 Ballater School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting 1st March 2021

**Present:** Lilias Lovie (Chair), Kate McKenzie-Wilson (Vice Chair), Clare Whitehead (Secretary), Louise Duckworth (Head Teacher), Julie Cruickshank (teacher), Heather Davidson (teacher), Jackie Beaton (teacher), Vicki Smith, Elaine Fraser, Carrie Jackson, Vicky Clark, Lorraine Wildblood

1. **Welcome**

Clare Whitehead welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Gemma Dey & Natasha Pawlukiewicz

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of Monday 18th January meeting were approved.

1. **Chair’s Report**

**2021 School Calendars**

Lilias thanked Vicky Clark for all her hard work getting the calendars ready. The calendars have now been distributed to those who ordered them.

**Aberdeenshire Food Fund**

The deadline to use the money from the Aberdeenshire Food Fund has been extended to the end of June.

* **Recipe of the week**

The organisers of the recipe of the week (Kate, Elaine & Vicky) were thanked for all their hard work putting the recipes together. There was discussion about how feedback could be gathered; Lilias suggested using ‘Junior’ Rate My Plate to encourage people to post pictures of the recipes. Mrs Duckworth questioned why the uptake of the recipe packs was quite low, were there barriers that stop people signing up for them? It was discussed whether the recipe packs would continue after this block is completed. Elaine said it was too much for just her and Vicky to handle on their own after Kate leaves. It was decided to stop the recipes once all pupils return to school and move on to the healthy snacks instead. The recipe packs may be started again next winter.

* **Healthy snacks**

Lilias went to Costco and Tesco last week and has stocked up on healthy snacks that can be handed out.

* **Breakfast Club initiative**

There is also the Breakfast Club initiative which won’t run in school as it has done in previous years. Lilias suggested handing out ‘breakfast bags’ with items for pupils to take home as this would avoid many of the issues around Covid regulations. Elaine suggested putting out a parent survey to see what items they would like to see for breakfast.

**AP Lilias, Elaine and Vicki to put together a survey.**

L ilias recently met Gillian Ingram and had a discussion re the memorial area for Mrs Cowe. It was suggested it would be nice to put in a wooden memorial plaque there which Gillian would make and donate. It was agreed to take her up on this offer.

* **Hygiene course**

5 volunteers are still needed by end of March for the food and hygiene course. Elaine and Lorraine volunteered.

* **Gardening Club – equipment**

Lilias looking to purchase the gardening equipment (children’s gardening gloves, plant pots, water buckets etc) during March in preparation of the gardening club starting again when the weather improves.

**Outside Learning Initiative: wooden gazebo**

The gazebo has been purchased from Deeside Log cabins with a saving of £546. Wood chips are still needed. Steven Clark is going to put the gazebo up, he estimates it will take 2 weekends. Lilias asked if the pupils would like to name the gazebo, Mrs Duckworth agreed this would be fine. Mrs Duckworth asked about seating, Lilias is going to see if Steven can build fixed wooden benches which are attached to the side panels. (Update since meeting: Stephen has agreed to build the benches and will work out how best to do this).

**Ballater Pantry**

Jo Croll has set up a group to reduce food waste. It will be run as a pantry not a foodbank. She is looking for volunteers for anyone who would like to get involved. Mrs Higgins is the school rep for the initiative.

**Active Schools**

Once all pupils have returned to school Lilias is going to contact Shona Park to see if she will start up some after school activities in Ballater eg gymnastics.

1. **Head Teacher’s Report**

All pupils will return to school on 15th March. Staff that have already returned to the school have reported a positive experience. Social skills amongst pupils have needed some work and both staff and pupils have been very tired. Staff have been given the option to take part in lateral flow testing.

A mannequin has been donated to Ballater from Debenhams and the school has been asked to give it a name and do some road safety sessions for pupils around it. The location of the mannequin may be somewhere along Tullich straight.

The Nursery Care Inspectorate has finished the nursery inspection which was carried out virtually over the course of several months. The results were very favourable for the nursery with many areas of inspection receiving “good” or even “very good”.

The apple tree in the car park is possibly dying or dead and the idea of pupils doing some tree planting was discussed. Mrs Duckworth asked if the Parent Council would like to support this by supplying trees to plant. This would tie in with the outdoor learning initiative. It was agreed by the Parent Council that they would financially support this idea. Kate said the gardening fund money could be used towards this.

Another idea from Mrs Duckworth is to do something to mark the past year as it has been so unusual. She suggested making another wall of tiles. The last one was made for the school’s 50th anniversary and is still up and often looked at by pupils and staff. It could go in the library and could be done before Easter after everyone is back in school. It was agreed this was a good idea and Vicky said her husband Steven could price tiles.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

The treasurer’s report was done by Lilias as Gemma wasn’t present.

Outgoings: The gazebo has cost £3360, although £2000 will be paid back from grants. The calendars cost £324. Food packs cost £121.98 and £129 (amount yet to be claimed from PC) has been spent on healthy snacks so far.

The bank balance is £3305.98

1. **AOCB**

Kate is leaving in 2 weeks time and therefore a replacement Vice Chair is needed. Noone volunteered.

2 more helpers are needed for the cooking group as it is too much for Vicki and Elaine to do on their own. Lorraine and Carrie offered to help out when they can but not on a regular basis due to work commitments.

Kate also said someone would need to replace her as gardening group volunteer. Carrie said her partner Cammie Fife has offered to do it, and Mrs Duckworth said she could be the in school coordinator once she is allowed to return to school, and it will probably be after the summer holidays before the gardening gets started.

Lilias and Mrs Duckworth both gave their thanks to Kate for all her help and hard work as Vice Chair and wished her well for the future.

**Next Meeting**

**Monday 29th March, 7pm**