

GULLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2021, 7PM – ONLINE MEETING

Attendees: Ronnie Taylor, Natasha O'Connor, Angus McEwan, Clare Jones, Jenny Gries, Joanna Heijmer-Mason, HH, FM, JC, CC, TH, PW, EVDV, MCB, SG, KM, NS, LH, CL, RC, RK, HS

Apologies: Wendy Spink, Louise Bisset, Kirsten Sadler

1. Welcome from Chair

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2021 (attached)

Minutes were adopted as an accurate record of the last meeting.

3. Reports from office bearers and chairs of sub-committees (attached)

- a. Chair
- b. Deputy Chair
- c. Clerk
- d. Co-chairs of Fundraising Sub-Committee (PTA)
- e. Treasurer

The reports were noted.

Re: d. First meeting of PTA to plan for next year is next week. The Partnership expressed its gratitude that fundraising has continued despite the impacts of the pandemic.

Clare thanked Lottie and Rosie for agreeing to stay on in their rolls for another year, and thanked Jenny and Joanna for their contributions over the last year.

4. Approval of the accounts (attached)

The annual accounts were approved.

5. Appointment of individual to review the annual accounts

Louise Bisset, GPS parent and former PTA Treasurer, was appointed to review the annual accounts next year.

6. Election of members to serve on the Partnership

The following parents/carers put themselves forward to be members of the Partnership and were duly appointed:

Heulwen Hardie, Faye Morgan, Jenni Carter, Claire Carmichael, Tristan Heal, Peter Winhall, Emma Van der Vijver, Marie-Claire Brown, Sarah Gibson, Katrina Mutch, Jenni Gries, Joanna Heijmer-Mason, Nicola Smith, Lottie Hutchison, Caroline Lennon, Rosie Creyke, Rosie Kendall, Hilary Smyth, Clare Jones.

7. Election of office bearers

- a. James Logan was elected as Chair.
- b. Sarah Gibson was elected as Deputy-Chair.
- c. Marie-Claire Bradley elected as Clerk.
- d. Lottie Hutchison was elected as Chair of Fundraising Sub-Committee (PTA).
- e. Rosie Creyke was elected as Treasurer.

8. Appointment of representative(s) to attend Area Partnership

LN is standing down from her position as Partnership Rep on the North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership and anyone interested in taking on this position should make themselves known. HS is happy to share this role, e.g. going to alternate meetings.

Actions: To be raised at future meetings to see if anyone is interested in representing the Gullane PS Partnership. Info about the AP is provided below.

The North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership provides a voice for the community in terms of council planning and has a delegated budget to deliver improvements in the area. The GPS Partnership has membership and voting rights as part of the NBCAP. We require representatives to attend NBCAP meetings 6-8 times a year on a Tuesday evening. The meetings have recently been delivered via Zoom. The role would involve attending meetings, reading and voting on applications for NBCAP funding, and reporting back on relevant updates from the meetings to the school partnership.

9. Update from Mr Taylor

Update on start to new term, including Coronavirus procedures, building update

- RT reported that although the enlarged school building was fantastic and building workers should be out within 3 weeks, there are still lots of technical issues to resolve, including drainage, flashing, power supply to some areas and landscaping as well as emerging snagging issues.
- CC asked about the plans for landscaping. RT confirmed the pirate ship will go back into the early years area of the playground. He explained that although the trim trail is now positioned in an area out of bounds to children at break times, moving this is not in the construction agreement and the onus to move it would be on the school community. Other improvements to the landscaping would fall to the school community too e.g. via

gardening groups. CL said that Lorna Raeburn of Gullane Bloomers is interested in a collaborative project, e.g. vegetable garden, gardening club, etc. The GVA and Gullane Eco group would also be happy to be involved.

Actions: Take this forward to future meetings and find out how the Partnership can support school and wider community initiatives.

- On Covid developments, RT confirmed that official communications cover everything parents need to know. Evidence is that school transmission rates are low. All protocols are being observed in school.

Staffing

- RT confirmed that the school has appointed Denise Pringle as classroom assistant and playground supervisor.
- RT confirmed that short-term funding for a one-year support post has been confirmed and Morag Black has been confirmed in post.
- Natalie Drydon (nursery support worker) has handed in notice and so recruitment was underway for the vacant position. Supply staff will cover until a permanent staff member has been appointed. Otherwise, the school is at full staffing capacity.

Plans for upcoming Learning Conversations / Meet the Teacher

- RT confirmed he would talk through the School Improvement Plan at the virtual 'Meet the teachers' event and a recording of this would also be placed on the school website. There is a cap of 100 connections on a Google meet but any parent/carers who can't get in would be able to watch it later.
- RT said parent consultations have been timetabled for w/c 10th October. These will be held via Google Meet. Parents will be invited to secure a slot via Google Classroom for 11th, 12th or 13th October.
- Deputy Headteacher, NO, confirmed that the rollout of 1140 hours in nursery was bedding in and there had been a positive uptake in places for the October holidays. The nursery is staffed to full capacity even though it is not at full capacity for numbers of children. Improving parental engagement is a focus for staff. The nursery blog will be up and running in coming months and will be linked to the school blog.

Safe routes to school

- CJ raised the fact that there has been no school crossing patrol since the start of the year. The position had been advertised and had closed. It was not known if there had been applications received. It was suggested that, in future, adverts be circulated more widely (e.g. on local social media etc). JC noted that normal interim measures (e.g. asking Paul Chapman to fill in) had not been taken, suggesting that ELC had failed to note the severity of this issue.
- CJ noted that both the walking route from north side of the village and other walking routes (from West Fenton and crossing West Fenton Road from the new housing

developments) are not currently safe for children because of ongoing construction work at Saltcoats field. The increasing population in Gullane will inevitably mean increased traffic and safe routes to school must be prioritised. CJ had raised the issue of construction traffic with CALA and ELC at a recent meeting and had been told that little could be done to limit traffic at school start and finish times or to provide safe crossings. It was agreed that it was important to take this forward with CALA, the Community Council and East Lothian Council. RK asked if there was a road safety plan. RT said there wasn't but there was a travel plan. RK offered to take this issue forward.

Actions: Track progress at future meetings and support Rosie Kendall in taking this forward with various bodies.

10. Class Reps

We hope to have at least one class rep for each class and have had some volunteers already:

Nursery – Katrina Mutch

P1 – Rosie Kendall

P1/2 – Stuart Young

P2 – Claire Carmichael

P3 – Tristan Heal

P3/4 – Lottie Hutchison

P4 – Zoe McCrossan

P5 – Caroline Lennon

P5/6 – Heulwen Hardie

P6 – Jenni Carter

P7a – Jenny Gries

P7b – Emma van der Vijver

CJ thanked the current reps and noted that it had been an effective system. It was useful to have a single point of contact in classes and was a helpful way to harness parent opinion and feedback.

11. Any Other Business

FM asked what the plan is for outdoor packed lunches on wet/cold days. RT said packed lunches could be eaten in the school hall but that during clement weather it was the healthiest option to eat them outside.

12. Dates of Future Meetings

3rd November 2021

15th December 2021

9th February 2022

30th March 2022

11th May 2022

22nd June 2022