

Minutes of the meeting
Humbie Parent Council
14th January 2014 - AGM
Held at Humbie Primary School

Present – Iain Lawrie (Chair), Lindy Lynn (Head Teacher), Karen Prudence (Principal Teacher), Tom Trotter (Cllr), Nick McCormick, Karen Torrens, Helen Rawlinson, Jill Yates, Pippa Murphy, Sally Heaphy (Clerk)

Apologies – Steph Chisholm, Lynn Irons, Tracy McCullagh, John McMillan (Cllr) and Ludovic Broun-Lindsay.

Iain welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming along.

1. HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

The Class Room Assistant post has been re-advertised and due to close on the 26th January.

David Gilmour will be at Saltoun for a blogging evening 7pm 27th January.

East Lothian Primary Management Review – Deleting the post of Principal Teacher – LL raises concerns that ELC want to delete the Principle Teacher role as a way of cost saving. It is recognised that costs have to be cut but it is felt that this is not a viable way forward. This would be particularly hard for smaller primary schools and in the case of Humbie PS there would be times within the school week where there were no principle members of staff for 2 ½ days a week. This is at the consultation stage and it was agreed that Iain should draft a response from the Humbie parent body and to forward to parents for agreement. The consultation is only for staff, trade unions and the council, hence the specific details cannot be forwarded to the parent body. The Parent Councils have however been granted the right to a reply via the ELC Parent Council inbox. Iain will draft this response and send it round the parent body. Tom Trotter is to be cc'd in this response.

Tom Trotter agreed that we should make a noise about this and email our views and he would back parent concerns.

Upcoming Events

- Hats Day Technology – 5th Feb
- Community Café – 7th Feb
- Museum visit on Vikings
- Book Week – 3rd-7th March
- Compass 50th Anniversary Concert, St Mary's, Haddington – 12th March
- Holidays start – 4th April

2. ADMIN MATTERS – ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Iain Lawrie was re-elected as Chair, Nic McCormick was re-elected and as a parent council member Luke Dalrymple, Helen Rawlinson and Jill Yates were elected as new members. Helen Rawlinson volunteered to go on the East Lothian Recruitment training programme.

3. ELAPCM NOVEMBER MEETING

Iain attended the meeting on 27 November and reported back the following points:

Parent Rep on Education Committee – At the ELACM meeting it was stated that the Strategy Group made the decisions rather than the Education meeting. There was going to be a trial period with the parent members. Cllr L Broun-Lindsay is going to be on the Education Committee.

Community Planning Partnership – East Lothian council is to establish six Area Partnerships of which Humble will be part of the Haddington and Lammermuirs. ‘The Area Partnerships will strengthen links between communities, area-based services and East Lothian Partnership and will be the main opportunity for local communities to contribute to The East Lothian Plan and influence service planning and delivery in their area.’ Iain will forward documents from the ELAPCM meeting.

Early Years – The Government initiative to increase the pre-school nursery hours from 475 to 600 hours by August 2014. East Lothian Council are exploring the options of Extending nursery sessions am and pm, providing a breakfast club, Friday afternoons and additional hours during school holidays. ELC are basing further discussions and financial calculations on extending nursery sessions during term time and provision over summer holidays.

4. AOB

Communicating with parents – It was discussed the best way to communicate upcoming Parent Council meetings and agendas etc to all parents. LL will construct an email requesting parents to allow the use of their email addresses to receive communications from the Parent Council. Other options of communication included a closed FB page and Gmail but both would require all parents to have access to these. The school blog is an obvious choice but currently Feedbitz does not email new updates which makes it hard for parents to keep up to date with the latest information posted – LL to speak to David Gilmour regarding this.

It was discussed ways of increasing the mixing of nursery and school parents, this could include open mornings and drop in mornings, along with communicating the role of the PTA and Parent Council. LL will put on Staff Agenda. Helen Rawlinson suggested that nursery staff forward PTA/PC information to nursery parents.

Parent Volunteers – It was discussed ways that parents could offer time in the classroom either giving one off talks about their careers or coming in for a one hour slot each week for a block of 6 weeks this could cover helping Karen Prudence in the classroom or a themed block i.e. gardening/blogging. Pippa Murphy has volunteered to take this forward and is going to email/talk to parents to ascertain their interest and what commitment they could give.

5. Date of Next Meeting

1st May 2014 – 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm