



Parent Council

**Minute of Parent Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 28th April 2015**

Present: Kirsten Petrie (Chair) Colleen MacIntosh, Judith Whitelaw, Hazel Stewart, Isobel Crawford, Jane Campbell, Claire McGruer, Gillian Palmer, Louise McIntosh, Andrew Ritchie, Cllr Carmichael, Linda Mair

Apologies: Susie Locket, Teacher Representative

In Attendance: Kenneth Morrison, Head Teacher

		<u>Action</u>
1.	<p><u>WELCOME & THANKS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to PC Scott Maclean. PC Maclean talked at length about how all of the primary schools are struggling with the amount of traffic, even the drop off circles are not working well owing to the sheer volume. When he can he stands on the roadside and notices a few cars move on once they have spotted him. The best the police force can offer is a presence as the drivers while being inconsiderate are not breaking any traffic laws. <p>Attached - 5 Responses to Why Road Safety Matters at BPS Letter and response from Kirsten to Highland Council</p>	
2.	<p><u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u></p> <p>The minutes approved of the Parent Council Meeting held on 10th February 2015. Isobel Crawford & Hazel Stewart</p>	

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3. MATTERS ARISING

Updates on outstanding issues from last meeting

- Response on Facebook consultation now on the blog.
- Dishwasher – Installed at Easter
- Review into facilities management
PC representative group Findings suggest 10% feel it is the same or like it. Half said it was no good. Complaints are the rota system (funny hours), groupings of schools are unmanageable, and the limitations on what a FMA can actually do now. Positives: less work for the Heads, all health and safety measures are being carried out, every school is getting some level of service from FMA not just the lucky few, consistency in the role and generally has not had a huge impact on the schools where it has happened.

Attached – Kirsten’s response to the Parent Council survey.

- Highland Council communication via Gmail this will be the route through which Parent Council funding for year 2015-16 will be claimed by Parent Councils. 123 schools have requested log-in details, 63% as of 30th March
- Regional parent council group meeting. Teaching numbers and ratios: complex process, but all 32 authorities have now committed to maintain current teacher/pupil ratio of 13.4, and Highlands have maintained a lower ratio of 13.1 for the last 4-5 years. This is a commitment that local authorities are accountable to and once decided is honoured irrespective of political agenda per se. Furthermore, efforts have been made to ensure there are actually more available teachers as: the number of teacher training posts have doubled, there is now a move to return to dual registration which means that a teacher can teach 2 subjects not just 1 which will increase flexibility for covering subjects, and there is a loading of £8000 for primary school teacher trainers for working in the Highlands and £6000 for secondary.
- 2 pupil support vacancies, now filled: Janice Wilson, Leah Donaldson
- 132 pupils for August 2015 (+18 in last 3 years)

4. HEAD TEACHER’S REPORT

Road safety

- PC Scott Maclean was invited to attend tonight’s meeting in light of ongoing concerns regarding dangerous and inconsiderate parking/driving. Paramount in these concerns is the fact that pupils may be in danger. Some near-misses have been reported to the school in recent months.

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Buildings & Maintenance

- The lower section of roofing in the Flat Roof Building has been completely re-fabricated following persistent leaks over a period of years.
- The entrance to the school staff car park will be re-surfaced on 7th May and will be out of bounds.
- The scaffolding supporting the wind-damaged shinty fence has now been taken down and the structure made safe. Huge thanks to Beaully Shinty Club for overcoming the hurdles put in their way to resolve this matter.

General School Business

- Mrs Susie Lockett (SfL Teacher) has agreed to be the teacher representative for all forthcoming meetings while working in the school.
- Due to staff absence, KM has been working full-time over the last month. While he is happy to be working directly with the pupils across the school this inevitably has an impact on the pressures affecting the running of the school. This is a result of a regional shortage in supply staff. Patience and understanding would be appreciated as there may be times when the office is un-manned or there are delays in responding to phone calls, emails etc.
- Huge thanks again to Hazel for the Rag Bag initiative. This has taken in £1080 now. This does not include a check pending for the last return and a further 8 sacks waiting to be sent. The school is currently averaging about £80 pcm through this initiative!

Future Dates/Events

- 30th April – Cooking Demonstration, Fundraiser for Nursery
- 28th May – School Sports Day & Picnic Lunch
- 4th June – A Blaze of Music
- 8th June – ‘My Friend Selma’, Theatre Workshop for P5/6 and P6/7
- 11th June – Sponsored Danceathon, Trim-Track Fundraiser
- 25th June – Artie’s Tartan Tales & Summer Fete
- 2nd July – 12.30pm close for summer holiday

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5.	<p><u>CHAIRPERSON'S\FUND-RAISING REPORT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Parent Council would like to send all of the pupils (P1 – P7) to the Panto in Eden Court Theatre. <p>In an effort to make this possible,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane Campbell hosted a Beetle Drive – 24th April £146.40 raised Isobel Crawford has offered to run a Ceilidh – 15th May. Isobel has secured a band free of charge and is looking for any raffle donations, assistance on the night. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sponsored Dance-a-thon has been organised by the school for 11th June as a fund-raiser for the Trim Track. Gala will match fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer Fete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Louise McIntosh has secured the use of a large marquee which will be erected for the day. Gillian Palmer has secured a donation covering the cost of a large bouncy slide and castle. Parent Council are not required to have\man any stalls, the main focus is on the Enterprise stalls from the P5/6 class. 	
7.	<p><u>TREASURER'S REPORT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current balance - £1,569.53 Parent council paid the £250 donation from the garden group to the school. This has been re-imbursed 	
8.	<p><u>SCHOOL GARDEN</u></p> <p>Garden funds stand at £1107.06 in the bank, and £63 in vouchers.</p> <p>Classes still make much use of the garden during school hours, especially the nursery children.</p>	
9.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports day 28th May 2015. Mr Morrison will look in the feasibility of a coffee van being present. While it is recognised as a great opportunity for the school to raise funds, parents would be unavailable to man such a stall as they will be present for sports day. Action: Feasibility of coffee van 	
10.	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING -</u> 15th September 2015 – 7.00pm</p>	

Parking/road safety

5 Responses to *Why Road Safety Matters at BPS*

Doreen Rait says:

[April 1, 2015 at 10:25 am](#)

Make Braeview Car park compulsory for drop off and pick up, which will make it safer for everyone.

Head Teacher says:

[April 1, 2015 at 12:44 pm](#)

Thank you for your feedback, Ms. Rait.

Caroline ross says:

[April 1, 2015 at 3:48 pm](#)

Any idea when the scaffolding will be removed from the path on safer route to school? We have been walking the long way round by Croyard Road and sometimes taking the car on the bad day to avoid getting dirty before school/nursery with having to cut across the playing field. Katie walks home the safer route from school but we are having to wash her trainers two or three times a week because she gets so muddy.

Head Teacher says:

[April 1, 2015 at 4:01 pm](#)

Thanks for your feedback, Mrs Ross. I couldn't agree more regarding the impact of the scaffolding, which is far from ideal for pupils, parents and staff alike. Highland Council and Beaulieu Shinty Club are collaborating to resolve this difficulty; the repair delays have been unfortunate and due to circumstances beyond the control of both parties.

Nicola MacKenzie says:

[April 2, 2015 at 5:45 pm](#)

Years ago, Jim Renwick used to come to school gates and speak to those parking irresponsibly, perhaps the local bobbies would do the same? It did make a difference then.....& walking/cycling to school has great health benefits, hope we can make it as safe as possible for all pupils & parents.

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Kirsten to Kenneth Morrison - Beauly Primary <Kenneth.Morrison@highland.gov.uk>
cc: Callum Mackintosh <Callum.Mackintosh@highland.gov.uk>,
Robert Campbell <Robert.Campbell@highland.gov.uk>,
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Helen Carmichael - Member <helen.carmichael.cllr@highland.gov.uk>

Whilst we can, and do, regularly communicate the need for consideration for the residents on Croyard Road, and the pupils, parents and staff, the situation will not improve unless we find a solution.

Among the Parent Council paperwork there are numerous letters dating back seven years to the Highland Council from the Parent Council, the Community Council and Junior Road Safety Officers from the school raising concerns about the traffic situation outside the school and within the playground. Safety of children within the playground was raised in the HM Inspectorate of Education report in August 2007 and although some work has been done I believe these concerns have not yet been fully addressed.

I am aware that some schools in the Highlands have produced a Travel Plan with the assistance of their local councillor and Allan Bryce, and there may be funding towards improvements available for schools who produce such a plan. The scale of the problem suggests there needs to be a joint approach including the Highland Council, community council, the school and the parent council. I have been trying to get further information from other parent councils; Allan may be able to help with this if he has been involved with other schools.

I wondered if we might consider looking at an option at the Croyard Park end of the school grounds, we would need to ensure that the problem with the shinty goals is not recurring as there would be increased foot traffic along the path.

Given the obvious need for a solution to the parking issue, the potential for major work to be necessary, the increasing school roll and other issues outstanding, I would also suggest Beauly's current position in the school building plan be seriously reconsidered.

Regards

Kirsten Petrie
Beauly Primary Parent Council Chair

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Allan Bryce <Allan.Bryce@highland.gov.uk>

Hi Kenneth / Kirsten,

Unfortunately SRTS funding is not available for car park extensions/overflow. I would suggest that you mark the existing School Car Park for staff and school visitors only (with a sign) and send letters to parents/carers to stop them accessing the car park.

The Road Safety Unit refreshed the zig-zags at the front of the school last year in the hope that this might help with parking issues. We are also working towards improving safety by financing pedestrian barriers in the car park through the School Clk of Works. If the zig-zag markings are not being observed and parents are parking/dropping off on them I am willing to approach Police Scotland to increase their presence – let me know if you would like me to do this?

The footpath link to Braeview Car Park provides an excellent park and stride facility. I would suggest running the GO FOR IT scheme to advertise this as the main school drop off - the pupils could motivate parents to drop them there, instead of on Croyard Road, in return for daily points that would build towards receiving incentive rewards. The Road Safety Team would finance the incentive rewards – details attached. I do feel that utilising this car park is probably one of the most suitable options available.

Most schools are experiencing an increase in parents parking outside schools as Nursery numbers increase and parents have to sign their children in and out of class. By motivating parents to park away from Croyard Road this will hopefully improve things. If you wish to discuss further please get in touch.

Regards,

Allan

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Facilities Survey

FM model and issues with its implementation. Portree feels the suggested model and roll out will have a detrimental impact and we do not wish it to be applied. Our roll out is on hold pending results of the current review.

Parent Council representatives meeting 30th March one item covered is facilities survey

Kirsten submitted a response to the survey on behalf of the parent council, and provided thoughts on behalf of Beaulieu Primary's pc to the Parent Council discussion on gmail and the meeting planned for the 30th March.

The model strikes me as disadvantaging older schools, reducing the service levels and increasing the costs to schools. I've copied in some of my comments from the survey for information.

Please state any concerns you have about the FM Service

Allocations per school are calculated on attendance, so an old school with high maintenance requirements has the same allocation as a brand new school with the same pupil numbers. It is inevitable that older schools have a greater need of maintenance and upkeep and should not be expected to wait and pay over the odds for any work which needs done.

I believe part of the driver for the new service was to ensure equity of access for schools to a janitor. This quite obviously is not the case, and in fact even when an FMA is available, they are very restricted as to the types of work which they can carry out, so more often than not an external contractor will have to be sourced via the Maintenance Officer, and the school billed for the work, so older schools have a below par service which costs them more.

Do you have any suggestions or ideas for improving the FM Service?

The system of allocation must take the age and condition of schools into consideration, not just the attendance. This puts older schools at a disadvantage and means pupils receive an unequal service. The level of work which can be done by FMAs needs to be reconsidered, and if health and safety issues restrict their roles, consideration should be given to alternative arrangements than the time consuming and costly route of maintenance request orders.

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