the UK and beyond.

The project is imaginative, investigative and data driven (the data model exists and has worked elsewhere). It will be launched with families, children and staff. The first thing to be

looked at is the journey to school. There would be an initial data gathering where children would plot their journey and consider solutions. The initial data would be used to calculate carbon saved. Net zero is where car use is 20%. It is not about penalising or shaming. It is about starting from what we are already doing and helping to change and explore change. This would be done in a way that creates community and promotes co-operation and value out of achieving. Information would be fed back to Orkney Islands council and could be used to improve infrastructure. The reward for the work is that Glaitness will receive carbon credits which could lead to additional funding.

Steven thanked Ms Towsey and Professor Krumdieck for coming along to share information about the project with Friends of Glaitness. It all sounds very good and exciting and we look forward to becoming more involved as the project develops.

### **3. Apologies of Absence**

As above.

### **4. Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November.**

Minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **5. Action Log Update**

1. Fundraising Ideas– item is on the agenda.
2. Online Banking – FOG account has now been moved to Virgin Money and we now have access to online banking. This means payments can be made from the account online and we no longer need to rely on cheques.

### **6. Outdoor Education**

Steven emailed the group the response from Chris Jex regarding queries about outdoor learning opportunities being offered in other schools. Ingrid confirmed that she had met with Morag Miller who had asked her to pass on that Steven's letter to James Wylie had not been forgotten and he would receive a full response next week. Steven said he would share the response with the group when received.

### **7. Head Teachers Update**

Ingrid was pleased to share details of visits we had to school just before the end of term. Drumfun, Scottish Ballet Group and a Brass Quintet had all been to work with children in various classes and they had thoroughly enjoyed taking part in these activities. The Pier Arts Centre has an exhibition displaying views on what matters to folk in Orkney. P6/7 created a swan with children's views written on the feathers if anyone was going past Stromness it would be worth a look.

To begin rebuilding the school community back up after Covid Ingrid would like to engage more with parents to find out what matters to them. She is considering ideas including inviting small groups in for a chat around drop off times to try to capture the views of different people. Looking for ideas and suggestions of ways that she could find out what's important and involving parents in a positive way. Ingrid is very aware that some parents particularly of children at the lower end of the school have never set foot inside the school building due to covid restrictions. As a P2 parent who has not been in school Katy thought that it would be really good to invite parents in to see their children's learning environment.

Three American students from Wisconsin will be arriving at Glaitness in June. They will be working in classes with the bairns, involved in all that is happening in school and in the local community while they are here. The visit coincides with junior intercounty and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The school's management team are now working on structure and staffing of classes for next session. There will be 8 mainstream classes and 5 support classes. Challenges of a class and a half of new Primary Ones. Ingrid will keep parents posted on developments around staffing and classes for next session. Spaces will be the same as we have this year at the start of the new school year until phase 3 of the nursery build is complete. The old nursery is due to be handed back to school in Oct/Nov. Shaun and Ingrid are meeting with Karen Walter to carefully plan timescales. P7 to S1 transition days will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June with a parent session at KGS being held in the evening on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Ingrid and Shaun will be arranging transition activities for ELCC children moving in to Primary One.

Ingrid reminded parents there is no May Day holiday next Monday. There are 3 days off school in June for the bairns. Schools are closed for 2 days for the Queens Jubilee Holiday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> June. This is followed by an in-service day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Callum Walter has been in touch to involve school children in putting up flags at the harbour front.

Ingrid shared a copy of "Say Hello to Pantosaurus" which is an NSPCC Early Years resource about keeping children safe and preventing abuse. It is a good way to promote discussion around a sensitive topic in a child friendly and age-appropriate way. The resource has been used in Shetland and in some classes here before. There are Online parent sessions available to sign up for in May which Ingrid will share details of. There's also a website with useful resources and further advice for parents. Steven thought that he had received a copy from nursery and agreed that it was good to have a story or resource that parents can use to help them to discuss difficult and sensitive topics with young children.

10 Years of Daily Mile celebration – children will be doing laps around the Peedie Sea all day on Thursday. This has been organised by Miss Falconer and the Health & Wellbeing group.

Parent Council Chairs meetings will resume next academic session possibly first being in September.

Steven asked whether there was any information available on Sports Day and suggested having back-up's dates in case the weather meant that the event had to be postponed. Ingrid said that staff were currently discussing and planning something that was inclusive and took account of the needs of all the children. She couldn't share a date for this yet. Ingrid will be sharing a parent update soon with important information and dates for this term. P6/7's will also be launching tour guiding.

## **8. Early Learning and Childcare Update**

Shaun is keen for ELCC to fully engage in Professor Krumdeick's project working towards Net Zero.

COVID guidance has now finally changed and ELCC is now much more free to invite parents back into nursery. Staff have made the decision not to change drop off at this point in school year as they thought it would be unsettling to change routines. They are however keen to welcome and encourage parents into nursery and have lots of open events planned.

Registration for nursery places has now taken place. 28 children will be leaving ELCC to go to Primary One in August. 42 children (including those who have deferred entry to P1) will remain in ELCC. 34 new registrations including children who are in the Papdale catchment. In addition there are 10 saved spaces for eligible 2 year olds. This takes the nursery role to 86. They have been asked to take children who are Papdale catchment as they have capacity in the new nursery. There is however no capacity for Primary pupils this side of the town but there is at Papdale!

Carol and Susan have completed level three forestry school training making them fully qualified. They will be working with the pre-schoolers on a 5 week block having children learning outdoors for longer periods of time including lunch and snack. They will be looking to involve parents this term too. Karen has been working hard on developing the polycrub and they held an open event in the holidays. They have also involved some of the primary bairns in support classes with digging and planting in the vegetable patches.

They have a blank canvas and will be involving children and parents in designing and developing the new nursery garden over time. They continue to focus on family learning including forest schools. Play on pedals workshops where families are given the opportunity to borrow balance bikes can begin again. Jocelyn is putting on taster bookbug sessions. A menu of family learning events with different dates and times will be shared for folk to opt in. Continue big focus on family learning with new family room available to use next session.

The extension is progressing very well and is on track with timescales. Shaun was on the site the other day and they are beginning painting on the inside. Some of the bairns will go a visit to the site and the P4's have arranged to do this shortly. The date for completion of the extension is the 15<sup>th</sup> July. Shaun and his staff will be moving in during the summer holidays and will be delighted to have the full space available to them in August. Shaun will be meeting with Callum from Orkney builders to see if they can shorten the timescales for moving out of the old nursery so that it can be remodelled and handed back to school as soon as is possible.

## **9. Treasurer's Update**

Steven advised that the bank balance is currently £4002. There will still be some outgoings to the Picky for extra-curricular sports. The school lottery continues to generate a regular trickle of income.

## **10. Fundraising**

Fundraising has largely been on hold due to COVID. Previously we agreed that it would be better to fundraise for a particular project or reason rather than more generally. Shaun shared that a start has been made on the courtyard with some outdoor furniture from ELCC funds but this needs to be continued and further developed. It is a safe and very much used

area of the school for many of the younger support class children too. Folk agreed that developing outdoor play spaces including the courtyard and back playground would be a good focus for our fundraising. Barbara suggested going back to the idea of arranging a quiz that had been on the cards before Covid. Due to time tonight fundraising will be discussed further via the facebook chat.

## **11. Extra-curricular Sports update**

Netball – Emma sent in her points via email due to apologies. She thought netball had gone well this year. The P6/7's developed well and they saw big improvements over the course of the season. She wanted to highlight some additional fees and costs involved in the netball season. This included the league entry fee and an additional cost per player for the knockout competitions. Some of the strips are missing or are needing replaced. Might need to look for a sponsor or consider more parent council funding. Emma also wanted to point out that she, Helen and Gina would all be stopping coaching the netball when the girls move on to KGS in 2023 so there would need to recruit more volunteers to take over from them in the next school year. Steven noted our thanks to all three coaches who have given up their time and put so much effort into running the club effectively over several years.

Football – Steven has received an email with some concerns from the football coaches. The main changes the coaches propose are:

1. To have a 3 week trial period based on both attitude and ability.
2. Some changes to the way teams are selected.
3. Have an additional team for the cup competition.

Steven and Helen need time to read the letter properly and will respond to concerns raised. Again, Steven would like to record thanks to all the coaches who give up their time to run extra-curricular sports clubs.

Badminton – Seems to have been going well on a Friday. Rebecca Reid running this and Archie Muir an ex-pupil has been helping on a Friday night too.

- 12. AOCB** – David wanted to raise awareness about an increase in vehicles and machinery involved in the building of the new care home. Particularly around the road behind the rugby club that some children use to walk to school. Shaun had been aware of this and was confident that there was a safe route using the inner track of the picky fields so the nursery bairns could still access Muddisdale. Steven thanked David for bringing this to the attention of others.

## **13. Correspondence**

None received.

## **14. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (In school with possibility of online option also)

## **15. Meeting closed 9pm.**

Action Log 2020-2021			
No:	Owner	Action	Date Complete
Recently Completed Actions			
	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>03/06/21 – remains on hold due to COVID, fundraising may be easier to arrange when social gatherings are allowed hopefully in the new school year. Also need to have a focus for spending rather than asking for money for it to sit in FoG bank account, particularly during a time where people may have less financial security due to the pandemic.</p> <p>02/09/2021 – New guidelines coming out in a couple of weeks' time could allow for family photos to take place in the near future. It was mentioned about holding a disco again this year for fundraising, but again, new guidelines will let us know if this possible.</p> <p>04/11/2021 – No change.</p> <p>27/01/2022 – No change</p> <p>27/04/202 – To return as a standing item on the agenda. Possibly start fundraising towards improvements in the playground and outside the school.</p>	27/04/22
	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>03/06/21 – Online banking function not possible with RBS. Other banks not currently taking on new club/society accounts at present due to Covid. Audit of the accounts still pending.</p>	27/04/22

		<p>02/09/2021 – Still not able to get online banking, people can pay into the account, but we cannot pay out using BACS etc yet. Audit of the accounts still pending, but an auditor has been found.</p> <p>04/11/2021 – No change</p> <p>27/01/2022 – members agreed to transfer account to Virgin Money who are able to provide online banking and are now taking on new club/society accounts.</p>	
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