

Gordon Primary School Parent Council

Date: 29th November 2018

Present: Karen Cowie, Neil Stirling, Joanne Hunter, Moira Berry, Alan Macpherson, Luke Wright, Laura McNeil, Natasha Cunningham, Liam Moffat

Apologies: Ms R Wilson

Discussion Points	Actioned By:
<p>1, Present and Apologies</p> <p>2, Minutes accepted pending changes of typing errors and misspelling of names.</p> <p>3, <u>Constitution Adjustments</u></p> <p>Convert existing constitution into a format similar to the one provided by PESHA with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No change2. Add in to support and develop the pupil council meeting with them directly once a year minimum.3. Include Elections will happen at the AGM and an email will go out prior to the AGM inviting parents to come or put their names forward for election.4. Add - Parent council office bearers will be elected AGM to AGM. Remove the part about each year group being represented.5. Keep but shorten if poss.6. (forgot to ask this one... does anyone from the PTA work with us? Are they always present)7. Consolidate or shorten?8. * we were going to find out about this, not sure from who maybe Christine McLennan why this was the case? Does this need rewording anyway?9. Not much change needed10. Or as soon as possible afterwards.11. Clearer format12. Add in communicate info on Facebook (possibly GroupCall)13,14,15 nothing raised.16. Should this have a specified time on it? Following ongoing discussions by parent council members by e-mail it was decided that 8 weeks was a reasonable timescale. Adding in 7.5 and 7.6 on meetings from the Aberdeenshire document Adding Aberdeenshire section 10 on GDPR <p>4, <u>Sharing the Learning Event</u></p> <p>A parent council member gave feedback from his experience of the event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• His experience was very positive• The pupils were enjoying the activities they were working on.• All pupils were engaged and taking instruction from their teacher.• The Head Teacher was circulating around the classrooms.	<p>Luke Wright will work on creation of the revised constitution and share with the PC when ready.</p>

- Parents were encouraged to fill in a post-it note for the feedback board; these were overwhelmingly positive and supportive of the opportunity to share the learning.

During discussion, the following questions/points were raised:

- Overall, members were positive and said it was an enjoyable event.
- More notice could be given so that working parents could sort time off work.
- Could there be various days/times or even an evening session so it is accessible to all especially fulltime working parents?
- Some members were unclear as to what learning was being done or the purpose to the event.
- More specific share the learning sessions would be welcomed, to enable parents to see how subjects like maths or literacy were taught. It was felt this would better enable parents to assist with homework in a consistent way.

5, Fire and evacuation- matters/concerns:

The Chair noted Ms R Wilson was unable to attend and no other school representation had been organised as the original purpose of the meeting was constitution only. However, RW had already sent a communication to all parents.

All agreed that staff and pupils had been amazing during the evacuation and it was a credit to the school and a great relief that no one was harmed. The majority of the Parent Council agreed the school and staff had kept their children safe during the event. Praise was given to those staff who shared their clothing with children who were struggling with the cold temperatures.

The following points of concern and suggestions for the future were raised:

- It was felt children scheduled to attend afterschool clubs should have been held at the school for their safety until a parent was contacted. Some had returned to empty homes.
- The communication by email is easily (and was) missed by many of the parents of the pupils attending after school activities.
- It was felt that there may be ways to improve communication in the event of an emergency; evac. Bags in each class containing a phone and survival blankets for warmth and shelter. An app called PSA School was mentioned, which is apparently effectively utilised in the Central Belt
- It was also suggested that GroupCall communications be more discerning with the tag 'URGENT', so this can be reserved for actual emergencies. The introduction of a 'traffic light system' was suggested
- Concern was raised over the possible presence of gas canisters being used in the roof works, however, the PC were reassured that the fire service was on the scene quickly and would have advised regarding these issues.
- It was felt that the fire procedure could be made more public, posted inside and outside the school building with check points so parents can easily locate their children
- Could there be an indoor muster point – e.g. the secondary school hall - for

winter evacuations?

It was noted that concerns over the safety of the materials and procedures used in the roof works had been raised repeatedly with Allan Whyte at Aberdeenshire Council by the PC. This incident served to justify these concerns and it was felt that AW should return to answer any questions parents have following the fire.

6, Agenda point 6 partially covered during constitution discussions and no further discussion was had at this point.

7, AOCB

Cleaning of drains Term 2 wk 1

A parent has raised an issue concerning drains being cleared onto the playground resulting in raw sewage spilling onto the playground. This is a serious Health and Safety issue and it was felt that the response from Aberdeenshire Council was unsatisfactory. This raised the question of the fabric of the school being fit for purpose.

Concern was also raised over the outdoor water hydrants. Clarification is needed that they are all in working order so will be in a useful state in case an emergency should arise?

Some members still feel the school is not fit for purpose and the repairs are only a temporary fix and not a sustainable answer to the future of the school.

It was suggested that we should email our concerns to all the four local councillors to ensure that they are taken seriously.

8, Provisional date for next meeting 10th January 2019.