



**Midmill School Parent Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.00pm**  
**Community Room, Midmill School**

Agenda Item	Areas Discussed	Action
1. Present	Suzanne Brittain, Susan Brown, Paulina Burnett, Becca Cruickshank, Megan Davidson, Katie Finch, Neil MacKintosh, Vicky McBain, Laura McConnachie, Laura McMillan, Emma Ritchie, Elaine Walker, Russell Whyte.	
2. Apologies	Katrina Allan, David Angus, Samantha Bull, Roisin Burns, Claire Galley, Margarita Lilaysromant, Laura Leslie, Vicky McCallum, Divyamalar Ramamurthy, Nicola Sutherland, Ruth Walker, Alyson Whyte, Kevin Williamson.	
3. Matters arising from the previous minutes	Minutes from the meeting held on the Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September approved by Emma Ritchie and seconded by Laura McConnachie.	
4. Chairperson's Report	<p>Claire sends her apologies that she is unable to make the meeting. Current Vice-Chair Vicky McCallum is also unavailable. Laura McConnachie has agreed to Chair the meeting.</p> <p>Delighted to report that the pedestrian crossing on Gauchhill Road is now complete. Some thought that it would be a pelican crossing with traffic lights instead of the zebra crossing that has been installed, but it is well received.</p> <p>Laura McConnachie has recently emailed Councillor Glen Reid regarding installing a cycle path on Carnie Road leading to the school, ideally widening the path. Previously Glen had brought this up with Aberdeenshire Council who advised it would be considered at their next planning meeting. Parent Council would like an update as the current route is hazardous. Awaiting a response.</p>	Laura McConnachie



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At the AGM there was discussion regarding the school meals, particularly variety of choice and portion size. Has there been any findings following the recent survey regarding school meals sent to Parents/Children?

Katie has enquired with Catering Services but is waiting for a response. Her understanding is they are stretched due to strikes and short staffed and are waiting for the findings to be analysed.

Library open event went really well – thanks to Elaine, Julie and Mr Murphy.

Following discussions within the council regarding the purchase of suncream for use in the nursery, is the council happy to support the nursery or should a separate fundraising group be created? For instance, they would like help to purchase equipment such as sensory items, stacking stones, and indoor climbing frames – currently the children want to climb on blocks that are not fit for purpose.

The consensus is that the nursery is part of the school and therefore part of this Parent Council. Our fundraising events are well attended by nursery families, and we would like to do more to encourage nursery parents to join. We would be happy to fund some equipment.

Concerns raised from committee members regarding foul language being used in the playground, when walking home from school and within WhatsApp groups.

Katie advised that in school children know the rules regarding swearing and if they break this, they are given an instant think sheet. Some, however, do not agree that swearing is an issue and it is not supported out of school. A lot of work going on with pupils to reinforce appropriate language in the playground. Paul AFC Community coach is developing leadership groups/skills in class, teaching how to engage and lead games. Pupils referee games to understand how difficult it is. The aim is to show a different viewpoint when managing groups to hopefully instigate a change in attitude through understanding.

Katie would like the support of the Parent Council to reiterate that swearing is not appropriate within school. Our Community values could be reiterated via a Facebook post, reminding parents to discuss with children that it is not acceptable to swear in school and how to behave

Facebook post by PC



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	<p>appropriately. Pupil Council may speak at assembly regarding this. The thought is if the message isn't just coming from Katie, the message will be reinforced and have a greater impact.</p>	
<p>5. Head Teacher's Report</p>	<p><b>Priority 1 - Attainment in Writing and Numeracy</b>  Miss Baillie out of class 1 afternoon per week Term 2 to work on developing more High-Quality Assessments linked with benchmarks.  All staff attending Big Maths training during Nov Inservice Days.  Live lesson in Numeracy this session following Literacy one's last session.  Questionnaires linked to homework almost ready to go for parents, pupils and staff. Only one parent has responded re the Homework Working Group mentioned in Midmill News.</p> <p><b>Priority 2 - Review Curriculum Rationale in line with Vision, Values and Aims and Development of a Relationship Policy</b>  Mrs Mulligan has been out of class this term one afternoon per week to develop relationship policy, this will be discussed with staff. We would love input from the Parent Community so if anyone is interested, please let me know.  Also discussed with staff introducing FUN31 for a Friday afternoon, pupils have been consulted on this, linked to Article 31 – right to play and to support with relationship building within zones and across classes.  Menti meter of Family Values across the School Community – responses are coming in, I have shared these with you. The larger words are ones that have been mentioned more often. If you have not done this yet, I would really value your input.  Application of RRSA Silver Award is in.  AFC Community Coach is going to be doing more targeted support next term with specific groups of pupils and there will be an after-school option for P4 and P5 pupils.</p> <p><b>Priority 3 – Use of Play and Outdoor learning to improvement engagement and development of skills for life</b>  Ms Kasim engaging in professional enquiry linked to Play and Pupil wellbeing.</p>	



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Play working group has been developed within school, hoping to go and visit other schools and observe how play pedagogy is used.  
Metaskills Framework being used to review our Midmill Skills and develop/adopt as a skills progression for Midmill School.

**Update**

Red TV

Red TV will be in School on Friday working with P6/7 pupils to support intergenerational work and STEM. There will be some walking football with members of the walking football community and one of the Community Coaches will be leading STEM work in school. Pupils will be split and engage in one of the two activities if we have consent.  
Lendrick Muir went well pupils seemed to have a great time.

Pick Up

Would you be happy with P1-5 parents going round into the Playground beside the Social Staircase not near classroom windows to pick up your child.

P4 and P5 pupils do not need to wait for a Parent to wave they can just leave with their teacher and find their parent and P1-3 can do what they do round beside the shelters but just within the space of the playground instead? P6 and P7 can continue to leave from their classroom doors and can wait for parents in that area if their parents are driving them home and have gone round into the playground. Preferred to not have parents in the main playground area as it is distracting to pupils and has potential for a security concern.

Parent Council agreed this could be a good option and would like to try.

**Visit from Rood Signs**

Just need to send revised Artwork for the parking safety signs as the A4 drafts we have would not work. Idea is to have drawings and message across the middle. Quotes have been received.



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	<p><b>AV System – 316 Events</b>  They are going to come and run the sound for us on during the Christmas concert for a small cost so we can see what is available and how it could be used and stored and what it would cost. Still looking for a solution with the tannoy system.</p> <p><b>Dyslexia Awareness</b>  Thank you for your support with this we raised £260.46. We are hoping to use this plus our Sfl budget for the year which is £235 to create Literacy Toolkits for each room. These will support any learners with Dyslexic tendencies but also pupils who require additional support with literacy tasks.</p> <p><b>Christmas concert</b>  Plan to have a school Christmas concert instead of a show this year where the whole school perform with afternoon and evening shows on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.</p> <p><b>Homework Focus Group</b>  Katie would like to establish a parent focus group regarding homework and is looking for volunteers. Ideally would like a wide range of opinions as some parents want lots of homework, some want none, and some in between. Currently only one parent has volunteered. Meetings may be during the school day though. Paulina Burnett may be able to attend, if not during the school day. Katie has information and research she can share with the group. Looking for a range of options, and not too big a group</p>	
<p>6. Treasurer’s Report</p>	<p>Money steadily coming in for pumpkin patch tickets and from stall holders at the Christmas Fair.</p> <p>Recent expenses of £330</p> <p>Current balance is £5,132</p>	



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	<p>With Lesley no longer part of the council, it is agreed that Laura McConnachie will replace Lesley as signatory on the bank account. Russell and Vicky McCallum to remain as other signatories.</p> <p>Russell suggested that as the balance is healthy, it could be a good opportunity to utilise the funds. Suggestions of painting some designs for games in the playground, such as 4 square. Possible to discuss with Pupil Council.</p>	Katie Finch												
<p>7. Election of Office Bearers</p>	<p>At the AGM the Ordinary Members that were in attendance were voted in. Now we need to appoint the Office Bearer roles.</p> <p>Emma Ritchie volunteers to be Chairperson – Laura McConnachie propose, Elaine Walker second</p> <p>Susan Brown volunteers to be Vice-chairperson – Laura McConnachie propose, Suzanne Brittain second</p> <p>Neil MacKintosh volunteers to be Secretary – Russell Whyte propose, Laura McMillan second</p> <p>Russell Whyte to continue to be Fundraiser – Neil MacIntosh propose, Laura McMillan second</p> <p>Laura McConnachie to be Lead Fundraiser – Elaine Walker propose, Emma Ritchie second</p> <p>The Ordinary Members not at the AGM can be voted in now. Those not in attendance today have informed a Council member of their intention to remain.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="651 1262 1839 1409"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ordinary Member</th> <th>Proposed By</th> <th>Seconded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Katrina Allan</td> <td>Elaine Walker</td> <td>Laura McConnachie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Suzanne Brittain</td> <td>Laura McConnachie</td> <td>Elaine Walker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paulina Burnett</td> <td>Laura McConnachie</td> <td>Elaine Walker</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ordinary Member	Proposed By	Seconded	Katrina Allan	Elaine Walker	Laura McConnachie	Suzanne Brittain	Laura McConnachie	Elaine Walker	Paulina Burnett	Laura McConnachie	Elaine Walker	
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8. Class Representatives' Update	<p>P1 Ruth Walker previously advised she is happy to be P1 Class Rep  P2/3 Laura McConnachie  P3 Vicky McBain  P4 Aly Whyte  P5 Nicola Sutherland  P6/7M Laura McMillan  P6/7W Elaine Walker</p> <p>Class Reps are to set up a Whatsapp group for the parents of class members. A QR code for joining the group should be sent to the class teacher for including in the class newsletter. Class Reps should introduce themselves to the parents as their point of contact for raising any matters with the council.</p>	All class reps																																



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<p>9. Fundraising Update</p>	<p>The fundraising group is busy with plans for the forthcoming Pumpkin Patch event. Plans are going well. Thanks to all that have volunteers to help on the day, but more volunteers are required. Neil or his wife Sian will help. So will Emma Ritchie.</p> <p>Storyteller Diane Peers has been booked for the event to tell Halloween stories. We were able to apply to funding by completing an application, which we were successful, so will only pay a reduced rate of £50.</p> <p>Majority of the tickets sold already - 118 tickets out of a max 150. It was a sold-out event last year, and group are confident there will be more sold.</p> <p>It was questioned how the 150 Pumpkins are sourced. Ordering in bulk from a pumpkin farm from researched, but due to delivery costs it is not cost effective. Therefore, the Fundraising team go to local supermarkets and buy over the course of many trips.</p> <p>Plans are going well for the Christmas Fair on 9<sup>th</sup> December, all stalls are sold. It doesn't clash with Kintore School as we take a year about of running these events. There will be a Santa's grotto.</p>	
<p>10. AOCB</p>	<p>On behalf of the P7 parents, Susan thanks the staff for the Lendrick Muir trip, all the children had a great time. However, it was disappointing that there appeared to be a lack of photos of Midmill children in the page shared with Kinellar children. As the trip was attended by both Midmill and Kinellar children, information could not be shared on the schools Twitter page as may feature children from a different school. Therefore a shared, closed group was required. It seemed the photos were very heavy focused on the Kinellar children and especially as parents have no contact with their children, they would like to see more pictures of them when they are away.</p>	





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Neil has suggested the following fundraising ideas:

- Midmill Milk Run – teams, including adults, make their own carts to race down the hill to Midmill
- bicycle workshop- basic checks and teach maintenance.

Concern also raised regarding WhatsApp groups being created by older pupils, however the guidance for use is age 16+. The school discourages WhatsApp group chats, as messages are sent at inappropriate times, saying inappropriate things. There is tendency to say things they wouldn't usually to each other and then there is a fall out at school over what is said. It is creating disruptions during school as fallouts that have happened out with school have to be dealt with. Should an information evening be held? Police liaison officer comes in to deal with P6/7 to talk about social media. Could they speak with parents – previously NSPCC, Police, local organisations have helped. The NSPCC have a lot of good information available for parents. Paulina has a lot of good resources from work that can be shared.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November @ 7.00pm in the Community Room at Midmill School.

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm