

North Walls Parent Council 13.05.2025

Minutes of meeting

- **Attendees:** J McGeehan, A Trafford (Ex-Officio), D Clark, S Firth, S Whitehead
- **Apologies:**, A Kinsey, D Johnston
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- **Minutes of last meeting for approval**– Proposed: Dawn C Second: Sarah F
- **Matters arising from last meeting**

Football - Insurance cover with Zurich through Connect membership.

To be done:

Anti bullying

Child protection

Andy applied to Tesco fund for goals and playground equipment

- **Treasurer's report:**
- D.Clark. -
- £85 North Walls Halloween.
- £18.33 interest
- £5774.68 in account

Separate items of business

Connect policies - Need to be done. Some can be duplicated from existing school policies for continuity

- **Pool** - Andy has sent further emails but still no progress
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- **Junior high** - summarised response from Peter Diamond. acknowledged budget challenges and expressed interest in exploring flexi-schooling or a North Walls-supported virtual school. However, due to limited resources, a full offer by August 2025 will not happen. Current plans for transition to Stromness or Kirkwall schools should continue, though future discussions are welcome.
- Janine responded 21st March to request the next steps but it yet to receive a reply.
- There is E-SGOUL initially used by Western Isles for a teacher shortage The program has developed into a nationwide community for online teaching and learning. A possibility for students wishing to stay on Island. To be explored further.
- **Outside area** - response from Liam McArthur inc. correspondence from James Wylie, Corporate Director, Education, Leisure and Housing, OIC.

In Summary -

Mr. Wylie acknowledges major budget pressures, including a £3.4 million savings target and £100 million in maintenance needs over 10 years. Despite limited funding, Orkney has received modest government allocations for play park renewal, supplemented by £400k from the council. North Walls Centre was awarded £25k for improvements to its games area. “OIC is, therefore, providing both officer and financial support to the improvements at North Walls School”. While the council supports these upgrades, ongoing maintenance remains a community responsibility. Inspectors found no welfare concerns at North Walls School. Mr. Wylie proposes a meeting to discuss financial constraints, and the writer invites further comments.

- A frustrating response with no clear path for the playground areas. Rachael sends regular reports on the state of the playground with no response from OIC. OIC noted the state of

the Nursery tiled floor on their visit and said they would replace this. However, after further emails from Andy, the council do not appear to have an interest in carrying this out.

- There is £2324.14 raised in 2022 from the Blue Door sale that is available to assist in repairs for the nursery area.
- Email needs to be sent to OIC with a clear plan to move forward. If they will not maintain can we and who does liability fall with?
- **Multi use games area (MUGA) NWCS.**
- Two very different quotes for all weather surface. 80/60k
- 25k funding (5% match grant) accepted from council.
- Applied for £40K from Sports Scotland
- Applied for £10K from CLLD (Community Led Local development).
- **Fruit.** Emails to be sent to parents to see if they would like students in class 2 to still have their fruit snack now funding has ceased.
- Fruit/veg can be sourced through Scott Pring - catering manager
- PC will need to fund.
- Involve the children in the fruit and veg choice.

Island Games Dance

- Letter to be sent to families involved in dance to ensure their commitment to rehearsal and dance.
- Mabel to start rehearsals shortly
- Parade through town late afternoon and finishing approx 6.30
- Dance to be for the length of the parade.
- Saturday. Andy in talks with Ork Ferries to have an extra evening boat or adjust times.
- Would like commemorative shirt made for the children to wear on the day. Designs to be done promptly. Shiva draw up.

- Peedie Island games. Trip to Picky centre to be arranged to meet up with Eday.

Sports day

- Ice creams, cones etc to be purchased

PE kit on hold for now.

Participation fund email sent to parents reminding them to use.

- **Head Teacher's report:**

24/25

Home sharing workbook - no progress

Talk for Writing - Staff attended training

Higher Order questioning (aspect featured in insp report)

Sept - 15%

Feb - 46%

25/26

Writing

UNCRC - Rights Respecting Schools

School lunch ordering

New system introduced across Orkney, in place in all mainland schools. Will be introduced here in last 3 weeks of this term

Summer holiday activities

Outdoor Education offer - Active Schools Orkney

Up to 3 days during summer

For age 8 upwards

Archery, Bushcraft, Climbing Tower, Canoeing, Kayaking

£125/day for instructor

Up to 8 people per day

2 separate activities morn/afternoon

Contact Chris Jex to express interest

Self evaluation questionnaires

Anti-Bullying Policy - Andy in final stages of drawing up policy.

Correspondence NA

AOCB NA

Date of next meeting

Thursday Sept 4th 2025. (Unless anything of importance arises meantime).