

Minutes For New Deer Primary School Parent Council and PTA AGM 4th October 2016

Present

Wilma Mutch (HT), Karen Osterberg (Chair), Karen Duncan (Treasurer), Jillian Eunson, Leesa Cumming, Dougie Coull, John Kinnmond, Rob Lodge, Nikki Elrick, Natasha Flanagan, Elsie MacRae (PTA Secretary), Linda Gray (PTA Chair), Joyce Mannion, Ginny Beard, Amanda Gill, Fiona McIntosh, Leith Newbould, Jane Keenan, Pamela Thomson

Apologies

Gill Lodge, Nicola McCouaig (PTA Treasurer), Jodie Dawson (PC Secretary), Helen Brown, Rachael Dow (Teacher Rep PC), Emma Walker (Teacher Rep PTA), Nicole Bean (Nursery Rep PTA)

The meeting opened at 7pm with Karen O welcoming everyone. Minutes taken by Joyce Mannion.

The minutes of the AGM on 1st October 2015 were approved as accurate. They were approved by Jillian Eunson and seconded by Rob Lodge.

Matters Arising

Grant Keenan has resigned from the Parent Council as he no longer has any children at the school.

Chairperson's Report

It has been a very busy year for me working so closely with the school and a real privilege to be part of trying to make things better. Working with the Community, our pupils and their families brings everyone together and makes everyone feel that they are part of our children's wellbeing. It's really important that families are involved in their children's schools and this is one of the best ways to do it.

I'm pleased to say that we didn't have many issues brought to us this year but those that we worked on were:

Dogs in the school grounds – the Pupil Council worked together to produce signs which are to be put up around the school grounds. Our ex-pupil Signe is making them as we speak. We also asked families not to bring dogs into the school grounds and everyone has been very understanding.

School dinners – Wilma has created a parent focus group to help iron out any issues.

Speeding and parking on Johnson Cottages – this has been a difficult issue to tackle as we can mostly only appeal to people's good nature. I approached the Council through our local Councillor Norman Smith who has been really helpful. We couldn't legally reduce the speed limit below 20mph and we can't stop people from short term parking. We changed our approach to appealing for

Children Crossing signs instead. After a lot of persistence it seems the Council now agree we can have these in place in the lane. We'll keep you updated!

School toilets – Wilma is really concerned about the state of the toilets and asked the Parent Council for help. We surveyed the pupils and our families for their opinions and used this information to approach the Authority. They have now agreed that our toilets need updating and they have asked for a prioritized assessment of their condition.

Buddy Bench

The Buddy Bench is to help children who are alone at playtimes to find a friend to play with. You sit on the bench and someone will come and join them and invite you to play with them. One of our mums thought this was a great idea and her two daughters raised money by themselves entirely for this project. Yasemine and Olivia did a sponsored horse ride and donated the money to the school. The school was approached by Peterhead Prison who produce wooden garden goods with their inmates as part of a rehabilitation scheme. Sensing an opportunity to make good in two areas at once we took them up and commissioned them to make the buddy bench. The only problem was it took almost a year for them to do it! And then they donated it. Sadly Yasemine's family moved away before they could see it but they have said that we can keep the money and we shall use it to replace the picnic benches in the garden. I would like to thank them for their kindness and enthusiasm to make the buddy bench happen.

On a Thanking note I would like to say thank you to our Janitor Astrid, for all her hard work keeping everything working, the Cleaners for their endless hard work (sorry about the mud!) and our canteen staff for all the food (sorry about the random vegetables from the garden in your fridge). Thank you to the PSA's, to Mrs Bruce who left last year after many years with us and the parents and residents who come in every week and run the library, help with eco-group, cooking, school clubs and after school clubs. This is all impossible without you and we are really lucky to have you all. Thank you to all our teachers and a special thank you to our inspirational and completely devoted Head Teacher, Wilma, who has made this school great.

I think it is really important to have fresh eyes and new voices every year to keep the committees invigorated and I hope that you will take this opportunity to join in and be part of a special time in our children's lives. I wish the new committees great success and smooth sailing for next year.

PTA Chairperson Report

As some of you know the PTA plays a large part in the fundraising for the school, and without the PTA the school and children would be without so many extras. The biggest fundraisers we have had this year was the Burns supper, £711 and the Spring Fayre £1305.80. The Clothing Bank, which we started in May 2015 has raised £1548.80.

Here are a few things of the things the children receive with the money raised...

Accelerated reading scheme – costs £752.50 a year. Without PTA funding the school could not afford to pay for this wonderful reading scheme.
Buses for Class trips - £1391.89. These are important as they enhance classroom learning.
IPad covers - £179.83
Class white boards - £471.00
P7 Leavers gifts
Sports Day snack
Thank you gifts for teachers who go on the residential trips, giving up their time to give the children different experiences.

We need more volunteers. I know it can be hard work at times but it is rewarding and good fun too.
I would just like to thank everyone for all their hardwork over the past year as it's all about teamwork.

Head Teachers Report

Mrs Mutch started by thanking parents, PC and the PTA for their support and help over the last year.
Mrs Mutch discussed the new school year, which will include lots of dyslexia friendly teaching practices and outdoor learning. The Improvement Plan for the forthcoming year has yet to be completed but will be finished by the start of next term. Copies of the Improvement Plan will be available to parents.
Each teacher has taken on an area of learning and will lead the relevant staff meeting.
HWB is to be led by Mrs Mutch focusing on emotional and mental health.
Technologies - Miss Baker
Outdoor Learning - Mrs Baxter
SFL - Miss Paterson
All children are to be learning English plus two other languages. French will be one but to date a decision hasn't been made about what other language will be taught. Each class may learn a different language. All the teachers are attending training in this regard.
Mrs Mutch also outlined the new Aberdeenshire Council Absence and Lateness Policy. A copy of which will be emailed to parents.

Treasurers Report PTA

The books were audited by Sue Foster. She is happy that the accounts are true, however at the time of the meeting she wasn't in a position to sign them off.

As of 01/10/16
Business Instant Access Reserve A/C £1235.53
Treasurers A/C £3811.24

Treasurers Report PC

Opening balance 23/09/15		£647.64
Income		
Interest 29/09/2015	0.06	
30/12/2015	0.06	
30/03/2016	0.06	
29/06/2016	0.08	0.26

		647.90
Expenditure		
AGM 08/11/2015 (note 1)	34.84	
Food for Thought 16/05/2016 (note 2)	30.00	

		64.84
Closing balance 15/09/2016		£583.06

Note 1 Wine and nibbles for AGM

Note 2 Food for Thought – Hamper for Allison Bruce

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Once again this will be Sue Foster

Amendments to PC and PTA Constitution

K Osterberg proposed that future AGMs will take place in June. All agreed to this.

SPTC Insurance

K Osterberg proposed upgrading the insurance policy to include outside stall holders. Everyone agreed.

Change of address for Bank Statements

K Osterberg proposed that bank statements be sent to the school. All agreed.

Appointment of Committee Members

New PC committee for 16/17

Pamela Thompson, Joyce Mannion, Jodie Dawson, George Beaumont, Jillian Eunson, Amanda Gill, Leesa Cumming, Sarah Bruce, Jane Keenan, Rob Lodge, Nikki Elrick, Fiona McIntosh, Natasha Flanagan, John Kinmond, Dougie Coull, Linda Gray, Helen Brown, Karen Duncan, Leith Newbould

New PTA Committee for 16/17

Karen Duncan, Pamela Thompson, Joyce Mannion, Jodie Dawson, Amanda Gill, Leesa Cumming, Fiona McIntosh, Ginny Beard, Natasha Flanagan, Linda Gray, Leith Newbould, Emma Ritchie, Gill Lodge

It was agreed to hold a meeting on Wednesday 2 November to discuss and fill the respective Committee Posts.

AOB

There was no other business.

K Osterberg thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.