

NEWBIGGING PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH, AT 6.15PM

Present: Kathryn Foot, Paul Donaldson, Gillian Alcorn, Diane Melvin, Lynsey Milne, Lesley Murray, Craig Nugent, Lorna Rogers, Lesley Milloy, Anne Bruce

Apologies: Ashley Thomson

Kathryn opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and advising of a slight change to the Agenda, starting with a Head Teacher's Report.

Action

Head Teacher's Report

Staffing Changes – Lesley outlined the changes to be implemented after the Easter holidays. Alison Duffus will be coming out of class, with P1/3 being taught by Joyce Gray on a Monday and Tuesday, and Gemma O'Neill Wednesday – Friday. Miss O'Neill has been coming in on a Wednesday since January to work in the P1/3 class, so the children already know her. Miss Duffus will be supporting the learning & teaching at both Monikie & Newbigging.

The above is the situation initially until the summer holidays. Lesley is still waiting for her staffing allocation from Angus Council for next session.

Marilyn Fraser, class teacher at Monikie School, has been appointed Acting Principal Teacher of both schools. She will be supporting the new class teachers and will have responsibility for transition and raising attainment in the Early Years.

Diane expressed the opinion that the changes are a positive thing as, with Newbigging only having 2 classes, it is good for teachers to be able to get a change.

Stephen McKomskie will continue to come into the school in the long term.

Inspection – Lesley advised that there has still been no word of a date for an inspection, although we have been told that it would be soon. Questionnaires will be issued to parents and parents will also be invited in to speak to the Lay Inspector.

Playground – our Active Schools Co-ordinator, Emma Thomas, has been training P6/7 pupils for playground duties. Recently there have been one or two incidents which have given cause for concern, so playground supervision is being reinstated. Supervision will be covered by Lesley, Anne and Stephen, with children being restricted to the front of the school, and children will continue with their roles of play leaders. Assemblies will focus on inclusion.

Angus Council is still chasing up the company hired to mark out a netball court. Although there are other companies who provide this service, the firm that was awarded the contract provide the best quality.

A grant application to the Lottery Fund has been successful, which will allow us to get various games marked out on the playground.

Lesley asked that if parents have any issues with the school, that they email or phone Lesley rather than talk about it with other parents at the school gates.

PA System – Lesley thanked Paul and Jane Donaldson for supplying a PA system to the school. The system includes microphones and extremely large speakers!

Valentines Disco – the feedback from children is that they loved the disco. Lesley asked if a plan could be made up for events – who does what, eg music/prizes/games. Members of the Parent Council usually know each other's roles as they stay in touch via emails before events. In future, Lesley and the school will be included in these emails too so everyone is informed. Getting a plan drawn up will go on the Agenda for the next meeting. Kathryn suggested that, rather than limiting it to Parent Council members, we should try to include as many parents as possible.

Kathryn

The Parent Council are to send out a letter to parents to enable a list to be compiled from the replies received.

Parent Council

Skatepark – Lesley outlined the project taking place in Carnoustie to get a skatepark up and running. All Carnoustie cluster primary schools will be taking part in a non-uniform day on Friday 25th April.

World Book Day – it was great fun to see all the children dressed up as their favourite book characters.

Usborne Books – Newbigging School's sales figures were added to Monikie's to give us a better rate of commission. We will receive £23 worth of Usborne books.

Football – pupils recently took part in the Rural Schools Football Tournament at Pitskelly Park in Carnoustie. A lovely afternoon was had and the children enjoyed taking part. They were a credit to the school.

Assembly – certificates are being awarded to children at assembly time to show that we recognise when they are doing well. Any member of staff can nominate a child that they feel deserves a mention.

Open Morning – Lesley thanked everyone for coming. It was a lovely morning and the comments left by visitors were very positive.

Easter Service – our Easter Service will be held at 11am on Tuesday 1st April.

Anti-Bullying – workshops will be held for P4/7 pupils on Thursday 3rd April.

Talent Contest – Newbigging School has teamed up with Monikie Primary School to hold a talent contest. Auditions will be held on Friday 25th April, with staff deciding which acts should go through to the final on Friday 2nd May at 2pm, at Monikie & Newbigging Church. Each class will also be performing.

Visit – Pauline Stephen, Head of Schools and Learning, will be visiting the school on Tuesday 27th May.

Vandalism – Gillian asked what had been done about the recent vandalism in the nursery garden. Lesley advised that the police had visited the school and that she had visited a few of the neighbours to see if anyone heard or saw anything. No-one saw anything but some neighbours have had problems with young people visiting the village at weekends. The question of installing CCTV was raised. The police had advised that installing CCTV in a public area was a minefield and that they didn't recommend it. Sensor lights are installed and these come on during darkness if anyone breaks the sensor.

Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Golf Lessons – Paul advised that the golf professional had not received the forms from Angus Council, and that the process should start again.

Anne/Paul

Digital Camera for Nursery – Piers & Kathryn Foot have donated a camera to the nursery. Thank you.

Flip Cameras – Lesley has asked Angus Council for advice about flip cameras and is waiting to hear back.

Library Books – the Parent Council donated £300 to the school for new books, and these are now in school. The pupils and staff would like to thank the PC for their generous donation.

Photographer – there has been a very positive response to the change of photographer. Ron Cathro to be asked if he is willing to do it again next year. A profit of £107 was made.

Cookbook – this was a successful fundraiser in the run up to Christmas, with £88 being raised.

Crossing Patrol – Lesley spoke to Craig Smith at Angus Council. Cars are still going too fast through the village. The Parent Council will have to campaign for improvement to the crossing. Gillian will get in touch with her contact within Angus Council's Transport Department, Andy Barnes.

Parent Council
Gillian

Staffing

Anne advised that the new dinner lady to replace Ruth is Fiona, who

currently works at Grange Primary School kitchens.

Angus Council Parents Council Representatives Meeting

See attached report from Craig Nugent.

A discussion followed about the need to get parents and the local community more involved in the school. Suggestions included a race night at the Craigton Coach Inn, and a quiz night at the Fort Hotel in Broughty Ferry. Both these events could be held jointly with Monikie School.

Parent Council

It was agreed that we would get feedback from parents to find out who is willing to help out at events. The Parent Council is to put out a letter asking parents what they are able to contribute, and a list of helpers will be drawn up so that duties can be allocated before events.

Parent Council

Craig asked if, at discos etc, the parents are helping staff or the staff are helping parents. Lesley explained that the parents run events with staff coming along if they are free that evening. Lesley also requested that future discos/parties be limited to school children only, or that non-school children must be accompanied at the event by a parent/carer. She also stipulated that children must be dropped off and picked up and not allowed to walk home alone.

Newbigging to Monikie Path

Lorna showed the plans for the path. Work is due to start at the end of March and last for 6 weeks. It will come out just short of Monikie Hall. It was suggested that a social event could be planned in Monikie Country Park or the Community Hall as families would be able to make use of the path.

Parent Council

Lottery Licence

This has been renewed until the end of February 2015, which will allow the sale of raffle tickets at the summer fete and Christmas show.

Summer Fete

The summer fete will be held on Saturday 7th June. There will be a meeting held at Craigton Coach House on Thursday 1st May to organise the fete. Parents to be invited to attend this meeting – invitations to go out before the holidays, with Kathryn to put a reminder in the April newsletter.

All Parents

Library

The committee looked at the library area and Lesley and Lynsey spoke about the plans for the future of the library, including making the area larger.

Lesley/Lynsey

Parent Council Committee Future

Kathryn indicated that, with baby number 4 on the way, now would be a good time for someone else to step into the role of Chair. With Stuart leaving Newbigging School in the summer, a new Co-Chair will also require

to be appointed. Kathryn agreed to speak to Craig about the duties and commitments of the Chair.

Kathryn/Craig

Lesley Murray has joined the Committee.

Any Other Business

Lesley asked that in future any items to be added to the Agenda should be sent to Kathryn a week before meetings. Lesley and Kathryn will then go through the items together and produce an Agenda.

Christmas Cards – Lynsey asked if the children could produce Christmas cards as a fundraiser. Lesley advised that she had spoken to the teachers and that the whole school will be making Christmas cards this year.

Teachers/Pupils

The date of the Summer Fete Planning meeting is Thursday 1st May at 6.30pm, at Craigton Coach House.

The date of the next Parent Council meeting is Thursday 22nd May in the school at 6.15pm. Agenda items to Kathryn by Thursday 15th May.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.