

**Minutes of the
Scalloway School Parents' Council
Held on Tuesday 19 May 2009
At 7.00 pm in the Scalloway Staff Room**

Present

Karen Eunson – Vice Chair
Patrick Robertson – Co-opted Member
Mark Burgess – Co-opted Member
Julie Williamson – Parent Member
Wilma Irvine – Parent Member

In Attendance

Joyce Gear – Head Teacher
Colin Nicol – Depute Head Teacher
Iris Hawkins – Councillor

1. Notice of Meeting

The meeting was held as read. Karen Eunson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Zoe Anderson, Betty Fullerton and Andrew Hughson.

3. Approve Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 17 February 2009

The minutes were approved by Patrick Robertson and seconded by Mark Burgess.

4. Matters Arising

Drugs Awareness Evening for Secondary Parents

We assume that Clive has reported back to the presenters.

Internet Safety

Patrick feels that this should be done before Christmas and has spoken to IT but they are not sure what to do. They want to make it as useful as possible and Patrick suggested that this could tie into the websites for homework. There is a new Unit at the College called Internet Safety which Karen will enquire about. It was suggested that we have a night where useful tips can be passed on to parents for blocking, etc. It was pointed out that social networking has many positives as well as negatives. Karen will speak to Maggie Spence to see if other schools are doing this.

Action: Patrick Robertson and Karen Eunson

Joyce will let Karen know what Danny and Eric have put together. We are to aim for October to hold this event and perhaps invite Burra, Tingwall and Nesting. The Library or any classrooms could be used with perhaps 3 sessions of 20 minutes each. Joyce and Colin will ask parents on Parents Night for their thoughts.

Action: Joyce Gear and Colin Nicol

Blueprint for Education Consultation Meetings

Iris Hawkins is to attend a meeting on Friday afternoon but has nothing to report as yet.

The Nursery hours are to increase from 2.5 hours to 3.25 hours.

The Framework for Assessment is to be published in June. This will give Local Authorities an idea of the new exams and how this will affect their Schools.

Secondary Pupil Council

Nothing to report.

Parking

No complaints now for some time

Family Evening

A discussion took place re ideas for this. Perhaps if a musical event involving the children were organised, this would entice parents to attend. A quiz night might be a good idea. This item will be put on the AGM.

Crossing Attendant

The School will not require an attendant as the 20 mph signs are coming but Joyce has no idea when.

Standards and Quality Report

Joyce is in the process of writing a School Development Report. She wondered if it would be okay to insert a piece about the Parents Council – this was agreed. The Report is attached and Joyce ran through some of the new ideas. Patrick suggested a day working at a peat bank.

Occasional Dates

The Christmas holiday dates have been changed and a note has gone out to the Parents.

Staff Member

Joyce has been asking but will keep trying.

ASN Working Group

Julie Williamson will go to this. Zoe Anderson will provide contact details.

Action: Zoe Anderson

Parents' Night

The next Parents' Night will be for S4 in October. The staff had spoken about appointments but had decided against this. A seated queuing system will be set up as a pilot to see if this increases confidentiality and makes it easier for parents to see when their turn is.

Recruitment

The new Science Teacher was unable to take up their post and the School is now on the list to get a Probationer for one year. If this does not happen, the post will be re-advertised.

A sixth Primary Teacher is to start after the holidays.

The school role is now 261 – 145 in Primary and Nursery and 116 in Secondary.

Parent Volunteers

A request was sent out – some replies were received to help out but not many to go on the Parents' Council. Marion McKay offered to help out at events but not the Parents' Council. Angela Smith and Joy Duncan volunteered for the Parents' Council and they are to be invited to come along. Zoe will do a list of volunteers.

NOTE SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING – A number of interest forms from parents were passed directly to Zoe by the school office. Zoe will compile a list and invite parents to the next meeting.

Action: Zoe Anderson

Draft Strategy for Parental Volunteers

The SIC has produced this document and responses had to be back by 26 June for the Parents' Councils' Chairs' meeting. The document contained some handy tips for volunteering. Karen will reply to the document on behalf of the Parents' Council and Joyce will reply on behalf of the School.

Joyce is to invite all the parent volunteers for coffee at some point to get to know each other and perhaps discuss in what way they can help.

Accounts and Grant Application

Zoe had e-mailed this together with the Action Plan and we assume this has been approved.

Correspondence

1. Zoe has been e-mailing Minutes.
2. Karen has had letter re cervical cancer.
3. Karen has had letter re should there be research on National Representative Body for Parent Councils.
4. SPTC reminder re Insurance. Karen will ask Zoe.
5. BackChat handed out.
6. Meta Stewart is involved with SNAP, the organisation for more able pupils. Zoe is to speak to Lesley Roberts about SNAP event as it was not well attended.

5. AOCB

School Meals

Iris Hawkins raised the subject of school meals as she had been in contact with parents from other areas who were having to make up sandwiches as their children would not eat the school meals provided. There is a very good take-up of the meals at Scalloway School in the Primary. The Secondary take-up varies with the weather.

Walk to School Waterproofs

Colin Nicol says there is to be a project early in the next term for the new P6 called Travelling Green and waterproofs will be handed out to this class to encourage them to walk to school. This will be up to each parent whether they take it up – the school will advertise this but it cannot be compulsory as the safety of pupils travelling to school over rides any initiative. This led on to a discussion re the pavements and the lack of one along East Voe. Iris suggested writing to the Road Services which Karen said she will do. It was felt that a crossing would be needed at the end of the East Voe road and Mark and Iris will bring this up at the Community Council. Karen will copy her letter to Iris for the Community Council.

Action: Karen Eunson

Action: Iris Hawkins and Mark Burgess

The school had carried out a survey and found that not many come to school by car.

There will be an attempt at a Guinness World Record in June to have as many as possible on a walk.

Green Flag

The first flag had been received 2 years ago and the School were now applying for their second. Four flags need to be obtained before permanent Eco status can be achieved. Several projects had been undertaken, these being: talks both for and against the new wind turbines; solar lighting; monitoring energy use; bio-diversity project; RSPB ran a Workshop and provided bird boxes; Redd Ups. Aith School has just received their second flag and Sandwick had their flag removed.

Litter

Iris wondered what the litter situation was like in Scalloway School and was told that the Janitors were pleased with how little there was.

PLPs

Karen had parents asking her about these and were not sure what to put in. The School had tried to cut these down and on the whole they had had very positive feedback but there had been some confusion as to what to write in for the targets.

Curriculum for Excellence

Joyce is condensing this document into a pupil friendly leaflet.

Next Meeting

AGM – Zoe