

## NEWBIGGING PARENT COUNCIL

### MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012 AT 6.30PM

Present: Kathryn Foot, Janet Crozier, Paul Donaldson, Jody Gray, Diane Melvin, Lorna Rogers, Ashley Thomson, Linda Rogers, Heather Watson, Joyce Gray, Anne Bruce

Apologies: Cate Ritchie

Kathryn Foot welcomed everyone to the first official meeting. She advised that 2 previous members had left as their children had moved to other schools and suggested that, as in the past, a small gift and card be sent in thanks. Kathryn will organise.

Kathryn

#### **Maggie's Centre**

The fundraising event held in September in aid of Maggie's Centre raised £406. It was decided that all money raised should be donated to Maggie's centre as that was the information on the flier. Anne will arrange for an official presentation of the cheque to be made with photos in the press. The cost of trophies/shields in memory of Elaine Yeaman and Ruth Cave will come out of Parent Council funds.

Anne

#### **Communication**

The use of easier communication was positively discussed – paper notes are often lost at the bottom of school bags and not all parents access their emails every day. A website is in the pipelines and Linda Rogers explained why it takes time to set up a website as it has to sit within the Angus Council firewall. Once set up, Paul Donaldson and Piers Foot can help with links and maintenance. PC members can also access information on the Parent Council blog site which has useful links, eg Parent Zone, as well as advice and information about groups. The possibility of a school page on Facebook was also looked at. This would be a closed group page that could only be accessed by parents and could be used for posting reminders about events etc until the website is up and running. Kathryn to look into.

Paul

Kathryn

#### **School Questionnaires**

At the time of the meeting, 5 questionnaires had been handed in. The questionnaire is quite lengthy, however the more information the school gets from parents the more can be achieved. All members were reminded to hand theirs in and encourage others to do so.

#### **School Handbook**

Kathryn and Paul attended a meeting with Linda about the new school handbook which will be produced under guidance from the Scottish Government and Angus Council. The new handbook is to be more attractive and personal to the school, with improvement in appearance through input from both the Parent and Pupil Councils. There will be individual pages for

Parent/Pupil  
Council

each council with pictures and photographs. The school hopes to have most changes done in time for this year's handbook, with a future meeting to be held in spring to look at further improvements. There is a short timescale for this year's book, with a deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> December. Kathryn suggested that the Parent Council page should contain information similar to the previous PC leaflet, with photos so parents know who is who. Everyone at the meeting agreed to be included and to send in photos/info as soon as possible. The pre-school handbook will be merged with the school handbook and it will be in an electronic format with links to useful information. The handbook will be sent out annually and will be accessible on the Angus Council website under the school's page.

Parent  
Council

### **Parent Council Reps Meeting Feedback**

Kathryn spoke about meetings organised twice a year by Angus Council for Parent Council members. Kathryn attended the meeting last year about the new school handbooks and Paul attended the most recent meeting. Paul then gave feedback on the meeting.

- The school handbook has to be online by the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, hence the 5<sup>th</sup> December deadline for getting it into Angus Council
- Shared Headship – there was a presentation on shared headships and Paul handed round leaflets. At present Angus Council has 6 head teachers with responsibility for more than one school, with a seventh to be in place in January 2013.
- Budget – there will be a 3.5% reduction in school budgets for 2013/14. Janet Crozier asked if this was the reason for the reduction in swimming lessons. Linda explained that previously swimming blocks were 10 weeks, but that now P5 pupils get 15 lessons. Although Newbigging are having a rest year our pupils still get twice as many lessons as most schools due to the whole upper class being allowed to attend.
- Council re-organisation. Angus Council is reducing the number of directorates from 5 to 3. All current directors have had to either re-apply for the post or to retire. Education Director Neil Logue has opted to retire. Education will come under the department headed People which also includes Social Services
- Scottish Parent Council Conference – to be held in Glasgow on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. Angus Council has funded all PCs to be members of the Scottish Parent Council. All meetings are held in Glasgow and Angus Council is to request that one be held in Angus.
- Curriculum for Excellence – brief update. Angus council is recognised as being well ahead with implementation with other councils approaching them for advice.

Paul was approached at the meeting by Gillian Strachan of School & Family Support Services who is happy to speak to the Parent Council about Restorative Practices.

Janet is due to attend a music forum to discuss music lessons within schools. She will provide feedback at the next meeting.

Janet

## **Fundraising**

Kathryn asked for ideas and any requests from the school for resources. Linda suggested a maths scheme –TG Maths. Linda is to hold a Pupil Council meeting next week and will consult with them. It was agreed that the PC would purchase selection boxes again this year for the Christmas party. Anne asked for any suggestions for gifts as the selection provided by Baker Ross has been exhausted. Jody Gray suggested purchasing blank mugs and decorating them for each child – she would be willing to do this. Others were asked to submit ideas or websites if they had any.

- Christmas hamper – Parent Council to put a note out to parents. Jody to put out feelers to local business for raffle prizes.
- Cookbook – time has run out for producing this in time for Christmas. It was decided to stagger the work on this to enable a cookbook to be produced in time for next Christmas.
- School Fete – it was agreed that another fete would be held in place of the Scots Night to fundraise for the school. It will be held earlier in the year.

## **Parental Contribution**

How parents can support the school and help build better relationships was looked at. It was agreed that there should be more community events such as beetle drives and bingo, some of them being held jointly with Monikie School. These events could last a couple of hours and be held once a term and would provide better links with Monikie. Joint events would also help with numbers as previous events have had to be cancelled due to a lack of numbers. Suggestions included were the hire a marquee at Monikie Country Park or a wine tasting evening at the Craigton Coach Inn.

Linda suggested that parents could run clubs for pupils, at lunchtime or after school, either as ongoing clubs or in 8 week blocks. Anyone helping out in the school requires a PVG check to be carried out first. The following clubs were put forward:

Netball – former volunteer Alix Daley has agreed to start netball training

Football – we now have 2 volunteers for football – Philip Drysdale and Ian Yeaman

Badminton – Paul to run at lunchtime if there is enough interest

Golf - Paul has a contact who may be able to run a club at lunchtime

Knitting - for Fairtrade

Drama - Kathryn could hold classes after school

Maths- Janet could help out at a maths club

Reading - Kathryn would be able to come in and provide reading support

Library - Jody would be available from January onwards on a Monday or Tuesday from 9.00am to 11.30am

## **Any Other Business**

Paul asked if we have to use Tempest Photography for our school photos as they tend to be quite boring. Linda advised that we can go elsewhere if wish. Jody has a contact so will make enquiries.

The creation of joint clubs with Monikie was put forward –drama/football etc. These would be targeted at year groups for festivals, eg the rugby festival.

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 6.15pm, to which all parents are invited.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.00pm.

**Addendum**

The Maggie's Centre cheque presentation photograph was in the Dundee Courier on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November, and should be in the Guide & Gazette on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.