



# MINUTES

## Avoch Primary School Parent Council

26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 | 7.00PM

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### In Attendance

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Inga Ballantyne, Phoebe Barton, Julie Davidson, Julie Dinwoodie, Ruth Edmonds, Maru Fraser, Joanna Kucharczyk, Iona McMillan, Katie Munro, Kate Lackie, Stefanie Rankine, Rebecca Rawlinson.

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### Apologies

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Jane Reid, Julie Rutter, Wendy Lambie, Carrie Mudge.

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### Minutes from last meeting

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Minutes were agreed.

### Updates

Julie Dinwoodie provided the quotes for the goal posts. The Parent Council agreed to pay for the larger goals at a cost of £596 inc delivery.

Kate spoke to Glynis Leggett, Local Transport Assistant at the Highland Council. Kate said it was a productive meeting but there were additional concerns raised by the PC that Kate will get back to Glynis about.

The Focus Group for the Homework policy will be set up in Term 3.

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### Depute Head Teacher's Report

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Mrs Sim continues to be absent at present but is making good progress in her recovery. It is hoped that she will be returning this term on a phased return. DHT is non-class committed for this term to give additional management time and would like to thank the staff, pupils and parents for their continued support and understanding in Mrs Sim's absence.

### Thank You

On behalf of the pupils, staff and parents we would like to extend a huge thank you to Chris from 'Arc- 'n'- Saw Building Services Ltd' in Inverness for donating and fixing the woodland trail free of charge! Chris gave up a full working day to come and lend his expertise and the children are delighted with the finished product. He even painted some of the new boards. The 'Wee and Big Gnomes' in P1 & P7 are in the process of thanking him officially for all his efforts.

### Portacabin update

The new cabins are in use and the pupils are enjoying their new home. There remain some ongoing issues making sure the technology works but on the whole things are working much better for these

two classes. There remains a problem with a patch of tarring that was not replaced and has worn away. The council are in the process of getting costs to repair this as a priority as we cannot remove the fencing until this is done.

### **School grounds**

As already stated the 'Wee and Big Gnomes' in P1 and P7 are taking on the school grounds as their citizenship project. They are looking at ways to improve the school grounds and would welcome the opportunity to join forces with reps from the Parent Council to create a clear fundraising plan and give their ideas as to what they want. They will be sharing their ideas at the Citizenship assembly next Thursday and will be writing to the parent council to invite representatives in for a meeting in the next couple of weeks.

*Parents suggested that the Royal Horticultural Society could be approached by the 'Gnomes' to ask for some funding for plants to help improve the school grounds.*

### **The School Improvement Plan Update**

We have created and sent home a 'Child Friendly School Improvement Plan' to try and make our priorities clearer for all involved. The Inset days in September were spent working on aspects of our school improvement plan.

**Project 1 - The Learner's Journey-** Our work this year is focused on developing the process of profiling and reporting to make it more meaningful and informative for pupils and their families. As such we have been developing '**Learning Conversations**' within the school. Conversations about learning happen all the time in school and at home but this year we are really focusing on helping pupils understand 3 key questions; 'Who am I in my learning?', 'Where am I in my learning?' and 'Where do I want to get to?'.  
In school we have set aside time every Thursday afternoon to talk about our learning and our achievements. We have introduced question fans that encourage the children to think deeper about their achievements, progress and next steps.

### **Project 2- Continuing to Raise Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy**

This in an area we have evidenced we are making steps in improving but there is always room for more to do.

In literacy we are having a more regular focus on Punctuation, Editing, Grammar and Spelling (PEGS) as well as working on developing children's comprehension skills. We will continue to have a focus on children learning their basic facts in numeracy. We have also introduced a 'Daily 5' which is a quick way to ensure previously taught concepts remain fresh in the pupils minds as they move through the Numeracy and Maths progression.

*One of the Parents recommended a free website which you can use at home to help with learning to read. The school hadn't seen it but the address is <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/> if anyone would like to have a look.*

### **Project 3 – Health and Wellbeing**

In this area we will be exploring the 'Wellbeing Indicators' which are used in Scotland to measure children's Health and Wellbeing. These eight indicators are known as SHANARRI. This stands for Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included. We will be exploring what these words mean and supporting the children to track their progress in these areas. We believe the more secure children feel in these areas the more resilient they are to the challenges of modern day life. All teachers, PSAs and Nursery staff received training from the Educational

Psychology Team in 'Resilient Kids' at our recent INSET day and we will continue to embed this in our school, developing the children's social and emotional skills. We will also be focusing on Healthy Eating this session and were successful in our application for a 'Food for Thought Education' grant from Education Scotland. The Fund gives financial support to develop Food and Health as a context for learning. We will be looking to grow and produce our own food and would welcome ideas as to how we can take this forward with the wider school community.

*One of the Parents suggested that some of the children could visit Rosemarkie Allotments to see an example of where healthy food is grown.*

*Another suggestion was that 'Mindful Forces' could be approached to come and speak to the children about Mindful practices.*

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### Treasurer's Report @ 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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Opening Balance at 1 August 2017		£3229.68
Income	Giving Machine	16.57
	Disco (5/10/17)	423.42
Expenditure	Audit Thank You	10.00
Closing Balance at 25 Oct 2017		<b>£3659.67</b>

Numbers were very good at the disco a huge 105 (P1-3) and 81 (P4-7).

We still have Sports Kit Socks to pay for. Ms Webster has been organising these.

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### Fundraiser's Update

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Christmas Raffle – Trine, Stef, Maru have been arranging the raffle and approaching businesses for donations.

**Action: Advertise on Facebook nearer the time (Iona).**

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### Discos

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General discussion about the suitability of providing sweets and juice at the disco. Juice stocks to be run down and not replaced. Water will be provided instead. Decision to be made on how we deal with sweets in the future e.g. limit the numbers children can buy, provide a bag of sweets on entry (price included in entry fee) etc.

There were a number of injuries at both discos. The DJ's games were thought to be contributory to some of the rough behaviour and he will be given some guidelines for what's acceptable at future discos. Consider moving the DJ on to the stage, away from the children. First aid arrangements were discussed.

Phones and snapchat with the P7s were a source of concern. Mobile phones will be banned from discos and will be confiscated if any are found.

Only three children are allowed in the toilets at the same time to avoid. This will continue but we may need to make children more aware of this in advance.

The discos were very busy this time and there were more parents than ever at the earlier one. This led to a discussion on max capacity of the hall.

There was a lot to discuss so the PC decided to hold a separate meeting about this subject.

The next disco is at the end of March. Maru and Asia volunteered to run it but the PC will need to discuss some changes before this goes ahead.

**Action: Set up meeting to discuss the discos, well in advance of March. (Maru and Asia)**

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## School Trips

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A concern had been raised at a previous meeting about the lack of school trips and there was an impression that some children seemed to be offered more trips than others.

Mrs Dinwoodie stated that Avoch primary teachers are encouraged to think about trips that link to curriculum or citizenship. The trips need to be local, accessible and affordable and there has to be an educational benefit.

Trips for the year are in the planning.

Year groups are tracked so that there are equal opportunities where possible.

**Action: Teachers to continue to be encouraged to think about trips that fit in with their teaching topics. (Julie Dinwoodie)**

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## Fruit Breaks

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Parents had asked a number of questions such as:

- What is the Fruit Break?
- Is it every day?
- Does it have to be fruit?
- Are children given an extra break if they have fruit with them?

Basically, fruit breaks are taken at the children's desks whilst they're still working. They don't get an extra break. Vegetables are also ok!

The conversation prompted a question about fruit juice being provided with school lunch. The toast trolley no longer provides juice at the request of the PC, so should juice be removed from lunchtimes too?

**Action: School to pull together the rationale and add it to the newsletter to clarify the situation.**

**Action: Ask for views about juice being available at lunchtime. Why not just water and milk?**

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## Parent Council Newsletter

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Kate distributed draft newsletter and asked for feedback.

**Action: Feedback comments to Kate ASAP (everyone)**

**Action: rewrite Just Giving section (Iona)**

**Action: send out newsletter (Kate)**

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## School Fairs

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### Christmas Fair

The Christmas fair will be using the General Purpose (GP) room for teas and coffees. The stage, library and hall will be used for stalls. There may be an opportunity for a tour of the cabins.

### Summer Fair

Discussion moved to a later meeting.

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## Insurance

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The question was asked again about insurance requirements for transporting children to and from events. There are consent forms available which the school will send out. Anyone involved in transporting children to events will be asked to return the form the school.

**Action: Send out consent forms with letter to Parents (Julie Dinwoodie)**

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## Parental Involvement

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**Action: Compile a questionnaire for Parents to ask about things like juice at lunchtimes, fundraising, discos etc. (Kate)**

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## Dates for the Diary

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Disco – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Christmas Fair – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Summer Fair – tbc

PC dates –

- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Action: Arrange lets for the PC Meetings (Iona)**

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## Next Meetings

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Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, 7pm, Avoch Primary school