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## In Attendance

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Kate Lackie, Joanna (Asia) Kucharczyk, Iona MacMillan, Inga Ballantyne, Phoebe Barton, Stuart Lambie, Carlyne Wilson, Carrie Mudge, Duncan MacRae, Lindsay Smith, Julie Dinwoodie, Katie Munro, Stefanie Rankine

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## Apologies

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Lorna Sim, Julie Davidson

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## Review of last meeting's minutes and update on action

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The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

It was decided to change the running of the meetings to make them shorter. From now on AOB items will only be addressed if they have been raised before the meeting. As usual an email will go out to ask for agenda points and AOBs. Having agenda items beforehand will also help the attending teacher to address any issue as fully as possible.

Unicycle – This has been taken on by Catherine Smith and is running well. If anyone would like to get pre-used school uniform clothing, please visit the Avoch Primary Uniform Recycling Facebook page or contact the Parent Council.

Mindfulness – A mindfulness course has taken place and the feedback from pupils and parents was positive.

Daily mile – There has been no update. Kate will contact Ruth to see if she got any information. (Post-meeting note: Due to feedback from pupils and teachers, the school has decided not to take part in the Daily mile. See September school newsletter)

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## Head Teacher's Report

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### New school year

We have recently welcomed 36 new P1 children, 6 additional children to other classes, a new early years practitioner (and another one to be appointed soon), 2 new Pupil Support Assistants, 3 breakfast/after school practitioners, a permanent supply teacher for the area but based at Avoch and 3 new teachers. This is in addition to all the new children now attending the nursery. The whole school roll is sitting at 318 with a rise of approximately 15 expected next year.

### Improving the School Environment

Through savings from the schools' own capital budget, two more classes have new carpets and Mrs Thompson, our janitor, painted the star room for us.

### School grounds

At last the new goal posts, paid for by the Parent Council, have been installed. Thanks to the Mr Munro, a parent, who did this for us.

The new fencing along the road side looks smart and also will keep the children safer. There is some new fencing in the infant area to begin the creation of our sensory garden and this has been paid for through a Food for thought Grant and a donation from Willie Gray, the builder.

We have also very recently been funded some money through the Raddery trust to plant a memory tree and seating to give all our children a place to go to remember others.

We also plan to continue to work in partnership with the Parent Council over the next few years on furthering the enhancement of the playground for the children.

The School Improvement Plan we have written is, as always, ambitious. It is based on self-evaluation and takes account of Scottish Government directives.

Our three main improvement projects are

~ Looking at the journey of the learner, including building further on the work we did last year in increasing parental involvement in their child's learning.

~ Continuing to raise attainment in maths and literacy. This will always be a priority in all schools.

~ Health and Well-being and how good well-being, including resilience, impacts on learning.

The School charity, is chosen by the Pupil Council from a list generated by parents. The school charity for this session is Mary's Meals as we believe it is important to build the children's understanding and empathy by doing a global charity every two years. The charity will be organised by P5 and they are asking for old school bags to kick start the project.

Finally on that last note, the staff and I are very much looking forward to continuing to promote opportunities for parents to become further involved in supporting their child's learning over the next 12 months.

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## Treasurer's Report

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### AVOCH PARENT COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1 AUGUST 2017 TO 31 JULY 2018

**Opening Balance as at 1 August 2017** **£3,229.68**

#### Income

Highland Council Grant	£192.52	
The Giving Machine	£157.98	
Discos	£1,501.06	
Christmas Sale	£1,307.75	
Summer Fete	£1,044.15	
Money back from P7 Leavers Dance	<u>£25.00</u>	<b><u>£4,228.46</u></b>

#### Expenditure

Discos	£563.24	
School Trip P7	£520.00	
Football Goals	£596.99	
Leavers Dance	£100.00	
Thank You Gifts	£10.00	
Christmas Sale/ Raffle/ Envelopes/ Gift Vouchers	£97.22	
Lottery licence	£20.00	
Summer Fete/ Tea & Coffe/ Glitter tattoos	<u>£55.27</u>	<b><u>£1,962.72</u></b>

**Closing Balance as at 31 July 2018** **£5,495.42**

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## Fundraiser's Update

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No events took place since the last meeting.

Financially we are now in a good position to start looking into getting new playground equipment. A playground sub-group will be established for that, see agenda point 6.

Our current funds are unlikely to be sufficient though and we need to continue fundraising. Anyone wanting to get involved, should contact the APC. As Stef has stepped down as our lead fundraiser, the position is available. Parents / guardians could also join the Fun sub-group or organise one of the events (Christmas Fayre, spring social, and summer event) by themselves or in a group.

As well as raising funds, events are a great way of bringing parents/guardians, pupils and teachers together. With social events being popular, the APC would like to organise one this school year, but we need your help. (A reminder: The event usually takes place at the beginning of the calendar year.)

## Disco

Asia is happy to continue to organise the school disco, but with Maru Fraser stepping down it would be good to get someone to take on the entertainment side. The DJ used to play games, but there were complaints that these were too wild. It would be good to find out from the Pupil Council, what the children would like to play.

The APC was happy to continue with the current arrangement of children getting one bag of sweets at the beginning of the disco (instead of having a kiosk with constant access). Sugary drinks have also be banned. At the last disco water was being made available to the children in plastic cups, which led to a lot of plastic waste. The use of open cups also led to spillages, which in turn caused children to slip. Spills were cleared up as soon as they were spotted. It was decide to encourage pupils to take their water bottles to the disco and assess the situation after the next disco.

Disco date for this school year are 11<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> February and 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**Action: Ask the DJ to pay some calmer games. (Asia)**

**Action: Add fundraising on the next agenda (Julie or Kate)**

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## Playground equipment

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Inga gave an update on the project. We have researched other playgrounds, located possible sides and contacted construction companies for quotes. It will still take some time before we're able to get new equipment, so in the meantime we could carry out some small improvements. If anyone (parents, grand-parents, neighbours etc.) has useful information, skills or is interested in getting involved, please contact APC.

Please also inform the APC if there is particular equipment your child would like to have (although we cannot guarantee, that we will be able to get it).

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## Wrap around care

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As the APC pushed for getting the Breakfast Club and After School Club set up, parents were asked for feedback. Clubs are managed by the school, the head teacher set up the club.

The feedback from the children was very positive with them reporting that they are enjoying themselves at the clubs.

The APC committee thanked the involved head teacher for her efforts in setting up the wrap around care and also thanked the staff running the clubs for making it so enjoyable.

To be viable, the clubs need 16 pupils per session. The numbers are not there yet, but are increasing. It was suggested to put a section in the next school newsletter, maybe created by the children in the clubs, to show what the children are doing at the club.

It was also suggested to reissue the information again.

**Action: Suggest to the wrap around care staff to create a section in the school newsletter. (Julie Dinwoodie)**

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## Repair of fence

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It was reported that the double fence of the sports field, next to the river, is down. The issue has already been raised with Muriel.

(Post meeting note: The authority is aware of this, have done site visits, costed the work. Therefore it is in the hands of the authority.)

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## Payments for school meals

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Concerns about the payment for school meals have been raised on the APC Facebook page. Parents reported that they had been chased for payments, because their cash payments had not been registered. The general recommendation therefore was to pay by cheque. The catering service is run by Caroline Mackay from CALA and not by the school. The system is moving to a cashless system most likely in October. The new system will be communicated to parents / guardians through the school newsletter. There is also general information on the Highland Council website: [https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/9/school\\_meals/2](https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/9/school_meals/2) .

In the meantime, parents / guardians who have issues with apparent non-payments are advised to contact the school, making the email out for the attention of Caroline Mackay and the school will forward the email on.

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## AOB

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### Bikeability

There has been a request from a parent to run the Bikeability course again.

The teachers are also keen to run this course as it is a good teaching resource. However, the school does not have the staff resources to accommodate the practical side of the course. In the past this has been run by a parent volunteer for P6s or P7s. Ideally it should run in term 1 or 4, because there is more daylight after school. The APC contacted Fortrose Academy students last year and while they were eager to help, the course would have to take place in term 1 as the students have exams in term 4.

It was mentioned that Velocity might be able to assist and Iona will ask them.

Anyone wanting to run the Bikeability course for the pupils would have to complete a one-day training course. The course offered to the pupils would then be one session a week for 6 weeks. Ideally there should be one organiser and also a number of volunteers to help. The more volunteers there are the more the children would get out of the course.

If any parent / guardian is interested in getting involved, please contact APC.

**Action: Contact Velocity and ask them if they would run the Bikeability course. (Iona)**

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## Next Meeting

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Post meeting note: The agreed date is no longer suitable. The new date will be announced as soon as possible.

It was suggested to have meetings while the children have activities at school, e.g. Rainbows or Jaffa Club.