



# Strathblane Parent Council

## Parent Council Face to Face Meeting 09/11/22 6.30pm

In attendance: Alastair Pickard, Andy Bell, Mags Malluck, Kate Warburton, Jenny Dawson, Katie Goodier, Sharon Cassidy, Anne Spencer, Margaret Vass, Rachel Allen, Seonaid Donaldson.

Welcome to all from the chair, Alasdair Pickard. And a big thank you from all to Mags and the fundraising team for organising the Halloween Discos. Thank you to all the parents who gave up their time to ensure these were a great success and thank you to all who donated consumables and prizes from their own pockets.

### Library Update: Margaret Vass

25th Nov is the completion date from the contractors. There has been a delay in getting an electricity quote from suppliers but this is now resolved. After the completion date a lease will be signed with Stirling Council who will arrange to have the interior fitted out thereafter. The library committee are insisting on fibre broadband but as yet there is no BT open reach which needs to be resolved. They can't open without internet. Opening time is likely to be January with a formal opening event in February.

There will be a community library operating group (CLOG) including members of Stirling Council and the community. There will also be a management committee for which they are starting to take nominations. There will be an article in the Blane Valley bulletin soon with details. They are very keen to seek younger members for the committee and any interest is welcome.

The vinyl on the windows will obscure a view of the playground while allowing a full view of the Campsies. Margaret suggested the contractors leave some of the heras fencing after the build is complete to prevent the children playing in the mud as this area can't be seeded with grass until the Spring. The community council have cut back the second willow den and have offered to cut it back to the ground. It was felt by all at the meeting that it seemed sensible to take them up on the offer. The willow will grow back quickly and a future plan for it will need to be made.

The grounds group need to meet with the contractors to consider repairs to the playground before the 25th November. Margaret will discuss the need for this with the site manager, David McDonald, tomorrow. Katie and Miss Allen will meet on Monday 14th to consider this further.

There will be slightly more parking spaces in the library car park than there were previously. Parking places will be clearly marked and there will be disabled spaces which must be left free for those who need them. Community rooms within the library will be rented out and will rely on parking being available. It was noted that parking in the library car park will be very difficult to police and we need to rely on the community using it responsibly.

## Head Teacher Update

### *Library*

A time capsule from SPS was dug into the ground outside the main entrance to the library. It contained pictures of the old and new library, covid related items including a mask and lateral flow test and newspapers from the jubilee and the queen's funeral. The captains and the vice captains got to wear their hard hats and high vis vests and pose for a photographer from the Stirling Observer. There is a lovely display in the front entrance of the school based on the dream to the reality of the library.

### *Nursery*

The nursery build is progressing well and snagging is now being completed. There is no completion date as yet. There have been problems with staffing in the nursery with 2 vacancies going unfilled. The posts have been advertised and candidates have been interviewed on a number of occasions with no success and so they will not be re-advertised. Eilidh Jones who did an apprenticeship in the nursery is to be welcomed back as a temporary early years educator.

Hedging will go up around the nursery and enclose the nursery area. It will have its own separate entry. Following the meeting it was confirmed that there would be easy buggy and disabled access to the nursery through the school playground.

### *IT*

This continues to be very challenging. Outlook changed the authorisation process and for 3wk staff couldn't get access without a very drawn out process. This has resulted, among other issues, in e-mails being lost to junk boxes.

The booster boxes which were supposed to improve the situation are of little help. Each chrome book needs to be connected to a specific booster box which causes significant limitations when staff and pupils need to move between rooms.

Stirling Council have supplied an interactive white board which will go into the p5 classroom and free up their white board which is on wheels and can be used as an extra where needed. All classrooms have their own white board.

All classrooms have been painted and new floors put in. There are also new tables and chairs in the classrooms.

Several new families have or will soon join the school meaning the school will be full by Christmas.

A big thank you from the staff at SPS for the halloween discos. The children enjoyed them hugely.

## Grounds Update

There will be no welly day this Autumn due to the building works. The grounds group will pick up the pieces in the Spring. Advice is going to be sought regarding weaving the willow and how to ensure it doesn't spring up again in high winds.

Tom Furniss has asked if he could do a workshop on hedge laying. The session will be arranged at a weekend with a gentleman who has experience. Tom will be asked to contact Sharon with details so she can approach Stirling council for permission.

Katie brought up the position of the grounds group ongoing. Many of its' members have children in the upper classes in SPS and they will not be involved for very much longer. Drymen primary run their grounds days as part of the school day with parents invited in to work with the children. Katie wondered if a similar idea at SPS would offer a more joined approach between the school and families. Whatever is decided it will need to be sustainable. There is a need for fresh blood and a drive from new parents in the school. A planning meeting for the grounds group will be arranged in the near future. Rachel was thanked for all her input with the grounds group over the years. She has been a very important link between parents and the school in regards to the grounds maintenance and developments

### **Fundraising**

Another big thank you to everyone involved in the Halloween discos.

There will be a meeting at the Kirkhouse for the fund-raising team on Tuesday 15th Nov to plan the Christmas fair (subsequently changed to 20th Nov due to unforeseen circumstances). There has been lots of enthusiasm and great ideas from the fundraising team. A drinks licence for mulled wine at the fair has been requested. 18 stalls have been booked. A LET has been put in to use the main hall, GP room and the small meeting room for Santa's grotto. A letter for parents about the fair will go into school bags next week.

A Spring coffee morning at the Edmonstone Hall is planned.

The recipe book is coming along nicely and looks great. Thanks to all those who have contributed.

Communication between the parent council, school and parents was discussed with suggestions as to how this could be better. It was noted that there are a lot of e-mails from the school and we wondered how the parent council e-mails could be made to stand out. Perhaps sending our e-mails directly from a glow account using the school address would be possible? Sharon will look into whether this can be done.

### **Treasurer Update**

Following the success of the halloween discos (£900 raised) we are now able to transfer £2000 to cover the Numicon equipment requested by the school. Mrs Bairner will let Andy know how best to do this.

Current balance	£5106
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Allocated funds:

Daily mile funding	£510
Grounds budget 2022/23	£1000
Numicons	£2000

Balance available to School	£1596
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It was agreed that face to face meetings were preferable. There was discussion around the best time for these as 6pm is not possible for some members of the parent council due to work commitments. A balance needs to be struck between teachers having to stay late at work and parents being able to get home from work. It is difficult to gauge if the time of meetings might encourage more involvement from the wider school community. The next parent council meeting will be held face to face at the school on 19th January at 6 30pm. All welcome.