



Comely Park Primary School Parent Council Minutes

Date: Tuesday 16 November 2021

Attended: Laura McLintock, Jaime Thompson, Karen Kerr, Janine McGregor, Neil Bradbrook, Judith Hughes and c.20 parents/carers on Zoom (notes of parent attendance not captured)

Apologies: Colin Reekie.

Agenda

Chair's welcome - **Karen**

Review actions from last meeting (minutes attached) - **Janine**

Treasurer's report - **Colin**

Woodlands update - **Neil**

Bikeability update - **Judith**

Head Teacher's update - **Laura**

AOB/Next meeting/Close - **Karen**

Welcome

- Karen welcomed everyone and reiterated the Parent Council role. Current focus is on enabling communication, but also to offer volunteering opportunities for families to support the school. The Parent Council also help to oversee the running of the school gym hall and pitch via Woodlands Community Sports Ltd.

Actions from the last meetings to be carried forward

- **Volunteering Opportunities.** *The Parent Council balance has been built by several years of low spending. We get a grant each year which we pass back to the school and also apply for other grants. Previous success with Tesco / Asda "bag for life" type grants. There's a volunteer opportunity to do more of this. Rachel Travers offered her support.*

ACTION: Colin and Rachel to connect to progress this.

Treasurer's report

- Karen updated in Colin's absence. A small balance remained from the previous £3,560, the majority of monies being passed to school management to contribute to purchase of boundary fence (fence discussion to be expanded upon under Head Teacher update).

Woodlands Community Sports Ltd.

- Neil updated and recapped the main aims of the WCS (school usage, Falkirk Foundation football training sessions and rent pitch and games halls to public) and that CPS parents/carers have two seats on the WCS board. An upcoming Board strategy session was taking place to discuss post-COVID usage and developments. It was noted that a couple of parents had hired the hall for birthday parties and they had been really successful.

The number for contacting WCS to enquire about hiring is **01324 619980** – further details are available on **Woodland's website**: <https://woodlandssports.co.uk/>. Neil noted that the WCS accounts remained healthy with money being secured to enable the pitch to be upgraded every few years.

Bikeability Scotland

- Judith had responded to Karen's request for volunteers to explore this and explained that it was similar to the previous cycling proficiency award, covering two age ranges (P5 and P6&7) with the aim to pilot level 1 in Feb 22 in conjunction with a bike officer from BS. P5 would be in the school grounds and P6&7 around the local streets surrounding the school.

ACTION Anyone wishing to help out – please contact Judith via Parent Council (mindful to capture parents/carers not on social media)

Head Teacher's Update

- COVID update: since August 2021, 319 pupils had been tested with 67 positives. 13 staff had been tested with 4 positive.
- Online parent's night – 92% uptake for Oct/Nov session. Parents/carers of pupils with additional support were given additional time following feedback from previous online parent's night.
- School bell brought back at 9am and 3pm
- Communications - ongoing challenges with best format to use. Not every parent/carer uses every method (app/website/Twitter) so Groupcall used the most in past year to a cost of @£1.5K. App used to have 99% uptake, dropped to 80%. Mindful many new parents/carers hadn't been in school. School hoping to send a parental questionnaire out shortly, which will contain information on Sumdog which is a learning tool which allows parents to set up their own account to share with their child.
- School also developing a communication plan and family friendly guide.

ACTION Ms McLintock to bring draft to next meeting

- Staff absence remains an issue
- Mrs Kennedy, long serving member of nursery left 12/11/21, replacement already started
- Shoe share donations with Clark's elicited a great response – school earning its 'rights respecting' shoe award
- Curriculum: literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing were the priority during lockdown, thankfully curriculum now opening up to also focus on reading with emphasis on new reading resources and planned workshops for parents. Library currently being used as staff room though had been revamped prior to lockdown. Learning also to focus on 'learning for sustainability' covering the social study subjects of geography, history and modern studies, still within Curriculum for Excellence.
- Nursery news: planning and tracking in nursery from age 3 has been revamped with additional staff supporting. Nursery now mirrors school hours with capacity at 11/40 and no longer has to operate two bubbles, all children mixing and utilising the full areas.
- Outdoor learning – had ground to a halt during COVID, hoping to start up again, parents helpers always welcome and required to utilise local park trips.
- iPads: issued to all P6&P7, freeing up trolleys for younger pupils and enhancing learning all round.
- Generosity of Parent body noted with thanks: £753.52 raised from purchase of Christmas cards, mugs and cushions. CPS community also contributed to shoe share, foodbank, Poppy appeal, £400 raised for 'dress down and donate' day for CEA (formerly Women's Aid) and upcoming Children in Need (link to justgiving page circulated via app)
- Upcoming book fayre – date to be circulated

- School fence: Quote from Falkirk Council has jumped from £11,000 pre-lockdown to £16,000 citing raw material and supply issues which are affecting many. Another company has quoted £9,000 which needs to be approved with F Council (checking if they are like for like in what they are offering), conversations are on-going. Emma asked what the delay was from F Council and offered to assist chasing them.
- Small ticket items: to further enhance the outdoor areas – plants, top soil and planters. Go Kids have expressed a wish to help
- P7 transition to High school, the high schools are firming up their plans, will communicate as soon as they are agreed
- Dalguise: though other Falkirk Council Primary schools are going ahead with Dalguise, the decision was made to cancel CPS week due to amongst other things, having to underwrite the insurance. Some schools had used their PEF money for this. It was a decision taken reluctantly but school had to factor in number of staff required and insurance if it was cancelled. Reassurance was given that there would be activities for the P7's over the year especially in the run up to the summer.
- Incident regarding crossing of road at school entrance: though the normal safety practice had been carried out (teachers stopping traffic and ushering children across), a car had jolted forward and made contact with child (who was unharmed). Police involved, noted as an incident not an accident, Care Inspectorate and Director of Education contacted. School not at fault but opens conversation about where best to cross the road to get to Callendar Park. Discussions ensued, potential spot just down from Formula one car garage as it has good visibility for cars coming in both directions. Laura said she would be happy to take this forward. Karen offered to also contact Falkirk Council as a representative of parents.

ACTION Karen Kerr & Laura McLintock to both contact the council separately to pursue action. Feedback at next PC meeting.

- Painting of fence: carry over to early 2022.

Date of Next meeting

Tuesday 1 February 2022 via Zoom.

Ms McLintock thanked the teachers, the parent body, and the kids for their ongoing efforts through the year. Karen thanked Ms McLintock on behalf of the Parent Council and Parent Body.

MEETING CLOSED.