



Comely Park Primary School Parent Council
Minutes of Meeting held
Wednesday 20th May 2015

Attendees

Gail McEwan - Joint Chair
Mrs Collins – Head Teacher
Mrs Jamieson – Depute Head Teacher
Miss McGrow – P2 Teacher
Lyn Bennett - Parent
Marie Summers - Parent
Jane MacKenzie - Parent
Catherine Smart - Parent
Colin Mason – Falkirk Community Trust

Apologies

Mel Brookes – Joint Chair
Barry Smart – Treasurer
Diane Duff – PTA
Fiona Shearer - PTA

The minutes from the previous Parent Council Meeting were reviewed by Gail McEwan .
All in attendance were asked if there were any issues arising.
None noted and the minutes were approved.

Dates of future meetings are as follows.

Please inform Gail or Mel if you are not able to attend.

Tuesday 8th September 2015 at 7 pm
Tuesday 10th November 2015 at 7pm

Colin Mason - Community Trust

The floodlit synthetic outdoor pitch is in such a state of disrepair that it could be closed by summer 2015 on safety grounds. Neither the Community Trust nor Falkirk Council have the funds to replace the surface of the pitches. To supply and fit a new 3G or 4G surface would cost in excess of £270,000.

There are a multitude of options as to how we move forward with this piece of land.

It is essential to the school and the wider community.

The Community Trust only hire out the pitch twice per week as it is not suitable for sports use anymore.

The Parent Council have agreed to champion this project and will meet to discuss options going forwards.

Thoughts so far , half playground, half sports pitch, half woodland /outdoor learning area, car parking, school bus lane , drop off point.

It is an option to asset transfer the area from the Community Trust to Comely Park School .

The Community Trust are in year 3 of a 25 year lease from Falkirk Council.

How would the school maintain the grounds?

Possible Funding organisations - local businesses, INEOS, BP, National Lottery, Sports Relief, Sports Scotland funding.....

<http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/media/734534/sff-outline-application-form-2013.pdf>

The Parent Council have agreed to champion this project and will work with the school, community trust and wider community to find a solution as soon as possible, to benefit everyone.

Mrs Collins will issue a survey and a covering letter to all parents at Comely Park.

The Parent Council will share this on social media, including a survey monkey on facebook and twitter.

Mrs Collins will email the information to be shared to Gail.

We need to have a collective response from everyone, not just those with children at Comely Park, to see how the wider community would most like the land used.

We will post the letter and survey in local places (churches, community halls, local businesses).



Car Park at Woodlands Games Hall

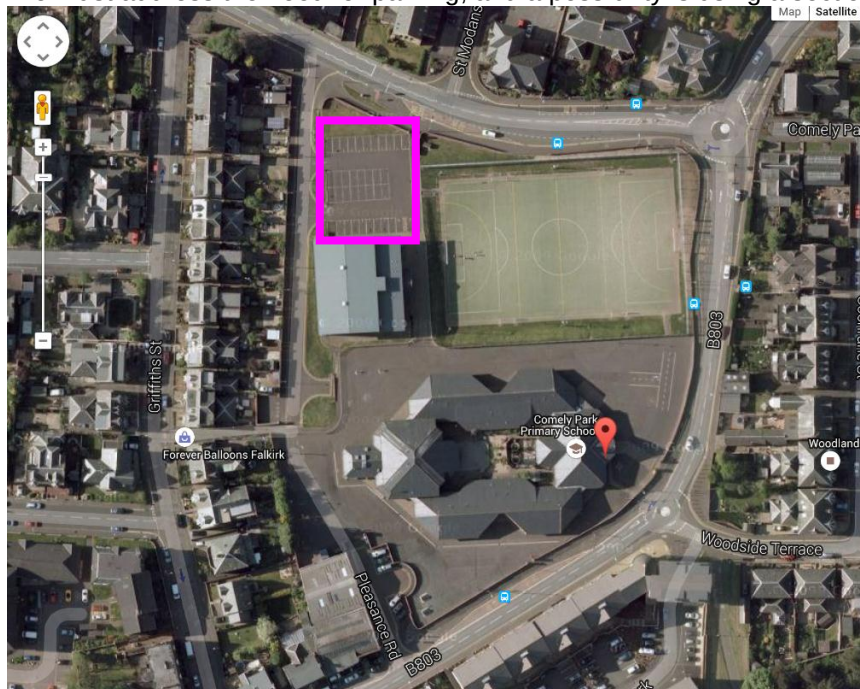
Colin will be moving some of his team to the offices at Woodlands Games Hall so there will be a demand for more car parking spaces.

The options are to put a barrier up on the entrance to the Woodlands Games Hall car park, stopping people who are not employees of the Comm Trust or Falkirk Council from parking in there.

The concerns are that this cuts out almost all parking available for parents with children at Comely Park.

The area in front of the school on Pleasance Road has very limited parking, and is used mostly by the car garage immediately next to the school.

We must address the need for parking, and a possibility is using a section of the pitch.



Head Teachers Update

Mrs Collins updated all on the Headteacher report.

Mrs Collins is retiring at the end of the school year.

Mrs Collins thanked the Parent Council in particular the members who have been involved for a long time for their support and commitment to the school.

The trip to HMS Belfast was a huge success and a massive thanks to Mairi and everyone involved in making it happen. The children had a great time and we are all very proud of them.

There will be 65 Primary 1 children in the 2015 – 2016 year.

New Head Teacher

Tony Bragg from Falkirk Council education Dept will be in touch with the Parent Council to advise the next stage of Head Teacher interviews. An advert will be issued at the end of June, with a new Head Teacher hopefully in post in October 2015.

A temporary Head Teacher is being sought by Tony Bragg and we will be informed in due course as to who that will be.

Mrs Jamieson will remain as depute Head Teacher.

Mrs Collins is interviewing for Principal Head Teacher on Friday 22nd May.

There are six strong candidates in for the position.

Mrs Simpson and Mrs Brogan are retiring

Mrs Clark is leaving.

Mrs McDavid will join the school. Position tba.

Mrs Cassidy is going to University to do a Teaching Degree.

Mrs Collins has the inservice days in place for 2015/2016 school year.

Treasurers Report – Update provided by Gail McEwan in absence of Barry Smart

Decking was erected during the Easter holidays and finished off shortly after.

2 x cheques must be countersigned by Gail McEwan and Melanie Brookes in payment of materials to Barry Smart.

Many thanks to Barry, Catherine, Madeline and Jessica for your hard work in erecting the stage!

It is a huge hit with the children.

Playground Report May 2015 Jane MacKenzie

Stage:

The stage is up! Our thanks go to Barry & Catherine Smart for their excellent work on this. Phase 2, “the mural” which was agreed at our last meeting will be completed later this term with involvement from a local artist and groups of children from all year groups. Thank You to Mrs Jamieson for helping facilitate this.

Loose Parts play:

Following Mrs Collins and Mrs Jamieson’s visits with the pupil council visiting other schools with similar playground challenges we will be submitting a funding application to Awards for All. The children have come up with a wish list of things they would like to see in our playground. Their ideas, as intimated before, focus on the idea of loose parts which can be used to create their own entertainment. It is not prohibitively expensive but an awards for all grant would get things under way much more quickly.

- Further staff training, including by playground supervisors will need to take place. Is there any plan for this and should we wait for the new Head Teacher’s approval?

My plan for the coming year will be to meet with the outdoor learning group before the end of term and submit a funding application using the information from staff, parents and pupils to guide us. The next stage is to create accessible storage for loose parts. I have had an initial quote from a playground company called ‘The Green Den’. They quoted just over £2000 each inc. VAT & installation for these sheds. I am investigating local options to bring this price down. The sets of scooter boards that the children loved are very affordable at £71.40 inc. VAT. The link to them is here;

<http://www.edventure.co.uk/multibuys-c8/scooter-board-multibuy-p468>

- *We would also hope to supplement our materials with lots of ‘free’ items like old tires, bread crates, pallets, bits of hose pipe, shower curtains etc. If anyone has contacts in the building/catering trade please let me know.*

.....Andrew Wilson Catering Manager at Aramark at INEOS 07715487317

Update: Aramark has given plastic crates to the school for loose parts use, and will advise Gail when they have other suitable materials for the school.

- *Is there somewhere suitable for storage of these items in the interim?*
-



Loose parts storage

Shelter/Canopy:

This idea is on a back burner until I have spoken to Falkirk Council about health & safety and a suitable location for a shelter.

Drovers Route:

Finally, as previously mentioned, I'd like to make more of the drover's route that runs alongside the school grounds, embracing local history and creating another play area as well. I'd like to involve pupils in the research and planning of this. Ultimately our research will form the basis of a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. I also plan to meet Ian Scott as part of this gathering of information.

- *Which year group could help?...Mrs Collins advised that a class from the older year groups could be involved.*
- *When can we plan to start this?.....tb discussed once more information know as to what we are going to work on.....*
- *Ian's contact details?.....Jane will be in contact with Ian.....*

Jane Mackenzie 11/05/15

UPDATE**Since our Parent Council Meeting on Wednesday Joe Porco has visited the school with Ronnie from Cumbernauld Pallets, and Ronnie has quoted £500 to prefabricate the wood and assemble a storage unit to contain the loose parts. Ronnie has two grandchildren at Comely Park and is very keen to be part of this project and so is providing the quote at a very low price. With the Green Den quote of £2,000 & vat and a third quote being awaited, we will have three quotes to present to the Falkirk Council Finance Team before we decide which to go with.

Action: The school need to advise as to where it is to be located.

Update : Gail will get plants for the planters at the end of June from Falkirk Council.

Summer Fayre

Sunday 31st May

Prior to finding out about the pitch and our need to find a solution to save it, there was no plan to have a stall at the Summer Fayre. No one had come forwards to say they wanted to represent the PC due to various other commitments.

However, as we now have a short timeline and pressing need to gather the opinions of parents, teachers and the local community as to what we do with the pitch area, we will have a stall .

This will be manned at various times during Sunday 31st May.

Mairi has offered to help out, but is committed to another stall also.

Jane will be able to help for a short period.

Gail should be there later in the afternoon after the marathon (if I am feeling up to it!)

Parent Council will have a stall at the fayre.

Information to add to the noticeboard.

Information about the games field. It will be closed if we do not come up with a plan to get funding and decide on its purpose.

Notice for parents in nursery right through to P7 to represent their child's year on the PC.

Gail McEwan

