



STORNOWAY PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held by VScene

Wednesday 8th September 2021, 7PM

Present:	In Attendance:
Mairi Macmillan (Chair)	Peigi Maclean (Acting Head Teacher)
Rhona Gallagher	Karina Mackay (Depute Head Teacher Early Years)
Sarah Maclean	Donna Macleod (Acting Depute Head Teacher)
Christine Campbell	Anji Macritchie
	Kathryn Morrison
	Cllr. Charlie Nicolson
	Diane Murray
	Bethany Spence
	Susan Macpherson
	Eric Macleod
Apologies:	
Rona Macdonald	Cllr. Gordon Murray
Alex Tearse	Caroline Maciver
Marianne Ross	Roland Engebretsen

	ACTION	LEAD	WHEN
1	Discussion regards structure of School Management Team from August '21 onwards.	Donald A. Macleod	As soon as possible after appointment of Head of School is confirmed.
2	Office bearers to take ID to Bank of Scotland to enable on-line banking set-up.	Sarah Maclean Marianne Ross	As soon as possible
3	PC Current Account and Uniform Account to be aligned.	Hayley Hammond	Ongoing – update to next meeting.
4	Full scoping of school grounds to be undertaken to identify areas for improvement and development.	CnES	As soon as possible
5	School, Comunn nam Parant, Parent Council and Active Schools to meet regards spend of play and learning resources grant funding.	SMT/ Rhona Gallagher/ Sarah Maclean / Anji Macritchie	W/B 13 th Sept 21
6	'Friends of Stornoway Primary': PC to reach out to school community to identify a volunteer or small group to take this forward.	PC	By date of next meeting.
7	Minutes of PC meetings to be uploaded to the school website going forward.	Sarah Maclean / School Office	As soon as possible

8	PC Newsletter to be prepared for Term 1	PC	As soon as possible
9	PC Contact list to be updated	Sarah Maclean/ School Office	Ongoing
10	Fabric & Facilities Group to meet to look at preferred investment project for improving school sports facilities.	Sarah Maclean	W/B 13 th Sept 21
11	Online Raffle to be organised	Rhona Gallagher	Term 1
12	Funding and scoping for poly-crub to be explored	Mairi Macmillan	Update to next meeting.
13	Development of payment link on school website to be explored.	Mairi Macmillan	Update to next meeting.
14	Stornoway Primary Vision 2025 to be explored	Mairi Macmillan / Charlie Nicolson	Update to next meeting.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held 24th March and Matters Arising

The minute of the previous meeting (2 June '21) was proposed by Mairi Macmillan and seconded by Charlie Nicolson as being an accurate record.

Discussion with Education & Children's Services Dept regards future school management structure:

The Education & Children's Services Dept. has intimated that the structure of the School Management Team will be looked at once the Head of School post has been filled. Recruitment to the HoS post is underway. **ACTION 1**

Banking signatories update: PC Office bearers to visit the Bank of Scotland with ID. **ACTION 2**

PC Main & Uniform A/Cs: Mairi and Hayley to look at aligning PC accounts. **ACTION 3**

Uniforms: Mairi reported that the uniform order for the new school order had gone smoothly, arriving in good time and almost all uniforms handed out on collection day.

The school confirmed they have a good stock of pre-worn uniforms in excellent condition.

Full scoping of school grounds to be undertaken to identify areas for improvement and development. CnES to lead on this to support the school with planning for the proposed pitch improvements, poly-crub, play equipment etc... **ACTION 4**

The school have ordered a new cover for the poly-tunnel and a new potting shed, utilising the facilities and resources grant secured in partnership with Comann nam Parant.

The school, Comunn nam Parant and Parent Council agreed to meet w/b 13th September regards spend of the remaining grant. **ACTION 5**

It has been suggested that the '**Friends of Stornoway Primary**' initiative needs an ambassador to take it forward, the PC agreed to reach out to contacts to try and identify someone suitable. **ACTION 6**

Wellbeing & hardship support: Cllr. Charlie Nicolson agreed to take on a regular role as liaison on this matter and noted that Rachel Macdonald had previously indicated she too would be happy to be involved in anything relevant arising within the school.

The new school website is operational, **minutes of PC** meetings can now be uploaded so a link can be shared with parents.

Mairi advised that it was being considered to limit Parent Council Meetings to 1 per term but to up **engagement with families** via a term newsletter and regular bulletins. **ACTIONS 7 & 8**

Update Parent Council contact list in partnership with the school **ACTION 9**

CnaG are operating after-school and lunchtime sessions of extra-curricular activities with GM pupils: these are currently outdoor and have proven popular. It is hoped that with a shift in Covid Guidelines it will soon be able to move these activities inside, especially as the winter weather approaches. It was agreed to discuss parity of English and Gaelic Medium after-school provision when CnP meet with the school and PC w/b 13th Sept.

3. Sub-group Updates

FABRIC & FACILITIES

Representative of the F&F group had a positive meeting with Council Leader Cllr. Roddie Mackay in June to clarify the position of the Comhairle regards budget and timeframe for the proposed improvements at the school pitch:

- Reassurance was given that a commitment to the project is there;
- The school and PC must be clear on exactly what project is desired as once resources are committed to design and mobilisation of the project there will be no opportunity to change direction;
- Currently no cap on what scope of project can be considered, there is always potential for borrowing or external funding sources if the project ambition exceeds Comhairle budgets, however there must be awareness that the bigger the project and higher the budget then likely the longer the delivery time.

Over the summer Comhairle officers were looking at scoping both a standard all-weather surfaced outdoor facility (60m x 40m) and also a covered indoor multi-games arena of the same dimensions. The school and PC have received a brief update from the Senior Education Officer that this work had been completed and will be presented, with estimated costings to the Comhairle in late September. The SEO advised on a couple of important considerations:

- Either option is likely to be subject to price increases due to the current market;
- The surfacing used by all-weather facilities is being phased out and there is a realistic chance that whatever replacement material is introduced will be more costly;
- Because of the specialist surfacing used for such facilities there is a limit to what they can be used for and anything other than organised sports activity is ruled out;
- The covered arena is likely to run in to planning difficulties due to the building height that will be required to support a facility of that size;
- The maintenance commitment for such surfaces is high and will require an annual budget built in as well as looking at a full surface replacement due every 10 years at a cost of £300K.

Due to these potential constraints and challenges, a third option of a yet unspecified facilities improvement at the school – perhaps some sort of gym rebuild or extension - is also suggested for consideration. The Fabric & Facilities Group will meet with the school W/B 13th Sept to look in detail at the three options with a view to the preferred option being put in front of Councillors for approval the following week. **ACTION 10**

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

PC aiming for 1 fundraising event each term this year.

- Term 1: Online Raffle **ACTION 11**
- Term 2: Christmas lights switch on & outdoor winter market
- Term 3: Activity tbc or Online Raffle if Covid restrictions still in place
- Term 4: Treasure Hunt

PC are committed to raising money for a poly-crub, perhaps as part of an outdoor classroom and various funding streams are being explored. **ACTION 12** (linking to ACTIONS 4 & 5)

Creating a donations link on the school website was suggested, allowing 'Friends of Stornoway Primary' to make a contribution to specific campaigns or general funds. **ACTION 13** (linking to ACTIONS 6)

CURRICULUM

A Curriculum Group meeting is due to take place on 6th October, this has already been advertised to families and it is hoped new parents will participate.

The school and nursery are sharing two curriculum themes this session, with a focus on aiding the pupils in adjusting to the impact of the successive lockdowns: Wellbeing & Relationships / Numeracy & Maths. In addition the school have third focus on 'Writing' and the nursery on 'The Outdoor Environment'

4. School Partnership Update Report

GENERAL

- Pupils have settled into the new term extremely well and are engaging positively.
- Pupils are being consulted on learning ideas for the new term and each class is developing a charter and rules, to date these have encouraged excellent behaviour across the school.
- P6 is now an option.
- E.Sgoil continue to support the school and there is an overall emphasis on improving Gaelic oral literacy after lockdown.
- CnaG's activity programme of extra-curricular activities is going well.
- The school are working to develop an entry to the Film G competition this year.
- Active schools are working with classes throughout the school.
- Pupils are being allocated their choice of musical instrument tuition and pipe-band drumming is now an option.

NURSERY

- The new term has started well with the intake of pupils very settled
- The removal of social 'bubbles' has helped greatly, especially with children now able to enjoy the shared outdoor area more freely.
- A dedicated area for GM led activities has been established.

5. Finance Report

There is still a little over £6,700 in the Parent Council account. Since the date of the previous meeting there have been funds in from Free Dress Friday and funds out to cover the cost of the P7 leavers vouchers, the PC prizegiving cup and lollies for Sports Day, this latter item also being supported with a £40 donation from Tesco Stornoway).

AOCB

Caroline Maciver asked for the following to be passed on in her absence: Congratulations to the school on the colourful murals expanding across the school wall, it looks great and fantastic to see the music tuition re-started in school.

Cllr Charlie Nicolson: Suggested the Parent Council work with the school to create a 'Vision 2025'. This would be a document outlining where the school is, what it stands for, key characteristics and where it is going. Highlighting short to longer-term goals and where the school would like to be in 2025. Anji advised there is a template for this available on the Education Scotland website. **ACTION 14**

The next meeting will be the Parent Council AGM and will take place on Tuesday 26th October.