

CULTS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Monday 27th January 2014

Staff Room, Cults Primary School

Attendees:

David MacLure (DMac) Chair, Vannin Bloch (VB) Vice Chair, Caroline Johnstone (CJ) Head Teacher, Phillippa Smith (PS), Minutes. Tracey Davidson (TD), Derek Murray (DM), Hannah Mearns (HD), Alison Murray (AM), Sonja Angus (SA), Lisa Fretwell (LF), Gillian Broadbent (GB), Michael Wade (MW), Helen Kennedy (HK), Lesley Elphinstone (LE), Louisa Dunn (LD), June Smith (JS), Robert Brew (RB)

Apologies:

Rachel Soplantila (RS), Katherine Canning (KS), Anna Porter (AP), Kalpa Tan (KT)

Agenda items	Updates and discussions	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	DMac
2.	Previous Minutes	DMac
3.	<p><u>Headteacher Report – Caroline Johnstone</u></p> <p>PC Meeting 27.1.14</p> <p>School update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to all who helped out in the run up to Christmas and helped make the Christmas parties and other events so successful and enjoyable for all • Pupil Council have been researching small playground equipment and at their next meeting will finalise their requests • Mr David Birch has been appointed as PT with responsibility for Support for Pupils. Mrs Margaret Cook will be covering the nursery vacancy 4 days per week until further notice. Relief cover has been arranged for the next 3 Fridays (Laura Herd). From 21st February Mrs Nicola Ogilvie will cover on a Friday • Thank you to Tracey for providing a list of parents willing to talk about their jobs at assembly or to classes • Teddy Bear hospital has been organised through Anna Clinton for some of the younger pupils • Burns Workshops for P5/6 and P6 are taking place next week with a visiting theatre group • Last year's Scholastic book fair money has been spent on sets of novels for P4-7 and a selection of fiction and non-fiction books for the library. Sets of HWB related texts have also been purchased. This year's profits will go towards continuing to renew these resources • We currently have 3 B.Ed 4 students with P5S, P6A/D and P6D and a B.Ed 3 with P3/4 • School Support Assistant and Mat Leave teacher posts advertised • ASN parent forum meeting 20th February 7pm @ Hazelwood School • The PTA have kindly donated £15k towards the cost of iPads. We will have one class set per unit with charging cabinets and Griffin Survivor heavy duty cases and look forward to enhancing learning and teaching experiences with this technology. Alongside this we are mindful of the need to raise awareness of internet safety and security and to keep this issue high on the agenda with parents, staff and pupils alike. To this end we have registered for the ACC and Scottish Government approved self review tool, which will enable us to involve the whole school community in reviewing and evaluating our practice. We are also planning other means of raising awareness, particularly in relation to social networking • Cults Primary School has been identified to receive support from Zero Waste Scotland on resource 	CJ

	<p>efficiency, with a particular focus on recycling and reducing waste. This sits very comfortably with our Eco Schools activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery, P1 and P2 staff have been working on Wee Green Spaces project with Juliet Robertson. This project is all about using the outdoors to enhance learning and teaching. We will be looking for parent volunteers specifically to support this. • Homework questionnaire responses have been collated and CJ working with staff on the draft policy. Hope to share this at next PC meeting and have up and running after the February mid term break • Author Lari Don is visiting 2G, 4S and 7M on Wednesday 5th March as the prize for the PC Reading Challenge which was a huge success last term • Commonwealth Games assemblies will be held on 10th and 11th February for P1-7 to introduce the games, the mascot will be present. Staff are discussing other activities to mark the games • P3 and P5 PIPS testing will happen this term • P2 pupils will be taking part in Topple the Class on Northsound Radio • In-service days focus for staff will be Big Maths, Autism Awareness and Blogging • Library revamp is ongoing- long process of cataloguing all resources is well under way and consultation with staff on future use of the library is underway to inform the planning • Changes to nursery hours. From August 2014 the nursery session will be 3h 10mins rather than the current 2.5h. This is to accommodate the Scottish Government's revised entitlement of 600h of nursery education for 3 and 4 year olds. There are a range of options which could be in place to facilitate this, however we need to be mindful of how this might impact on families with primary and nursery age children. Having considered the options and the need for staff breaks, clear up and set up time etc. we will be suggesting a nursery start time of 08.30 with a finish time of 	
4.	<p><u>Website Update Tracey Davidson & Derek Murray</u></p> <p>The site is now 90% complete, with only minor text updates and approved photographs yet to be loaded. We plan to conduct a "soft launch" of the site during February. This will provide school staff with sometime to become accustomed to editing and using the site (including class blogs) and help us all identify any content areas that need populated/improved. During the soft launch the website will continue to be hosted by GetHarry(http://cultsprimary.getharry.com) but will be accessible to any parents who wants to view it. After the Easter holidays we plan to move the website and its contents to the city council servers, and the site will become live via the official school web address (http://www.cultsprimary.aberdeen.sch.uk/)</p> <p>Anyone spotting errors or omissions in the site during the soft launch should contact Tracey Davidson, who will work with the school staff to resolve asap.</p>	TD
5	<p><u>Cyber bullying –Lisa Fretwell.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion took place regarding cyber bullying. • Awareness for parents and children on internet safety. • Suggestions were discussed on how to take this forward i.e talks for parents and children, role play and general awareness. • ACC are holding a Meeting on Thursday 27th February at the Double Tree Hotel for parents on internet safety. 	LF
6	<p><u>Baillieswells Rd traffic survey - Louisa Dunn. Response from Aileen Malone</u></p> <p>Historically there were 2 areas identified for pedestrians to cross at Ballieswells road, between Earlsark Crescent and Earlsark Drive, and Cairnlee Terrace. The north crossing was installed as a traffic calming measure to slow vehicular movement and aid pedestrians to cross.</p>	LD

	<p>The crossing at Cairnlee Terrace was objected to by local residents when it was presented to the committee in September 2006. The committee resolved to defer the installation of the south island at Cairnlee Terrace until the north crossing point was established</p> <p>I managed to get the traffic team to carry out a pedestrian and vehicular survey (PV2) this was carried out 9 October 2013, I have just received the results. The results show the main crossing point for pedestrians at the location is between Earlsparck Crescent and Earlsparck Drive, the survey began at 07:30 to monitor pedestrian movements and vehicle speed/volume. The team did observe that through the morning peak survey there was an average waiting time of less than 2 minutes for pedestrians to cross the road via the existing crossing point. During 07:30 to 8:30 six adults with 6 school pupils crossed Baillieswells road and during 08:30 to 09:30 there were 20 adult and 22 school children crossing.</p> <p>To complete assessment, a number of local road characteristics are taken into account. These were road accidents, carriageway width, location of the crossing and vulnerable road users which in this instance were children going to school. The assessment was carried out in accordance with local transport note 1/95 The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings. The results of the assessment show low pedestrian movement and average vehicular movement for this type of commuter route, based on the assessment criteria followed, since the majority of pedestrians use the north crossing, the road safety team have advised that the area does not qualify for an additional crossing.</p> <p>The speed surveys carried out did indicate that vehicle speed is higher than expected for this location. I have therefore passed this information to Police Scotland who will act on this information as their resources allow this will also aid me getting speed signs in place.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Path through woods from Cults Ave to School - Louisa Dunn. Response from Aileen Malone</u></p> <p>The team has replied that the part that runs from the BMX track to the top of Kirkbrae Avenue is part of the core path 55 and as such they can put it forward for future repairs. Taking into account some of the residents issues with any upgrading of the path, it may be that we can only look at reinstating any potholes. Aileen did organize for some to be filled just before Christmas but again the residents stopped the work. The area of path leading West from the junction of the main path to the gate at Earlswells road is not a core path and is private so as previously we can't touch unless the owners agree and they do not.</p> <p>I have of today (9th January) asked for a date that the potholes will be filled as the path in places is now very muddy.</p>	LD/All
8.	<p><u>Perimeter Road Discussion – Anna Porter/ All</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be yellow zigzags going round the corner as you turn onto the perimeter road. As they are a prescribed length there will be 2 sets of zigzags with a short section of double yellows in between on the corner itself. Any worn double yellows will be refreshed. • ACC queried whether we wanted to essentially halve the bus bay and drop off zone. Decision made to keep as it is, i.e priority over the whole length for buses (since we more often than not have 2 at a time) with drop off zone when there is no bus. The double yellows will remain through the bus bay and the need for us to have regular patrols and a few tickets given out to act as a deterrent. • Most of the machinery required to complete our work is on hold due to winter so a realistic date for now completing this is spring with a remote chance of it happening before. • The traffic order, which enable tickets to be issued is not likely to be in force until August because of the schedule of the necessary committee meetings. However, in the event that there is a real safety risk, we can apply for a temporary emergency order, which can be in force in about a week via an email from Caroline. Something we may consider before the work is completed. 	AP/All

9.	<p><u>Cycling Proficiency – Helen Kennedy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion was held regarding cycling proficiency and maintaining the training of P7 pupils. • Cycling proficiency has been rebranded as “Bikeability” and to enable us to deliver this to the children we are required to have trained CTAs (cycle training assistants). • Require parents or any other members of the community to volunteer to have training and run this. • This will possibly run at a weekend, it would be for an hour a week for 6 weeks. • Hoping to then offer further down the school to younger children. 	HK/All
10.	<p><u>Estates Review/ Local Development Plan – Robert Brew</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two meetings are coming up that are likely to be of interest to anyone concerned about the pressure for places on local schools: • Countesswells Liason Group meeting – 7pm, Monday 3rd February- Denburn Room, Cults Hotel, <p><u>Update on the Development Framework and Masterplan.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan drop in session – 3pm- 8pm, Thursday 6th February- Cults Sports Centre, to discuss main issues report which is open for formal consultation until the 24th March. • This is part of the process in developing the 2016 local development plan (LDP) • The main issues report (available on the Council website and at Cults Library) has earmarked land in Peterculter as being desirable for development of an additional 100houses above new housing envisaged in the 2012 LDP despite the supporting documentation (also available on the Council website) indicating that Cults Academy will be full later in the decade. 	
11.	<p><u>AOB .</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex education was raised from a parent in the P5/6 class. They wanted to know if they could be made aware of content given just in case their child came home with questions. Mrs Johnstone said that this was not a problem and that the P6 children are asked not to discuss with their P5 classmates. • Graffiti on Red Unit Area Gym Wall. There was an enquiry from a parent if they could paint over the graffiti. Mrs Johnstone was happy for someone to do this task. • Some parents from Mrs Symon’s class asked for information of what will be happening in relation to their class teacher and parents night for the children. Mrs Johnstone said she would do an update for parents regarding the situation. • Scottish Opera – Some parents wanted to know why the P6 children were not getting the opera this year. Mrs Johnstone informed us that there was an issue with the content this year and that they would offer the children an alternative. • Class list representative has now been completed and the office has the list. • Reading eggs- Some parents wanted further information. Mrs Johnstone explained it was an extra activity (online) that children can do alongside their reading. 	All
12.	<p><u>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 10th March Staff Room 7-9pm 	

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday 12th May Staff Room 7-9 pm• Monday 16th June Staff Room 7-9pm <p>Any parent of a child at Cults Primary/ Nursery is very welcome to attend any Parent Council meeting.
(The Parent Council can be emailed at PCCultsPrimary@aberdeencity.gov.uk)</p> | |
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