

**HOPE PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 7.30pm HOPE SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** Jane Phillips, Steve Sankey, Eve Hourston-Wells, Ingrid Norquay, Tom Hill, Trish Nicholson, Ellen Pesci

**APOLOGIES:** Shaun Hourston-Wells, Paula Peace, Sarah Wood, Kate Towsey, Nicola Taylor, Kevin Denvir

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETINGS OF 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER AND 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

New books have been ordered with the money raised from the recent book sale - £380. This will act as a boost to the school library, which is currently under complete revision by Ellen Pesci and Rebecca Hill.

**SIGNAGE**

With regard to the signage to alert drivers coming through the village to school children crossing, Tom was going to check in with Kenny Roy at the council to find out if we were any further with this.

ACTION: Tom Hill

**HALLOWE'EN PARTY**

Spending - Ingrid didn't have the exact figures, but it was generally considered to have been within £20. Bargain!

Steve Sankey added that the party had been fantastic to which everyone agreed, and that it had been an excellent turn-out.

**GENERAL PARENT COUNCIL MATTERS**

Eve asked whether there had been an increase in accidents amongst the children, as Molly seemed to think everyone was having a scrape or a bash! Tom confirmed that as each accident is recorded, there had not been a notable rise, but it was agreed that the "pitch" area was very gritty and unforgiving with some quite large stones which was making matters worse. Tom said that he would find out if there was someone who could come and sweep the area.

ACTION: Tom Hill

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Tom Hill gave everyone a run-down on what a school improvement plan is, and what it is for. He explained that although these are expected annually, due to the staffing issues of the previous school year, this would be the first in two years.

Ultimately, there are five sections/priorities, which are as follows:

- 🕒 Curriculum – action plans, outcomes for children and how to improve
- 🕒 Assessment, tracking and self-evaluation

- ⌚ Support for learning –e.g. Identifying dyslexia effectively, and developing methods to help learning – it was noted that a previous, very expensive online package proved to be inaccurate at best, and inhibiting at worst. Staff will be working together with the child psychologist, Imogen Kerr, and it was felt that better learning outcomes could be achieved.
- ⌚ Community involvement – regularly updated school website, newsletters, and easy access to information about the school.
- ⌚ Pre-School – Due to the increase of intake over the next few terms, a new plan was needed for how the nursery and pre-school classes would be best run. Also, the extra 600 hours allocated by the Scottish government to each child would have to be factored in.

Tom emphasised that if any parents are interested in looking at the school improvement plan, they should speak with him, and that copies would also be available at the school and through PC reps.

ACTION: Tom Hill

Tom added that it was likely that there would be a school inspection next year.

### **CONSTITUTION REVISION**

Steve had attended a meeting of PC Chairs and had taken a look at the Evie PC constitution to see where ours could be best revised. It was clear that their constitution was a very generic format that could easily be adapted to our own school. Steve had amended it accordingly, and Ellen and Kevin both agreed that it looked good and was comprehensive and easy to follow.

Tom was going to say in the next newsletter that it could be looked at by email attachment, or in hard copy at the school and anyone wanting to make comments or suggestions for changes could do so up until the end of the year after which time it would be established as the Hope School PC Constitution at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

ACTION: Anyone!

### **AOB**

#### **SCHOOL TRIPS**

Various ways were discussed to try and increase the amount of school trips the children were able to go on throughout the year. The main issue was, as ever, that of cost. Tom said that Historic Scotland gave grants for trips to outer isles – for example Martello Towers in Hoy, whereby 70% of the costs were footed by them and the rest sourced by the school.

Fundraising was suggested also, and it was agreed that new fundraising plans would be made for the new year, given the short amount of time left between now and the ever hectic Christmas period. If it was decided there was the potential for a trip, it would be costed out and options would be looked at nearer the time.

### **MEMORIAL BENCH**

The search is still on for an available stonemason, primarily to cost out the work as stone from the quarry at Berriedale has kindly been donated by Erland and Sarah Wood. Suggestions on the evening included George Cogle\*, Magnus Rouse, Hamish Omand and later on, after the meeting had ended, Trish Nicholson suggested Chris Craven.

\*Post meeting, Ellen spoke with George who felt that his skills were not best suited to the task required, but that he recommended that we get in touch with Chris Craven as he felt that his stonemasonry was excellent.

ACTION: Ellen Pesci

Trish and Ingrid said that they were happy to do any donkey work required – lugging stones around, digging, mixing etc.

### **CHRISTMAS**

Although Ingrid had been informed by Michelle Scott that the prize-draw was good to go ahead, it was clear that there would not be enough time for a ticket print-run and for the selling of tickets. As such, it was agreed that the prize draw would be planned for early next year, perhaps towards the Easter break.

Trish wondered if it would be ok to invite the soon-to-be-retired John the bus driver to the Christmas concert. All agreed that this was a great idea.

### **PARENT COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRES**

Steve handed each of us a questionnaire from a PC magazine, making us think about what we feel is important about how our school functions, and what we feel is important to the children and their experience of it. Ideas were noted and Steve will report back to the next meeting.

ACTION: Steve Sankey

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> 3.30PM**