

**Minutes of the Scalloway School Parents' Council  
Held on Monday 19 November 2007  
At 7.30pm in the Scalloway Staff Room**

**Present**

Clive Williamson – Chairperson  
Karen Eunson – Vice Chair  
Marvyn Jamieson – Parent Member  
Ken Duerden – Parent Member  
Gwen Sales – Parent Member  
Julie Williamson – Parent Member  
Karen Warner – Parent Member  
Edna Nicol – Parent Member  
Wilma Irvine – Parent Member  
Allan Skea – Co-opted Member  
Gregg Arthur – Co-opted Member  
Patrick Robertson – Co-opted Member

**In Attendance**

Joyce Gear – Head Teacher  
Zoe Anderson – Clerk  
Andrew Hughson – Councillor

**1. Notice of Meeting**

The meeting was held as read. Clive thanked everyone for coming and introduced Councillor Andrew Hughson.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Iris Hawkins, Julie Williamson, Betty Fullerton, Paul Leask, Ian Fraser and Peter Dryburgh.

**3. Approve Minute of the Meeting of Wednesday 18 September 2007**

The minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 18 September 2007 were approved by Karen and seconded by Clive.

**4. Matters arising from Minute of the Meeting of Wednesday 18 September 2007**

**PARKING/DOUBLE YELLOW LINES**

This is out to consultation at the moment. Joyce met with Neil Hutcheson about the double yellow lines in the car park and around the school. Parents will have to park in the car park if you want to come in with your child. The canteen entrance will be used for disabled access etc. It is hoped to have a drop off point at the primary entrance as well a disabled parking space. Joyce has been informed that the yellow lines will be painted in January 2008 if and when the weather permits. Parents can park in the multi court at the moment. Joyce will be informing all parents of the changes once the lines are painted.

**5. Budget Cuts**

Last Thursday the Head Teachers met with Finance Staff and Schools Service Staff regarding the Council budgets. The Schools service has been asked to save 5 million for 2008/09. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the Schools Service could achieve the cuts necessary and how it would affect the Schools Service. The Head Teachers were asked to suggest ideas for savings in order for Helen Budge to put together a paper for the Council on how the Schools Service can save £5 million. All schools have already had a 1% cut and inflation removed from their budget and all Head Teachers were told that they had to come in on target. Joyce explained about the broad areas of savings, looking at procurement, i.e. the Council should be buying as one body and have preferred suppliers. Everyone at the meeting agreed that to achieve savings they would have to look at staffing levels in schools. Andrew stated that the Council did not have a death wish against schools, it is simply finance and the spending has to be brought back in to line. Joyce explained also that teachers also felt that they want the future generation to receive the same levels of education as at the moment. Joyce

noted that schools found the pressure of constant reviews, which focused on school closures, time-consuming and difficult, particularly as no decisions had been made following the Best Value Reviews.

The Schools Service is currently working on a blueprint for Education, i.e. what do we want for our education service in Shetland.

Joyce explained that Scalloway has always given up money towards savings when available.

#### **6. Recruitment**

Christine Adam has been appointed to the Fully Funded Probationer Teacher Scheme in P6. Anita Dade is currently job sharing with Christine Adam. Fiona Morgan Clerical Administrative Assistant has left. Interviews are on Friday.

#### **7. Developments in ICT**

IT is the big mover in schools. Every primary classroom will have an interactive whiteboard. Interactive whiteboards will be moving into the secondary as well. They now have a new learning zone, which consists of 2 stations with 6 computers, each which are on a moveable desk that can be wheeled about.

#### **8. Parent Council Training**

Clive and Karen attended the training at Islesburgh. They both found the training very useful and gleaned lots of ideas from others, e.g., parent and child evening classes, welcome lunches, bingo nights, social events. This was to be thought about and to bring ideas to the next meeting.

Before parent council meetings, pupil council members could bring ideas to Patrick or Allan to bring to the meeting.

**Action: PR & AS**

#### **9. Emailing Parents**

Aith is currently piloting emailing parents instead of putting mail home in school bags. Joyce is waiting to see what the pitfalls and advantages of this are.

#### **10. School Uniform**

A discussion was held on the advantages and disadvantages of school uniform. It was decided for Allan to discuss with the primary parent council and to arrange a vote for all primary pupils and to ask the secondary pupil council what their thoughts are on school uniform.

**Action: AS, PR & JG**

#### **11. Correspondence**

Parents as Partners folders  
Backchat  
Minutes of Burra Parent Council meetings

#### **12. Any other Competent Business**

A bank account for the Parent Council is currently in the process of trying to be opened. Clive is to chase up the Bank of Scotland.

**Action: CW**

#### **New Parent Member**

Lindsay Anderson is interested in becoming a parent member. Lindsay is to be invited to the next meeting to join the parent council.

#### **Funding**

The draft action plan was to be emailed to Clive & Karen and if everyone can think about what should be in the action plan and contact them if they have any ideas, e.g. a display for parents nights. Make a leaflet etc for parents' evenings.

Everyone commented on the Scalloway School newsletter and how excellent it is.

**Speed limit**

No further progress on this at the moment. Andrew asked about road safety and how it was promoted in the school and Joyce explained about the First Gear Module that the children opted in to. The course includes a number of visits to organisations connected to road safety, for example a local garage and the fire station, As well as a course instructor, a driving instructor comes and speaks about safe driving and pupils are given driving lessons.. 16 bairns have signed up to this. Andrew commented that road safety was going to be on the next infrastructure meeting. .

**Project on road safety.**

School tries to promote safe road use and safe car use. Show a local authority video on road safety that includes footage of parents who lost children through road accidents in Shetland.

**Shetland Dialect**

A discussion was held on the Shetland dialect and Joyce explained how she felt Scalloway School was very positive and promoted the dialect as much as possible. A significant number of opportunities were available for all pupils to participate in a variety of work on the dialect.

**13. Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11 February 2008 at 6.30pm in the Scalloway Junior High School Staff room.