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Speyside Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 2nd March 2021, 1900hrs

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# Attendees

Nikki Bond (Co-Chair Parent Council)

Edie Horton (Co-Chair Parent Council)

Lee Charlesworth (Co-Treasurer Parent Council)

Eleanor Bradford (Co-Treasurer Parent Council)

Rebecca Kendrick (Co-Secretary Parent Council)

Tracey Coutts-Trotter (Co-Secretary Parent Council)

Esther Burns (Parent Council)

Ruth Kennedy (Parent Council)

Calum Coutts-Trotter (Student)

Patricia Goodbrand (Head Teacher)

Walter Wilson (Local Councillor)

Louise Nicol (Local Councillor)

Derek Ross (Local Councillor)

Rev. Andrew Kimmitt (Aberlour, Church of Scotland)

Liz Egan (Parent Forum)

Apologies

Eilidh B (Parent Council)

Rob A (Parent Council)

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# Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Minutes/notes of the last meeting & updates

3. PC Constitution

4. Back to school update?

5. AOB

6. Date of next meeting.

# Notes

1. Introductions – All parties introduced. Rev. Andrew Kimmitt, local Church of Scotland minister introduced himself, offered any help/support he can give to the Speyside High community and agreed to be coopted as a community member of parent council. – firster - RK, seconded by - TCT,
2. Previous minutes – agreed by all

Treasurer information from previous council funds by Eleanor, Liz had helpful information about what can be carried over regarding this year’s bookkeeping. Awaiting last 3 statement details to be able to complete this year’s accounts.

Rebecca gave information from old Parent Council memory card – Parent Forum appears to meet annually in September to review the Parent Council’s Chairs Report, Financial Report and Parent Council membership. There is a need to update policies and permissions for the Parent Council (GDPR, Equality and Fairness, Child Protection). Lots of relevant information provided by Connect, with whom the Parent Council has insurance.

Fundraising folder revealed a Friends of Speyside High School lottery fund? (sub-committee of Parent Council), separate account, but fundraises for the parent council. Also textiles recycling and pupil online business idea as part of the business management course.

Mrs Goodbrand – added re: lottery fundraiser – done well in past but had started dwindling in 2016 due to an organiser leaving – requires some leg work to get it set up, clothes bank is in the grounds at the school, no recent fundraising due to covid-19, but funding had been going directly to school and then transferred to Parent Council funds.

Question was raised whether parents are aware they are part of the Parent Forum. It was felt unlikely and this needs addressing. Nikki advised she had been to Moray Parent Forum where questions for Senior Education Management were sent in advance of the meeting, so a meaningful reply could be given. Mrs Goodbrand confirmed this would be preferable going forward for Parent Council meetings. At Moray Parent Forum, Vivienne Cross (Head of Education) acknowledged how much harder lockdown had impacted on all involved in education and was committed to promoting schools and parents working closely together to support the students.

Vote – all votees happy with AGM being set for September.

All interim positions held now will continue until September, majority of votees agreed. No expressions contrary to this.

Question was raised about provision of resources for care experienced students. A parent had been approached by Moray Council Youth Service offering a student, an opportunity to present their own case in a virtual meeting, for any resources the student considers they need for home schooling, without the views of the parent/school being sought. It was felt this was an onerous task, to expect a student to have to do this for themselves. Mrs. Goodbrand advised that she had not been made aware of this and neither were Councilors Nicol, Ross and Wilson aware of this. The school has distributed a lot of devices and the real difficulties had been with connectivity to the internet in places.

1. Constitution – Edie provided an update of progress: recommends the contract of positions to be one year not two, but can stand for position again straight away, also accountability needs tweaking. Edie to continue with this.  
   Nikki asked whether the Parent Council page on the school website can be used. Mrs Goodbrand advised that it can, that Mr Picksley and Mr Alex Dutoy would be the liaison point.   
   Nikki is happy to be contactable. However there are GDPR considerations, so private email addresses should not be used, because messages should go to a secure space. Lee reminded that Rob had set up a Parent Council email address, so will make contact with Rob about this. Edie suggested a comments/questions box on the Parent Council page to promote easier communication between parents and the Parent Council.
2. Back to school update – Mrs Goodbrand expressed sincere thanks to parents for coming together for the Parent Council.  
   Government changes are fast moving for schools, with the 4th change this term being announced today. The situation is fluid and the school will be absorbing the new changes in the coming few days and planning accordingly.  
   Mrs Goodbrand is very proud of what the school has done to move to online learning and to improve it from last year. Online registration at 9am daily has been a positive addition. It is recognised how tricky it is for families. Concerns are raised where it is felt necessary and support is given when needed.  
   Key workers children are in, some senior phase pupils are in part time, lateral flow testing in place, a group in each day doing practical subjects that cannot be done at home. Being expanding to admin and business and is being reviewed and changed as required. Next phase from todays announcement and S1-3 going back will be limited but will be in place for the last two weeks before school holidays. February update – insight data for attainment is the best in Moray in all categories except one. (Go SHS!) Eleanor asked whether outdoor learning would be increased due to social distancing and whether the Parent Council could purchase an awning for the school. Mrs Goodbrand is keen to have anything to facilitate outdoor learning and is currently awaiting ordered awnings and benches. Questions around procurement were raised and it is believed that if gifts are made then procurement is probably not needed, but there will be health and safety considerations.

1. A.O.B - Parent Council webpage to be put onto school website, - sharing minutes. Councillor Ross asked whether the proposal for a temporary nursery to be built in Speyside High grounds, whilst an existing local nursey was being upgraded, would put Speyside High under more pressure. Mrs Goodbrand had not heard anything, it had been put on the back burner since before the last lockdown.

School Nursery being temporarily on high school site - <https://publicaccess.moray.gov.uk/eplanning/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QKYJI8BGJKN00>

Esther offered fundraising ideas: online fundraising ideas i.e. Readathon and match funding, where school are asked for a list of the items needed, for which the fundraising is specifically undertaken - local businesses may be approached to match the fundraising. This has proved successful at other local primary schools, raising significant funds. Parents from the Parent Forum should be engaged with to help.  
  
Nikki highlighted:  
The recently set up Parent Peer Support Group for any Speyside High parent/carer, which has been advertised via School newsletters and emails. It is hoped to signpost parents to these meetings on the Parent Council web page. Parents/carers offering each other mutual support.  
  
There is to be a Parent Toolkit Course for any parents/carers starting after Easter, focusing on the wellbeing of the parent/carer - coping mechanisms and a few treats along the way. Advertising coming soon.  
  
Understanding and Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing in Teenagers course starts 7pm Thursday 4 March 2021 for 8 weeks. Run by Acting Depute Head, John Naples-Campbell.

# Action Items

1. Liz and Eleanor to discuss funds.

2. Policies to be updated. Rebecca to look at GDPR with Liz offering guidance.

3. Nikki –feedback - working with parents as positively as possible, recognising parents, pupils, schools are all working as best as they can. Anyone needing tech/Wi-Fi for home learning to contact school/council. Care experienced children needing to put their cases forward for what they feel they would benefit from.

4. parent forum definition and information to be added to High school handbook- current handbook is being updated so EH to email information to PG.

5. Edie will read over constitution again and clarify some points.

6. N to liaise with E.Bain, E.Picksley, A.Dutoy.

# Next Meeting Date

**Tuesday 11 May 2021 7pm.**Questions for Mrs Goodbrand in advance of the meeting.