

**ST MARGARET'S HOPE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
**PARENT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting held on 2nd September at 7.30pm

**PRESENT:**

Tom Hill, Melissa Lindsay, Lesley MacLeod, Norma Nicholson, Ingrid Norquay, Paula Peace, Ellen Pesci (Minutes), Jane Phillips, Steve Sankey (Chair), Michelle Scott, Nicola Taylor, Sarah Wood, Eve Hourston-Wells.

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors Andrew Drever and Russ Madge, Trish Nicholson, Kate Towsey, Shaun Hourston-Wells.

**MATTERS ARISING**

- **Signage/Crossing** – Tom Hill is to contact the council after it has been confirmed that 17 children now cross at the Cromarty Square to go home from school, with 15 being the minimum that warrants a crossing patrol officer.

**ACTION: Tom Hill**

- **New entrance to school** – This is still ongoing. Tom and Steve to pursue.

**ACTION: Steve Sankey/Tom Hill**

- **School Bus** – Ongoing problems of timing, now thought to be due to the increase of children at certain pick-up points raising the question as to whether one bus can feasibly do two runs between 9am and 9.25. Often the children on the second run are late – they get little or no playtime at best, and at worst they are late for the bell. Tom is to contact Karen Walter regarding this matter.

**ACTION: Tom Hill**

**AGENDA**

- **Treasurer's Report** – Ingrid reported a healthy balance of £1885.92 once all the various deductions had been made. Several fundraising ideas were made, see further below.
- **Staffing**– Given the growing number of pupils attending the school, Steve and Tom both tried to get an extra teacher/probationer to support this, joining forces with two other primary schools in similar situations. Despite the effort made, this was unfortunately unsuccessful.  
Lesley has upped her hours in keeping with the new extra hours at nursery with Leah Thomson kept on in the Hope Nursery and Leonie Scott now established in the Burray nursery. Lesley reported that by the end of the next Summer there will be 25 children attending the Hope Nursery.  
Sheila Beavan and Doris Logie both retired from the school last term, with Sarah Wood becoming the successful replacement for Sheila – TH reported that he was very pleased with Sarah's input so far.  
Paula Peace now teaches the P5,6,7 class 4 days a week and TH reported that she is doing a fantastic job. Sarah also remains their class teacher for one day a week.  
As yet there has been no replacement for Doris, whose hours are temporarily being covered by Kerrie Tucker and Shirley Rorie.  
The school is currently leading the way in Orkney in its approach to teaching foreign languages in the primary, by teaching **two** foreign languages! Fiona Lawtie is teaching Spanish and Ben Pesci is teaching French.  
Jillian Johnston is now back doing 5 mornings as Early years worker.  
Karen Omand recently left the school kitchen, with Louise Tomison covering her hours on a relief basis at present.
- **Inspection/School Improvement Plan** – Following a very good school inspection last term, which was complimentary across the staff, pupils and parents, there are a few action points to be discussed. Steve suggested a separate meeting should be held to specifically go over the inspection in some more depth. This

meeting will take place on **NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6.30.**

**ACTION Steve Sankey**

- **PC Funds** –Lesley made two pleas for funding for the nursery, one was for a dishwasher which raised the question of whether there ought to be one bought through school funds rather than PC funds– Tom was to look into this.

**ACTION: Tom Hill**

Her other request was for some kind of shed/scrap store/storage unit to be built outside of the nursery for outdoor toys/objects/scrap to be kept in as currently any storage is far away from the nursery and not practical for the staff or for the children. Sarah mentioned the Scrapstore scheme, based in Stromness and was going to look into the possibilities of this, to see whether it could benefit the whole school as well as the Nursery. Lesley stressed that whatever the outcome, the storage option would still need to be near the nursery building.

**ACTION: Sarah Wood**

KateTowsey had asked that a plea be made for some “Numicon” kits and perhaps some new reading books for P3/4/5. It was agreed that she should be given a budget of £250.

Jane Phillips requested some new jigsaws and problem solving kits for the P1/2/3 class and a matching figure of £250 was agreed for this.

- **Future Fundraising** –Sarah suggested that along with applying for grants, a new goal might be to upgrade/re-do the playground which all agreed was looking a bit sorry for itself. A letter has been sent out since the meeting to invite parents to form a sub-committee to arrange the fundraising for this. Sarah was happy to look into further details regarding possible sources of grants/funding outwith that achieved by the school/PC.

**ACTION: Sarah Wood**

- **Memorial** – The amount raised so far has come to a healthy £1600, with a further donation of £130 from the PC fund. Although the original quote was for £3000 to build the stone seating area, everyone thought it would be worth contacting Chris Craven to see if he could do it, and better the quote. If more fundraising is required to reach the higher figure, Jessica Gray had intimated that she would be glad to help hold a mock wedding or similar to help boost funds.

**ACTION: Jane Phillips**

- **Events for forthcoming school year** – Beetle Drive and/or Bingo night for the end of September

**ACTION: Norma Nicholson and Jane Phillips**

Prize draw for Christmas

Hallowe'en party

Burn's Supper – Re-instatement, P7s apparently used to do this every year. Suggestion of opening up the event to the wider community? Sub-committee started with Paula Peace, Lesley MacLeod, Tom Hill, Norma Nicholson and Eve Hourston-Wells. More details TBA.

- **Wind Turbine** – TH says that we are on a list to be repaired! To be followed up.

**ACTION: Tom Hill**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: January 2015, to be decided at meeting of 3 November 2014 re school inspection discussion.**