

# CULTS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Staff Room, Cults Primary School

## Attendees:

David MacLure (DMac) Chair, Vannin Bloch (VB) Vice Chair, Caroline Johnstone (CJ) Head Teacher, Phillippa Smith (PS), Rachel Soplantila (RS) Minutes, Hannah Mearns (HM), Katherine Canning (KC), Robert Brew (RB), Donna Cuthill (DC) Michael Wade (MW), Sonya Angus (SA) Louisa Dunn (LD), Alison Murray (AM), Anna Porter (AP), Caroline Campbell (CC), Julie Cooper (JC), Lynda Smart (LS), Lesley Elphinstone (LE), Derek Murray (DM) and Fay Bruce (FB).

**Apologies:** Helen Kennedy (HK), Kalpa Tan (KT) and Tracey Davidson (TD).

Agenda items	Updates and discussions	Action
1.	<p><u>Administration</u></p> <p>a. Introductions, Apologies, Identify AOB for discussion.</p> <p>b. Previous Minutes – Previous minutes were accepted.</p> <p>c. AGM planning and office-bearers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was explained that, as per the constitution, after 2 years in office the Chair of the Parent Council is required to step down and cannot be re-elected.</li> <li>• Those present were asked to consider whether they were in a position to take on an office-bearer role, and whether anyone within the parent body might be keen to take the Chair position. DMac emphasised his belief that an active Parent Council is a vital aspect of making the school successful for all of our children and that it is important to keep up the momentum we have established together.</li> <li>• People were asked to discuss this with other parents to encourage involvement.</li> </ul> <p>d. PTA/ PC Insurance</p> <p>It was agreed to proceed with the ACPCF offering for insurance for Cults Primary School PTA and PC.</p> <p>e. PC Accounts – David Maclure/ Mike Wade</p> <p>Payment for the initial facilitation of the website would be checked by DMac to ensure that this would be reimbursed from the PC Account.</p>	DMac
2.	<p><u>Website Update Tracey Davidson &amp; Derek Murray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TD was unable to attend and so CJ explained that the website is now “Live”!</li> <li>• There remained some minor teething difficulties however everyone involved were congratulated and thanked for the huge effort it had taken to reach this point.</li> <li>• An acknowledgement and celebration of the hard work was discussed and this will be as an announcement at the summer fair.</li> <li>• The old website has now just been changed to the new one, as the same address is being used.</li> <li>• There was discussion of blogs and exciting options that the new site offers to give information and share experiences.</li> </ul> <p>Sonya Angus to support CJ with the megaphone to thank all involved with the establishment of the new website. This will be as part of an announcement before the raffle at the summer fair.</p>	TD/DM

3.	<p><u>Headteacher Report – Caroline Johnstone</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Smartboards are installed and working with superb results.</li> <li>• Ipads should be up and running very soon.</li> <li>• P7s head off to Dalguise Tuesday till Friday this week.</li> <li>• Cults PS has been awarded PSQM Silver Level Award.</li> <li>• The Commonwealth Baton came to Cults earlier this term as part of its Scottish Schools tour.</li> <li>• Russell Anderson brought the Scottish League Cup to school, taking it round the classes and speaking to the pupils about it.</li> <li>• Parent volunteers have been coming in to infant assembly on World of Work theme, this will continue for P4-7 after the summer.</li> <li>• 360 degree internet safety training staff then will roll out to staff and pupils/parents.</li> <li>• P1 induction evening was highly successful and very well received. Nursery induction evening is Tuesday 3rd June – new booklets have been produced for both.</li> <li>• Miss McKay will be visiting nurseries next month.</li> <li>• Summer trips are being organised – dates and information to follow.</li> <li>• New play equipment in nursery garden has been installed.</li> <li>• Homework policy is in place – any specific concerns about the implementation of this should be brought to a member of SMT. Policy will be reviewed in October 2014 .</li> <li>• Next session we will have 19 classes P1-P7 .</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have recruited 5 new teachers to start 1 shortly and 4 in August</li> <li>○ We have been allocated 2 probationer teachers who will start in August</li> <li>○ We still have a vacancy in the ASN base which has been advertised once already</li> <li>○ Teacher availability both locally and nationally continues to be a major concern for us</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>There followed a brief discussion regarding staff changes, which have affected some classes over the last few months in particular. CJ acknowledged that this is difficult for children and every effort is always made to minimise disruption and promote continuity even if it is with temporary staff or with a temporary solution whilst a longer-term plan is put in place. This problem is compounded due to the acute national difficulties in recruitment and local issues such as public transport and travel links if teachers don't drive and the cost of living in the area.</p> <p>CJ was clear that if parents felt they had concerns regarding any issue that affected their child at school, they should approach her directly so that there was a prompt opportunity to resolve it.</p> <p>Retention of staff was discussed and ways we can make our school a more attractive option were explored.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Action : All PC were urged to encourage parents to please approach Mrs Johnstone regarding any concern that affects their child in order to allow an opportunity for her to take steps to resolve it.</p> </div>	CJ
4.	<p><u>Playground patrol and lunchtime play – Caroline Campbell</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caroline Campbell raised points, which were representative of some of the parent's concerns regarding the playground patrol and a discussion unfolded regarding the pros and cons of the current scheme.</li> <li>• Whilst it was agreed that the current patrol was a useful contribution and parents involved were thanked for their input, it was confirmed that a separate meeting was necessary to fully explore the benefits and challenges and from which a more specific plan can be proposed with clearer roles and remit for the parents on the rota.</li> <li>• The safety of the pupils at playtime was discussed and the difficulties with the perimeter fence were again identified. CJ explained that these were pending repair from ACC. It was suggested that the fence and its fitness for purpose required to be reviewed.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Action: Julie Cooper to organise a meeting to review the role and function of the Playground Patrol PC members to write to the council regarding the fence.</p> </div>	CC

5	<p><u>Homework Policy – Rachel Soplantila</u></p> <p>As explained earlier this is now implemented and any specific concerns can be raised with CJ.</p>	RS
6	<p><u>Uniform Policy – Rachel Soplantila</u></p> <p>This was circulated and accepted. It is planned for the P7 pupils to have the option of wearing a black sweatshirt with a white logo. This colour was chosen by the pupils from a range of samples and has been implemented in other schools to positive effect. The different sweatshirt will work alongside different or increased responsibilities within the school, however these have yet to be confirmed.</p>	RS
7.	<p><u>Cycling Proficiency – Helen Kennedy</u></p> <p>DMac explained that he had had a message from TD to inform the meeting that there are 2 sessions organised by Adventure Aberdeen aimed at the P7 pupils. These are for the last week of school and the first week of the holidays. There has been relatively low uptake and so this has been offered to the Primary 6 children.</p>	DMac/ TD
8.	<p><u>Pupil Inclusion Review – report from Prof. Giorcelli evening – Vannin Bloch, David Maclure</u></p> <p>DMac and VB had both attended this meeting along with other people present and agreed that Prof. Giorcelli's approach was inspiring. It was a strategy, which ensured that additional needs are accommodated on every level and maintained that all aspects of education and learning are inclusive for every individual child. It was complementary to GIRFEC (Getting It Right For Every Child) but it was as yet unclear as to how much would be implemented or when.</p>	VB/DM
9.	<p><u>Eco-Issues/ Recycling/ Road Safety etc. – Louisa Dunn</u></p> <p>LD confirmed that the crossing on Kirk Brae was now in situ and being used. All present thanked Louisa for her input with this and in particular the influence she placed to ensure the crossing was situated to give the greatest benefit to the crossing children. The proposed crossing on Bailleswells Road is still being pressed for.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Action: LD and all PC to continue to lobby for a safer crossing on Bailleswells Road.</p> </div>	LD/All
10.	<p><u>Perimeter Road Discussion – Anna Porter/ All</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Zig zag lines on the corner of the perimeter road are still pending although they are expected to be re-instated very soon.</li> <li>• The road is expected to be resurfaced at some point soon as well.</li> <li>• The double yellow lines are now enforceable.</li> </ul>	
11.	<p><u>Estates Review/ Local Development Plan – Robert Brew</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2012: the phase one masterplan which has recently been agreed can be found at: <a href="http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/planning/planning_sustainable_development/pla_planningbriefs.asp">http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning_environment/planning/planning_sustainable_development/pla_planningbriefs.asp</a></li> <li>• Plans are reviewed every five years, and so the Local Development Plan Team has already started to review the adopted Local Development Plan 2012 and work toward the publication of the next Plan.</li> <li>• The developers at the Friarsfield Site have been asked by ACC to provide funds to offset the impact of the additional capacity on the school. As yet the amount, the timing or even how much the school will directly benefit is not clear.</li> </ul>	

12.	<p>AOB (please advise this to David Maclure in advance if at all possible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alison Murray explained that she had attended a recent Additional Support Needs meeting concerning attachment.</li> </ul>	
	<p><u>DATE &amp; TIME OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p><b>Next PC Meetings: 7 – 9 pm, Staff Room: Monday 1st September – AGM</b></p> <p><b>Other meetings are as follows:</b></p> <p>Monday 6th October 2014; Monday 1st December 2014; Monday 19th January 2015; Monday 2nd March 2015; Monday 11th May 2015; Monday 22nd June 2015.</p> <p><b>All are held in the School Staff Room, 7-9pm.</b></p> <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 <a href="mailto:PCCultsPrimary@aberdeencity.gov.uk">PCCultsPrimary@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a>)</p>	

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