

WEST LINTON PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS' COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 17th November 2008

Present: Glenda Barton, Moira Brown, Tom Davidson, Colin Gambles, Mary Gunn, Margaret Hogg, Gail Jackson, Gerry McLachlan, Anita Thomas, Sheila Warren, Steven Whalley(Chair) and Alastair Young.

In attendance: Hilary Elliott, Denise Halcrow (Clerk).

Apologies: Emil Berthelsen and Chris Tate.

1 Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 8th October were accepted.

2 Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 4th November 2008 were accepted.

3 Matters Arising

- I. Bank account - Margaret Hogg (Treasurer) reported that a PC bank account is to be set up in order to pay the clerk, admin expenses and travel expenses for PC training events. The clerk has been paid up to the end of October. Photocopying expenses due to the school were verified by Mrs Elliott as £42.52 to date. There is expected to be a surplus for which there will need to be agreement on how it is to be treated
- II. Link with other Parents' Councils – Steven will look into this and report back.

4 P5 Trip

Mrs Elliott submitted reasons for the decision not to proceed with the P5 residential trip. These included inadequate accommodation at Innerwick, the loss of Mr Murray's post, problems with transport, health and safety issues and the cost which has more than doubled since the first trip in 2001. Committed staff had allowed the trip to continue to date. The decision to call an end to the P5 residential was fully discussed with members of the school management team and children were told in advance of a letter to parents since Mrs Elliott recognised that they would be disappointed. It was decided to explore the possibility of 2 consecutive day trips to the same area instead.

Alastair Young acknowledged the significant amount of work by teachers that went into running the P5 residential trip. He went on to outline a number of alternative options that a working group of parents chaired by himself had considered, the best of which was deemed to be a 2 night stay at Wooler Youth Hostel which was available from the 11th May, allowed for 4 teachers to go free of charge, is less than an hour's drive away and provides full board and sufficient accommodation. The total cost with transport was estimated to be approximately £83 per pupil.

Margaret suggested a subsidy from the PTA towards the cost. Sheila Warren said the accommodation would have to be approved by SBC for health and safety purposes and if agreed to it would need to be an annual event. It would require a planning visit from Mrs Elliott and the trip leader.

Mrs Elliott agreed to consider the proposal, with a possible response by the end of the term.

5 Appointment of Class Representatives

The role of class reps is to act as a focal point for parents who wish certain topics (not issues) to be discussed by the PC.

The following were appointed:

Nursery - Kit Gambles
P1H - Chris Tate
P1D - Gill Gracie
P2 - Margaret Hogg
P2/3 - Tom Davidson
P3/4 - Steven Whalley
P4 - Gail Jackson
P5 - Gerry McLachlan
P5/6 - Monica Shaw
P6 - Claire Shaw (also Learning Support)
P7 - Glenda Barton

6 Letter to Councillors re Budgets

Steven will draft a simple letter.

7 Position re rent rebate

Hilary had checked with Debby Whyte in the office and there had been no deposits. Steven will write to Councillor Calvert.

8 New School

Michael Pryor sent a letter proposing a meeting with councillors. There is to be a consultation in the next few weeks on the relocation of the school. This should be over by March which Margaret was concerned seemed very soon.. The design process has begun and the new school is expected to open in August 2012. Tom was concerned about the compulsory purchase of the field and whether it would be done.

Tom will invite councillors for early January, also a PC representative from a newly built school, Tony Gowlands and Yvonne McCracken, Head of Services.

9 Approach to identifying topics from parents

Glenda will draft a letter to be sent to all parents asking for topics and also giving a list of the class reps.

10 School Centenary

Mrs Elliott congratulated Tom on the 2009 Centenary Calendar which will be ready to launch on 6th December at the Christmas Bazaar. There will be various outlets as well as the school. Funds have come from the Rotary, Scotline (David Small) and the Kenny Paul Trust.

There will be a special focus week in June with a possible Open (Celebration) Day on Friday 12th and an exhibition of photos/memorabilia on Saturday 13th June. There are also plans for tree planting, a play, and a song. The status of the school centenary working group is being considered for the purposes of setting a separate bank account (would require a constitution), to discuss with Ian Reid. Meantime cheques in payment for the calendars should be made payable to the PTA. Gerry will speak to Christne Berthelsen, PTA Treasurer.

11 Head Teacher's Report

Music Specialist teacher Mrs Inglis starts maternity leave from the end of November and she will not be replaced by a music teacher, however there will be a drama teacher, Ms Pappas continuing with teaching expressive arts. Mrs Meah and Mrs McGregor will have their posts advertised when they go on maternity leave.

The recent Book Fair was a huge success as reported at the AGM. Thanks to all parents who helped and to Mrs Whyte for her organisation of the 3½ day event.

Congratulations to P7 pupils for organizing the Children in Need Day on Wednesday 12th November when £300 was raised.

P1 Enrolment Week starts on Monday 24th November.

Christmas arrangements include the Bazaar on 6th December, Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 12th, "Jammin Fitness" for all classes being paid from the School Fund, Nursery Nativity 12th, P1 performance 16th, Party Week 15th-19th and culminating with the End of Term Service on Friday 19th December.

12 Outstanding Topics

Safer Routes to School
Promoting Best Practice
Support for Boys

These should be mentioned in the letter to parents being drafted by Glenda .

13 Agenda Items for next Meeting

School Centenary
New School
Parents' Forum

14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st January 2009 at 7.15pm