

Abbeyhill Primary School

Parent Council Meeting - Draft Minutes

Wednesday 18th June 2014

Present: Chris Byrne (Chair), Lisa Tansey (VC), Di Falck (Treasurer), Sue Burrows, John Dallas, Sandra Stewart (Headteacher), Sally Barker, Lynsey Stewart, and Linda Watt.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Last minutes agreed, other than minor changes to bank balance details.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Plans for janitor's house: Mrs Stewart still not received plans. This is an ongoing matter, hope to resolve this term.

School travel plan: Miss McDiarmid not being present, no update possible. should hear back from Council about 'School Streets' pilot application at the end of June.

Scooter parking: Due to building works, purchase and installation has been put back. Linda reports that a Sustrans grant has been applied for to help meet the costs of scooter/bike parking.

Artists-in-residence: Funding from City Centre Neighbourhood Partnership has come in. Artists workshops are going on now throughout the school, and will keep happening up to the Colony of Artists exhibition in September. For full details see the Abbeyhill Parents web site.

School building works: Mrs Stewart and Linda Watt gave a quick update on progress. Contracts put out to tender, but the dry rot work tender had to be re-tendered. Works will take place in following areas:

- Dry rot
- Windows
- Heating boilers converted from oil to gas
- Heating system in swimming pool replaced

A question from John Dallas about when the windows were discovered to be unsafe: late April. Further concerns expressed about the overall safety of the buildings: is the inspection system rigorous enough? John Dallas also highlighted an incident where his child was injured by the boundary fence next to Chatham's garage/building site. Linda Watt and Mrs Stewart subsequently sought to clarify queries about procedures for reporting of accidents. Also stated that regular checks of the boundary fence are now in place. It was noted that the procedure has now been tightened for reporting accidents and communicating with parents of affected children.

Chris Byrne brought forward a number of concerns from parents about the recent incident involving a construction crane adjacent to the school, where a cable snapped and fell while children were in a PE lesson in the playground. No one was hurt but the incident was alarming and potentially dangerous. Linda Watt informed the meeting that the contractors have halted operations while a safety investigation is carried out. She has further requested that contractors stop operating the crane when children are outside.

3. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Please see attached summary report.

In addition, children are going on a trip to the cinema on Friday.

Staffing issues: Miss McDiarmid's contract was to be extended, however intervention by the UK Border Agency has meant the post must be advertised.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chris reported back from the North Neighbourhood Meeting of CCWP. Certain issues were raised there that seemed relevant to Abbeyhil.

Anti-bullying policy: Mrs Stewart replied a Behaviour Policy was in place.

Free school meals for P1-P3 from January 2015: Waiting for further news from the Council on how this will be implemented.

Date of next North Neighbourhood Meeting is 25 August. Chris will attend.

SPTC newsletter

Concerns about "the named person" in the forthcoming Children & Young People Bill. Mrs Stewart advised that the "named person" protocol had already been put in place by the Council, and schools already working to this.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Di Falck advised of some small errors in the previous meeting's minutes on bank balance. These will be corrected.

Some discussion about whether to spend the accrued surplus cash, and what to spend it on. Noted that some projects (eg. scooter parking) have been delayed. Some additional ideas were discussed. Requires a meeting to be held to establish priorities for spending funds: unlikely to occur before new school term. It would be helpful if the school could identify items it may need to purchase, then PC can consider requests for support.

6. REPORTS FROM PARENT COUNCIL SUB-GROUPS

Events:

The idea of a welcome event near the start of the new term was discussed. Agreed it was a good idea in principle, but logistics tricky given school holidays. Events sub-group to discuss further.

Gardens and Grounds:

On Euro election day, Di Falck and partner took away accumulated garden waste, and delivered two tons of topsoil which has been used to fill raised beds. Also dug compost into raised beds. The meeting thanked Di for her hard work in this area. Di also advised the hedges need to be cut back as they are intruding on raised beds. Mrs Stewart to chase this up.

7. PARENTS' SUGGESTIONS

These were all covered under earlier headings.

8. SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

Mostly covered in 2. above, but also due to Miss McDiarmid not being present, no update possible on how the new School Travel Plan is progressing.

9. SCHOOL BUILDINGS

This was mostly covered under earlier headings.

10. A.O.B.

Date of AGM set for 10 September 2014.

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Abbeyhill Primary School

Parent Council – Head Teacher's Report

18 June 2014

- Sally Barker the new Head Teacher visited the school on 12 June 2014 and met all the pupils and staff.
- New P1 came to visit and will return for a Teddy Bear's Picnic tomorrow, 19 June.
- Health Week was very successful and pupils shared what they had learned at an assembly – thanks to Mrs Evans and Mr Rae for organising
- Eco Week going well – bottle gardens very effective on fence. Huge amount of litter collected during litter pick – now grounds need to be kept tidy. Hope to get Green Flag next term. Thanks to Miss Morgan and Miss Hutchison for organising.
- Final Week – Hopefully good weather for P7 outing on Monday and BBQ on Wednesday. Show to be held on Thursday followed by refreshments for P7 parents
- School closes at 12.00 noon on Friday, 27 June.
- Staffing – Miss Hutchison made permanent. Mrs Kelly been given a part-time, permanent EYP position. All permanent PSA contracts to continue. Advertisement in for temporary teacher for P7.