



PINKIE PARENTS

Minutes of the meeting
held at Pinkie St Peters
on Monday 2 November 2015

Present: Kirsty Sivell (Clerk) Iain Clark (Chair) Susan Harkins, Suzanne Douglas, Shirley Bailey, Morgan Scott

Staff in Attendance: Sarah Ogden (Head Teacher)

Others in Attendance: Cllr Andy Forrest, Cllr Stuart Currie, Alastair Knowles

Apologies: Clare Morley, Elaine La Roche

Minutes taken by: Kirsty Sivell (Clerk)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Iain welcome all to the meeting and introduce the guest speaker Alastair Knowles.

2. Riding of the Marches 2016

Alastair Knowles was selected to be the Town Champion for the last Musselburgh Riding of the Marches in 1995 and is the current Chairman of the Charitable Company formed to organize the next riding in 2016.

The Riding of the Marches was first mentioned in the record books in 1682 and customarily takes place every 21 years. It saw its origins in the days when there was great rivalry between landlords who were always trying to encroach on one another's property. The Lairds conscripted men to protect their boundaries. Later the custom became a symbolic ceremony, enacted by elected or appointed men of the burgh, whereby a Town Champion dressed in full armour and a Turf Cutter checked the 12 points along the boundary of the burgh. The Honest Toun Festival was first held in 1936, when it was decided that the time was right to hold another festival each year as long as it did not impose on the Riding of the Marches.

Alastair is looking for nominations from the community for the Principals for the 2016 riding of the Marches, who will lead the tour of the twelve boundary stations of the burgh and turf cutting ceremonies.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting on 14th September were approved by the parent council.

4. Matters arising from the previous minute

Pinkie's got gold was held on 25th September and raised £650 for child cancer and on the day the builders donated £350 in cash. There was a lot of support from children who had dressed up for the occasion.

5. Pupil Report

No pupil report

6. Head Teachers Report

Staff Update

A number of staff are absent at present. Staffing was discussed in more detail. The nursery office has been moved to the main office which works better. The French assistant has started and is doing some sessions in the nursery. Mrs Burbanks is expecting a baby and she will be going on maternity leave around the February break. Mrs Burton from the nursery is retiring at Christmas.

Building work

The temporary dining room is working really well. HT is hoping to have the dining room back by the end of November. The main build is delayed until probably mid January.

Other stuff

Chris is setting up a Podcast group who will broadcast weekly podcasts about what's happening in the school and the community and the other children can listen to this.

The puppet pilot is being launched across the nursery and P1's. HT has spoken to the puppet company and they are keen to roll it out further.

Nursery staff will be receiving training in the New Year on teaching children to ride a bike. The school have been given a set of balance bikes and staff will be inviting parents to the nursery to do some training with the children.

Pinkie played a football match against the Burgh today and lost but they played brilliantly and shook everyone's hands displaying fantastic sportsmanship.

HT is keen to promote health and wellbeing and will be asking the children to walk a mile per day at school on the all weather pitch which should take them no longer than 20 minutes. This will be rolled out throughout the school. Suzanne suggested that the Parent Council could supply pedometers for the children to wear to track their steps and encourage them to participate; Suzanne will look into this - **ACTION**

HT is keen to incentivise attendance at school and has asked for the views of the parent council if they feel it would be a good idea to approach a retailer such as toys 'r' us to see if they could supply loyalty cards. She suggested that each child would have a card in their name and for every day of school they attend they

would have 10p put on their card and by Christmas they would have approx £20 to spend. HT has calculated that this would cost around £6400 for the whole school. There was a lot of discussion on the pros and cons of this and no consensus was reached at the meeting. IC has prepared a paper regarding the absence of any attendance officers in schools. He is waiting on a response from Val McIntyre before submitting the paper.

A big thank you to Suzanne and everyone else involved in organising the Halloween Disco which was a huge success. There have been lots of positive comments posted on the Facebook page.

All teaching staff have now been trained on Emotion Talks. This is helping children to express themselves and communicate how they feel.

The new revamped support for learning programme started last week. Staff are trying to support children who may have a gap in their learning and children would have a small block of 6 weeks to fill this gap. All children have been assessed and grouped with other children who are working at a similar level as them. This new approach is working well so far and it is intended to boost their learning in areas where they are not quite there yet.

Parent's evening was held in the hall and feedback from staff and parents was very positive.

Enrolment for P1 is this coming Wednesday.

P7's are going to the poppy factory this Thursday.

P7's are doing a presentation to the P6's and parents on Benmore on Friday.

HT has been engaging with the Chairs of the Tenants Association and they are keen to bring the community together so that anyone who lives nearby is part of the Pinkie School community. They are holding a community afternoon on 19th Nov between 2pm-5pm at the school. The school is hosting this and will be supplying teas and coffees. The school are keen for it to be seen as a hub for the wider community.

7. Teaching Staff/Non Teaching Staff Reps Report

No report available

8. Treasurer Report

Treasurer submitted her apologies. IC provided an update. Balance is approx £5,500. The bill for £370 for the P7 yearbooks has been paid, £70 for the disco and £10 to extend the public liability insurance. Balance is still around £5,500.

9. Fundraising Group Update

Total profit from the Halloween disco was £270 after DJ and everything else deducted.

Katherine is doing the Christmas cards again this year.

Are there any volunteers to help with the Nativity teas and coffees? - **ACTION**

10. Musselburgh Area Partnership

IC has been nominated as Vice Chair for the Musselburgh Area Partnership.

Priorities for the overall area plan which have been agreed are:

- Increasing investment in local infrastructure facilities
- Reducing traffic congestion
- Enhancing villages and localities
- Building and achievement culture
- Ensuring there is the opportunity to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Safer communities
- Make it a supportive inclusive and resilience community

Actions -

Funding has been approved to improve the bus stop on the high street outside the citizen's advice bureau and plans have been agreed to take back some of the land at the back and put new seating in to make better use of the space.

Funding for a short term post has been approved to help push the PEEPS and BOOKBUG sessions in the community.

Priorities for consideration for 2016 -
Environmental improvement to small green spaces

There are plans to revamp and re-launch the Musselburgh website and schedule a Musselburgh's communities day to bring together as many groups and organisations from the area as possible.

11. East Lothian Association of Parent Council Meetings

The last meeting was held on 23rd Sep where the key speaker who is rolling out the 1&2 language programme did a presentation which IC has an electronic copy of if anyone wishes to see it.

Language choices are French and then Mandarin from P5.

Exam results in East Lothian are the best in a long time.

Online payments are now available to all secondary schools.

12. NPFS Annual Conference

Reminder that the annual conference is being held on 14th November. It is being held in Glasgow but it is worth going along if you can there is a free crèche available.

13. Parent Council Health Check/Reference

There is a parent council health check document/checklist provided by the Scottish parent teacher council. IC will fill it in and bring it along to the next meeting; IC is keen to use this document to ensure we are compliant with the policy - **ACTION**

14. Parent Involvement Survey

The results are out and if you have a link to it read it yourself as it is quite a lengthy document. There are 2 reports one for the Musselburgh cluster and one for Pinkie.

15. Training Dates

There is a lot of training supplied by ELC which is free for parent council members such as recruitment and selection, emergency first aid, elementary food hygiene etc. The training is very good and it is a good opportunity to learn something new and meet new people.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Monday 14th December at 7pm