

Stirling Council Parent Council

Note of a meeting held on 14 March 2011 at 7pm in the School

Attendance: Daisy Aiken, Gavin Scott, Linda Watson, Peter Langley, Linda Farquhar, Neil Ross, Robert Clafferty, Christine Paterson, Eve Keepax, Pat Scullion, Trudi Togneri (pt), Fiona Kerr (pt), Mrs Wilson

Apologies: Richard Norman, Scott McGregor, Sybil Lang

1. Minutes of meeting held on 31 January: Approved. It was noted that the Charities Quiz will be held on 24 March and the Trash Fashion Show on 23 March.

2. Eco Update: Mrs Togneri provided an update on the activities of the Eco Club. The Fair Trade (FT) Fortnight had been well supported and was very successful, with consideration being given to running a FT Month; SHS has worked closely with Cambusbarron Primary School (CPS) to develop safe routes to school and CPS has also been successful in offering free cycling lessons that included bike checks and road safety advice. The recycling bag had raised £108 which was used to buy a card making machine for use in the art department; the rescued saplings are well established on the roof. The Club is maintaining the butterfly garden in King's Park and has been invited to carry out a habitat survey. Amongst other activities, the school's electricity usage is being monitored and littering is being discouraged by the promotion of a 'golden bin' model.

3. Finance: the balance remains at £260.65

4. Head Teacher's Report: Mrs Scullion reported on the main school activities which included S2 and 4 Form tutor interviews in preparation for course choices; swimming gala, a visit from a holocaust survivor which had been arranged by one of the pupils; a proposed survey of schoolbags being undertaken by a parent as part of a research project and a practice expedition for Duke of Edinburgh participants and the senior prize giving (in April). Proposals have been received for the development of the pond at a cost of approximately £7000 – this will be funded by the funds raised by the Aqua Run and Dumyat race. It was proposed that additional seating should be provided around the pond at an estimated cost of £6000 and it was suggested that this might be a suitable project for the Parent Council to focus on for fund raising activities. There was some concern about the estimated cost and Eve suggested sources of alternative quotes but it was agreed that this was an appropriate project for the PC fund raising.

5. Pupil Report: Daisy and Gavin reported on the key events and highlighted the visit of Rudi Oppenheimer (who had survived the holocaust). The school had been visited by Nepalese educationalists who are reviewing their state education system and the school is being used as the location for the filming of "Lost" about cyber-bullying. A lunch had been held for the senior pupils who had given blood and it

was agreed that this was a very good initiative and that the potential of visits to the school by the Blood Transfusion Service should be explored to make it easier for people to donate and raise awareness. The proposed new prefect's blazer was displayed and it was agreed that this should be adopted, especially as it represented a significant saving on cost.

6. Restorative Practice: Fiona Kerr described the school's development of restorative practices in respect of discipline and support. Several staff have been trained in this approach which will be gradually adopted throughout the school. Training will be cascaded throughout the staff group and it was agreed that it will be important to ensure that the needs of parents are accommodated in the programme. Mrs Scullion explained that this technique is changing the way the school looks at relationships between staff and students and emphasised the importance of a reflective approach that is implemented at the right time. Experience suggests that it is a very powerful technique – but it was acknowledged that there can sometimes be some uncertainty over the commitment to the 'sincere apology' which is at the centre of the approach. It was agreed that this is a welcome development that parents are interested in finding out more about and in monitoring its application and success.

7. Fund Raising: Richard Norman had circulated a report from the group that had met since the last meeting. It was agreed that the idea of providing refreshments at school events should be pursued, although this should only be at events where there wouldn't be catering otherwise. It was agreed that the school show on 22 June would be a good test opportunity and Christine Paterson and Linda Farquhar agreed to help then. It was agreed that the other ideas identified were worth pursuing and that the existing school calendar should be used as the basis for planning.

8. Correspondence: attention was drawn to the Parents as Partners event arranged for 26 March at Dunblane Hydro

9. AOB: Class visit dates (to enable members of the Parent Council to visit the school during class time) will be advised as soon as possible. The **P7 Induction** week is planned for 15-17 June, with the parents' event being held on 17 June from 1.45pm – it was agreed that this was a good opportunity for the Parent Council to be promoted and volunteers were requested to attend. Daisy suggested that a Parent Council **notice board** in school would be a good idea: it was agreed that the PC area of the **website** should be developed; it was confirmed that **lunch-time study** classes are being held to support SQA candidates in school.

10. Date of Next Meeting: 9 May at 7pm