

**MEETING OF
ACHAHOISH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2018

ACHAHOISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

7.00 pm

AGENDA

1. WELCOME - Mr Alan Stewart
2. APOLOGIES
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
4. MATTERS ARISING
5. FINANCE REPORT
6. HEAD TEACHER'S UPDATE
7. UPDATE ON PRINCIPLE TEACHER ARRANGEMENTS
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Minutes of the meeting of Achahoish Primary School Parent Council held in
Achahoish School on Monday 12th November 2018 at 19.00**

PRESENT:

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|---|------------------|
| Mr A Stewart (Chair) | Mrs N MacEachern |
| Mrs L Blake (Head Teacher) | Mrs L Johnstone |
| Mrs A Graham (Acting Principal Teacher) | Mr M Johnstone |
| Ms J Preece | Mr T Jackson |

WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered a special welcome to Mrs Blake, appointed as Head Teacher in the new Shared Headship with Clachan PS (where LB was already in post). AS also expressed Parent Council's thanks to Mrs Firth and advised that he had acknowledged this in a letter to her.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr Jonny Graham and Mrs Marcela Riquelme.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: of 4th June 2018 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising that weren't covered on the meeting agenda.

FINANCES: JP is in the process of arranging access to the TSB account, will transfer the funds to Clydesdale Bank and will advise A&B Council of the new bank account details, to ensure receipt of future support payments.

JP reported status of funds: £467 with Clydesdale Bank and £354 with TSB.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT: LB spoke to her report (attached), which covered the following:

1. Staffing;
2. Book exchange;
3. Christmas arrangements;
4. Garden (acknowledged that JP had done so much in helping to develop the garden space and to foster the children's interest in maintaining the garden. Parents support will be required for garden works from time to time);
5. School improvement plan.

APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPLE TEACHER: Following advertisement, three candidates will be interviewed for this permanent position. AS will try to make arrangements to attend as PC representative.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Next meeting provisionally arranged for 28th January 2019 at the earlier than normal time of 18.00 in Achahoish Primary School.

Mrs Blake's Bit

Thanks to Mrs Firth for her work and wishing her all the best in retirement.

Staffing

- I began the new Shared Headship on Nov 1st.
- Anna Graham will remain as PT until Dec 21st
- The Principal Teacher role has been advertised and we have three candidates to take to interview. When we have an agreed date for interview I would ask a member of the PC to attend. This is a permanent position so will be a full panel interview.
- PT role is a promoted position will have a leadership role within the school
- All questions taken first to PT
- If you would like to speak to HT please phone the office and make an appointment
- Cleaner/ janitor advert- no candidates
- This has been re advertised with closing date 27th.
- Until this time we have a problem of no cleaner janitor. Anyone interested would need to join the supply bank, but would not need to wait for PVG if working outside of children attending. Position is 9.5hrs a week.
- Catering manager is still absent, the role is currently being filled by Judy who is doing a fantastic job *(long-term)*

Book exchange

- In keeping with green flag eco school principles we will reuse and recycle books with our book exchange bookcases at the front door. *for the community eventually*

Christmas arrangements

- Please see dates flyer given out

- Simple sandwiches.

Garden

- See Jackys ideas sheet

School Improvement Plan

- As part of our school Improvement Plan I will be producing action points to share with parents. Point one is to find a shared idea of our vision values and aims for the school.
- Vision Values and Aims- please use the post its to contribute to our planning
- I will collate ideas and review the SIP before next meeting
- Action points will be shared at PC meetings but will be on the website
- I hope to use the pc meeting to share our progress in school improvement

I have worked with Mrs Firth during the last couple of years to use the garden for learning and playing. These are some of the things we've managed to achieve:

- Create butterfly garden
- Build polytunnel
- Garden club (4 sessions around springtime)
- Move water supply closer to tunnel.
- Grow crops in tunnel, it was late on when we started this year so mainly salad crops, Mizuna, mustard leaves, rocket, lettuce, radishes, courgettes (far too many) and tomatoes.
- Early and main crop potatoes in open ground
- A few sessions during school time. i.e. planting/lifting potatoes, sowing seeds etc. Talking about some of the trees.

We had discussed but not planned doing the following during the rest of 2018/2019

- Start working through RHS scheme for school gardens
<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/school-gardening-awards> there are 5 stages, we've done most of the requirements already, there's about £450 worth of garden vouchers up for grabs and I'm happy to provide the evidence for the stages.
- Stage 5 of the above does mean we need to involve the community, we talked about an open day in June 2019, sell produce/plants (propagation would have to start now if we were to still do this), create some literature for people to read about the history of the garden and the trees/plants..lots of fun facts. Kilberry inn have offered to take produce for a donation towards buying seed.
- Possibly create hornbeam tunnel for kids to play in. We had a willow tunnel but it was removed this year as the maintenance was too involved and time consuming (I've yet to see one that still works successfully after 10 years), however the children loved playing in it, (they are very cross that it was taken away!) Hornbeam would be simpler to maintain but takes longer to achieve the desired shape (up to 3 years). It would have to be done in the winter and materials would have to be costed.
- Build picnic bench with kids (I'd love to do it with the girls!), could get timber locally. Peter quelch has a mobile mill in Achahoish.
- There is much potential to do some soil/plant science and geography, looking at countries of origin of the trees.

These have been some of the things I'm working on

- Reduce maintenance, trying to simplify the layout, make grass-cutting more efficient.
- Create maintenance schedule.
- Composting all waste materials.
- Thinking about the sustainability of the garden, always thinking ahead.
- Plant idents. History - as some trees have been donated by ex- pupils and staff.

Some of the problems/issues

- Time! I can't waste time as far too busy.
- The bigger picture. Managing greenspaces in schools, there is money to look after/clean the building but not the outdoor classroom.
- Water supply would be easier if it was nearer the tunnel.

- Watering crops during term-time and holidays. I did it last summer, so did Mr Firth. Alternative is to clear out tunnel space before summer hols. Look at irrigation systems/ seep hoses/lay flat tubing.
- Budget, we usually beg, borrow and I steal but it would be good to know what is possible.
- Food waste, a lot of the produce can end up on the compost heap or rotting away (some waste is inevitable), it needs a bit of discussion about ways of preventing this.
- There is an area behind the Rosa Rugosa which houses the septic tank (fenced off area), it contains a lot of self-seeded sycamore, it is not maintained by council, I have sprayed it off but feel the council should take some responsibility.
- Pond... The wildlife pond was amazing but it had to be fenced for health and safety. The design is a disaster, access is very dangerous, it's difficult to use it for learning. I did draw up a plan for Mrs Firth showing how some of the fencing can be removed and extended to create a safer environment for learning. There was some talk about this being paid for, school budget?? Basically I don't have a clue about the outcome but I do have a copy of the drawing if you'd like it. Pete Creech might help with this, I think he is coming in on 14th Nov.
- Health and safety, I can RA with my own work, not sure how this works with schools and volunteering?
- Rabbits
- Shed is getting a bit dodgy, could do with some maintenance.