

NORTH BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of 21 SEPTEMBER 2021

via TELECONFERENCE

Parent Members: N Bradley (Chair)

H Way
J Leslie
E Clark
L Johnston
D Edmondson
G Milne
K Dunwoodie

Staff Members: M Moore, Head Teacher
F McCallum, DHT

Other Parents: T O'Connor, K McCarthy, T Heal, M Hay, S Wellwood, C Jones, Anna Beedel, Laura Forrest, A Clark

Attending: Cllr J Goodfellow, Elected Member
A Cosgrove, Clerk

Apologies: S Spring and L Gurney

Welcome: The Chair welcomed all parents and carers to the meeting. He extended a particular welcome to Michelle Moore, the new Head Teacher, and invited her to introduce herself to the group.

Ms Moore did so, saying how lovely it was to see all those attending. She told parents that she had been Depute Head at the School for almost 4 years, so it was a very familiar environment. She was spending time getting to know staff, pupils and parents, and emphasised how struck she was by the warmth of the School and the welcome she had received.

Chair's Report for 2020/21: The Chair reported as follows:

- The School re-opened after a long shutdown, and unfortunately this was followed by another lockdown period, with re-opening in the Spring.
- Assessments were used in place of exams, firstly for National 5s, and then Highers and Advanced Highers.
- The usual Christmas Concert had to be cancelled, and there was a significant lack of extra-curricular activities which benefit pupils so much.
- Staff and pupils had worked incredibly hard, with work done by Lara Neri and her colleagues to help pupils suffering from anxiety, of particular note. Thanks were due to all the leadership team in the School; there had been a good result in that so many pupils had moved on to further stages of learning.
- Although meetings had had to be online, the Parent Council had been very active, and thanks were expressed to all parents, to the Clerk, and especially to Cllr Jim Goodfellow for his unstinting support for the School. Unfortunately some items – the School Improvement Plan and Communications – hadn't managed to proceed; and there had been no opportunity to have a proper "send-off" for the retiring Head Teacher, Lauren Rodger. The Council continued to

support the important role of parents in the recruitment of the new Head Teacher, and two parents had been involved in the short letting, resulting in an excellent appointment.

- On a positive note, the School expansion was under way.
- On Covid, there were still some positive cases, but the requirement for larger numbers to isolate was not now happening.

On the Constitution, the Chair advised that some changes were required to bring it up to date. However, he felt it was more appropriate for the incoming Parent Council to take this forward, perhaps for the next meeting. He would provide a copy of the Constitution with the suggested changes.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Although there were no nominations for Chair, Gillian Milne was willing to be Vice Chair. Proposed by L Forrest, seconded by J Leslie.

Election of Parent Representatives: The following parents were willing to be representatives:- L Gurney, S Spring, T Heal, T O'Connor, A Clark, J Wilson, A Beedel, C Jones, H Way, L Johnston, L Forrest, S Wellwood.

On a suggestion of more representation, the Chair noted that it was difficult to chair a meeting of 20-30 people, but there was still room for further representatives.

Parents Questions:

How is the School going to take the D of E Award Scheme forward? Ms Moore advised that preliminary discussions had already been held, and she would report more fully at the next meeting. She would also report on other extra-curricular activities.

Thanks were expressed to Ms Anderson for getting the Netball Club up and running.

Finally, Cllr Goodfellow thanked the Chair for all his hard work over the past years, saying that he had made meetings enjoyable with his relaxed approach to dealing with issues.

This was warmly echoed by all present.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5 October at 7 pm.