

# MINUTES

Lairhillock Parent Council

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*7pm Wed 1st February 2023. via Microsoft Teams*

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## ATTENDEES

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Mr Crabb, Alison Gill, Donagh Costello, Jacqueline & Mark Dewhurst, Sarah Benzie, Shona Grimmer, Diane Abel, Jenna Patterson, Austen Marr, Milene Grecco, Beverley Stainton, Fran Philp, Alastair Struthers, Linda Dempsey, Linda Fleury, Amy Scorgie, Tanya Heath, Kate Emshoff, Kate Gwynne, Claudia & Monica Tait

## APOLOGIES

Cheryl Christoforos, Nichola Hill, Gareth Barton & Tara Gauld

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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Donagh Costello proposed the previous set of minutes (7th Dec) for approval.

Seconded by Sarah Benzie.

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

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Report from Monica Tait

1. Greenspace Perennials for Pollinators 2023 Update - as part of an Aberdeenshire Council Greenspace Project, an application was submitted in October for perennials. As the application was accepted the school will be getting 60x plants consisting of Geraniums, Campanulas, Lavandulas and Salvias in February. The due date for stock collection is fast approaching w/c 6th Feb. Requiring someone to pick up plants from depot (Landscape Services Depot, Unit 21/22 Spurryhillock Ind Est, Stonehaven, AB39 2NH) and store somewhere sheltered. (Water until preferred planting date.) Donagh Costello volunteered to assist with pick up.

2. Thank you card received from Mrs Blake

“Thank you all so much for my beautiful flowers. It was lovely to have fresh, festive flowers over Xmas when there were lots of people around to appreciate them. I’m very sad to be leaving Lairhilllock School. It was such a hard decision to make as I’ve loved working there and will miss the staff and children greatly. However, I’m looking forward to being able to spend more time with my husband in Qatar and not having to wait until the school holidays. Best wishes for a very happy new year to you all and many thanks once again. Joanne”

3. Correspondence

Christine McLennan

Education Support Officer (Parental Engagement and Pupil Participation)

**Money and Wellbeing sessions**

The sessions were originally offered before Xmas, are designed to support parents with money and wellbeing. The new dates will run if there is enough interest.

Anyone interested in attending should email

[caroline.hastings@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.hastings@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) for the link.

- Weds 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 7-8pm
- Weds 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 7-8pm

**Next Parent Council meeting with the Director of Education**

A session for Parent Council chairs and/ or other office bearers with the Director of Education (Laurence Findlay) and the Head of Education (Vincent Docherty) on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm.

**Aberdeenshire Children’s Services Plan Consultation**

Two parent focus groups are being held online to consult on the Aberdeenshire Children’s Services Plan via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at either 4.30pm or 6.45pm.

Here is a link to the current 2020-23 Children's Services Plan:

<https://www.girfec-aberdeenshire.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Aberdeens-hires-Childrens-Services-Plan-2020-2023.pdf>

Microsoft Teams links to these meetings:

- 4.30pm Parent Focus Group session: [4.30pm Teams Link](#)
- 6.45pm Parent Focus Group session: [6.45pm Teams Link](#)

### **Council Website redevelopment**

Aberdeenshire Council are working on redeveloping the council website and are currently asking for feedback on the proposed look and feel. To view the proposed design and have your say, please visit

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/website-design>. The survey is open until 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022. If you would like to provide more detailed feedback, please email [marta.mlynarczyk@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:marta.mlynarczyk@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

#### **4. Connect Training**

Parent Councils have access to online training through CONNECT (who provide our 3\* Public Liability insurance).

- [Parent Councils Now](#): 7 February
- [Money Matters for Parent Groups and Treasurers](#): 28 February
- [Welcoming New Families](#): 7 March
- [A Problem Shared: Handling Challenging Situations](#): 28 March
- [Organising Social & Fundraising Events](#): 14 March

#### **5. Guidance on food safety at fundraising events**

There was recent guidance with regards to fundraising events and food safety that is available on the Aberdeenshire Council website. This was quite topical for the end of term last year with Christmas fayres, Christmas markets etc. and with particular reference to allergen awareness/labelling and management.

## [Fundraising Events – Food Safety Guide \(aberdeenshire.gov.uk\)](http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

The Environmental Health department would like to reach out to school parent councils to assist them with fundraising events such as Burns suppers or spring/summer fayres etc.

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## HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

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### Head Teacher Report - Mr Stewart Crabb

- P1 uptake number for next year - there has been a drop in number (14x) though this figure may change. Mr Crabb managed to get hold of school roll projections from Aberdeenshire Council. The capacity of our school is 217. In 2022 we were projected for 138 children and we are sitting at 136 today.  
Future projected figures are:
  - 23 – 140 (however current P1 enrolments are suggesting 129)
  - 24 – 152
  - 25 – 166
  - 26 – 166
  - 27 – 171
- The Pupil Council had their 1st meeting on the 1st February. This will be fortnightly.
- The Parent Open Afternoon was well attended on the 26th Jan. There were only 6x returned feedback forms. Despite the small response rate, there was good feedback noted. For next session(s), the thought was to vary the days and to finish at 3pm & allow parents to take children away afterwards to avoid congestion in the car park.
- Learning & teaching - there have been a lot of staff teaching sessions to revise what is done at school.
- The behaviour policy has been reviewed and staff have noted an improvement in behaviour. Children do not like the step of time out in another class. We have focussed on behaviours in assemblies and recently on good manners and being courteous. Mr Crabb is really pleased with the impact he has noticed in school.

- Pupil survey - with further research there has been focused questions which teachers have followed up.
- The school has been awarded the 6th Green Flag (eco-school award) which is a great achievement.
- The Environment Group will discuss Climate Week North East at their meeting 2/2/232. They are also thinking about One Planet Picnic for the fourth term which may tie in with an activity around the time of the coronation.
- P7s involved in giving their views - Children Services Plan.
- Nothing further on Seesaw.
- There has been a big focus on House points.
- Scottish poetry went well with enthusiastic children and amazing talent. The finalists were outstanding.
- Procedure for sending children home early has been finalised.
- Homework policy - to leave as it is at present time.
- Transport/drop off update - Transport (buses) can drop off children from 8.40am. The concern was that there is no staff available to supervise the area at that time. All Primary Schools shall provide a member of staff point of contact for 20 minutes before the start of the school day. However, this can take the form of an adult being in the premises and available to deal with emergency situations rather than someone constantly patrolling the playground. The provision we have in place at Lairhillock this year, although this may change in future years if PSA hours reduce, is that a PSA will be in the playground from 8.45 am. Mr Crabb will also be out in the early morning playground as often as possible. There may be some occasions such as staff absence, staff meetings (Thursdays) or emergencies arising where staffing cannot provide an adult for the playground and will need to revert to the minimum requirements, where an adult is in the premises and available to deal with emergency situations.
- Mobile phone policy - the use of mobile phones at school is discouraged though not prevented. The few that do bring mobile phones to school keep them at the office during school hours.
- Nursery outdoor playing equipment has been condemned. No new play equipment has been purchased. The quote/cost is high. Staff need to think how to fund and develop this. A redevelopment project (bark chipping) previously carried out is now not to standard as it's a muddy area and may need to be looked at also.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

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Report from Jacqueline Dewhurst

**Opening Balance** £9182.17 plus £584.11 petty cash

Elf Shelf

Expenses	£726.42
Sales	£1046
Profit	£319.58

Xmas Craft

Expenses	£110.52
Sales	£307.50
Profit	£196.98 (minus Sumup fees)

Nativity Refreshments

Costs	£15.92
Donations	£83.60
Profit	£67.68

Council Funding	£287.55
Shona's Recycling	£100
Extra Xmas Fayre Sales	£128.90

**Total Profit** £1100.69

**Expenses**

Teachers' wishlist	- £930.48
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Party Supplies, leaving gift and Xmas gifts - £313.42

Bank Charges - £47.70

**Total Expenses - £1291.60**

**Closing Balance £9432.55 plus £385.52 petty cash**

Priorities to support with next wishlist/fundraising:-

- Repainting (lines in car park)
- To get garden back up and running
  - Mrs Gill offered to look into this and get initial consultations organised.
  - Kate Emshoff also offered to assist and have a look at the garden with co-worker.
  - Repair to fence (rotted posts) - previously mentioned by Mr Murray.
  - Possibly get pupil leadership groups involved at a later date once the garden is at a manageable state.

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## Recycling/Fundraising Update

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Shona Grimmer provided an update

Shona has provided a good link with Maryculter House Hotel and Kenyan John (negotiated donation for the school).

Raising awareness of recycling opportunities at reception as part of the Eco flag award (for example recycling of toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, old stamps, reading glasses, printer cartridges, batteries etc). Leadership groups could drive this.

Shona is happy to carry on her recycling ambassador role even though her direct link and connection to school after the summer term will come to a close.

## **Foodbank Update**

Foodbank link has changed to the Community Larder at Stonehaven.

Postpone Foodbank Friday donations until connections are properly established.

## **Rotary Shoe Box Scheme**

### [Rotary Shoebox Scheme – Sending boxes of gifts to Eastern Europe](#)

The scheme has been supported by school families previously prior to COVID. It is a UK registered non profit charity. The mission is to spread a little happiness to disadvantaged children and adults in Eastern Europe. They operate all year.

There are four types of content for filling Shoeboxes (*You choose the type of content for each box*):-

- CHILD / TOYS ~ for young children
- BABY ~ Age up to 12 months & New Mothers
- TEENAGER ~ For young people up to 18 years age
- HOUSEHOLD ~ For older folk & families

**Boxes cost £2.00 each** as a contribution towards the cost of transport

The Shoe Boxes appeal has been sent to all teachers to see if any of the groups would like to take this on.

## **Possible Ceilidh/Spring fling**

Questionnaire poll to gauge interest. Possible dates in March 12 or 26th (tbc).

Mr Crabb queried about end of term disco. Again, to gauge interest, questionnaire poll to be sent out.

Forms for the Parent Council PVG check will go out this week.

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## **AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION UPDATE**

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Notes from Nichola Hill



From contact with Jude Richards @ A'shire Council there is no change currently to building rental rates. Further meetings will be held in due course but has little optimism that the situation will change. Nichola is happy to provide updates as it happens (but no timescale indicated).

Solutions proposed from Jude was use other provisions in the cluster and club together for transport. NH noted that this depended on concurrent spaces. There are currently waiting lists for most provisions within the cluster.

MT suggested Nichola got in contact with Cllr Mel Sullivan as Mel was involved with the Hillside case last year. No update from this so far.

Nichola thinks she has taken it as far as she can at this point as there does not seem to be any tangible solutions in the pipeline.

If anyone else would like to pursue this Nichola is happy to pass over contact details of those she has spoken with.

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## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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- P7 Leavers - a WhatsApp group chat has now been set up for easier communication between P7 parents. Various items to see to including leavers hoodies, residential trip, leavers lunch, leavers book etc. Leavers hoodies are to be navy blue to match in with uniform colour. Local contact in Stonehaven is offering competitive price to do the stitch work. For the residential trip, Mr Crabb will provide an update in due course.
- Snack trolley query - the return of snack trolley would probably be unlikely unless healthy snacks are provided.
- Concern raised by a bus driver with nursery parents utilising the drop off bay at pick up time. There is signage at the bus bay where it says "no parking between 8.30-9.30am and 2.45-3.45pm."
- Football query (Lucy Petrie) - Mr Christie is facilitating football for the P6/7s on a Tuesday. The query was to find activities for the younger primary groups. Lucy would be willing to help out if there was something available.

- Sarah Benzie mentioned Climate Week, 24th March and provided link with useful resources <https://climateweeknortheast.org/school-resources-packs/>
- Mark Dewhurst mentioned in line with the Green Flag award, the Big Walk and Wheel Cycle Challenge that will be held from March 21 to April 1.
- Amy Scorgie discussed Net Zero Technology Centre and offered to provide link with robotic specialist team to engage with active STEM activity.
- PC willing to fund school library with well needed supplies for example, new shelving, book ends, stationery etc. Diane Abel is to put together a wish list.

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## **DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

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Date proposed - 26th April 2023