

**STONEYHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL: MINUTES, WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2021**

**Attendees:** Tina Warren (Chair); Lynsey Melville; Lisa Turner; Lois Taylor (Treasurer); Cllr John Williamson; Cllr Andy Forrest; Denise Brown; Catriona Haddow; Carol Colville (Deputy Head Teacher); Laura Laidlaw; Rebecca Stanton; Stephanie Davidson; Sarah Jones (Vice Chair); Kate Whiteley (Head Teacher); Katie Hislop (Clerk)

**Apologies:** Lynsey Martin; Cllr Katie Mackie; Debbie Reid

Parent Council email: [parentcouncil@stoneyhill.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@stoneyhill.elcschool.org.uk)

Agenda Item		Action for
1	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>T.Warren welcomed attendees to the meeting and reminded them of recognised behaviours for online meetings. The apologies listed above were noted.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting, 1 September 2021</b></p> <p>The minutes of the 1 September meeting were approved.</p>	
3	<p><b>Treasurer’s report</b></p> <p>L.Taylor reported recent income and expenditure. The School Lottery continues to be the main source of income. Support for the P7 leavers activity and the next payment for the school app will be paid shortly.</p>	
4	<p><b>Head Teacher / Deputy Head Teacher’s update:</b></p> <p><b>School App:</b> Following from a discussion at the 01/09 meeting, K.Whiteley asked whether support could be offered to increase uptake of the school app. <b>Action: L.Melville to write a parent guide which can be circulated.</b></p> <p><b>Covid-19 update:</b> K.Whiteley referred to the October newsletter. A national review of restrictions in schools was expected mid-October but this will now be done after the October holidays. Parents will be updated as soon as new guidance has been shared. In terms of planning any events, these should be approached cautiously. All teachers in Stoneyhill have received two doses of the vaccine so, under current guidance, can continue to teach unless they test positive.</p> <p><b>School Vision, Values and Aims (VVA):</b> K.Whiteley referred to the recent form sent home to gather parent and</p>	LM

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children's thoughts, for potential inclusion in the refreshed school VVA. The October newsletter gave examples of themes which had emerged from discussions with teachers and pupils. K.Whiteley asked for feedback on the form, the following comments were received:

- The form could have been clearer on what was expected
- Liked the format and grateful for the opportunity
- Would have liked to know what was discussed in class so this could continue / inspire a family discussion

In terms of content of the VVA:

- Wellbeing is of ultimate importance at this time
- If health and wellbeing is in a good place, this sets the conditions for everything else
- Would like the VVA to have emphasis on health and wellbeing rather than academic achievement
- Really like the community feel of Stoneyhill and the home / school relationship, everything goes hand in hand
- Reflection that how much pupils enjoy school can have a lasting impact on them.

K.Whiteley thanked the group for their thoughts. These will be gathered together with form responses and the results of teacher and pupil discussions, then shared.

**Craighall PS:** Parents with children in the upper school will recall that there is an agreement that Stoneyhill will host children from the new Craighall development, until the new Craighall primary school is ready. This has been discussed a number of times at Parent Council meetings in the last couple of years, but not recently (details in past minutes, available on the school website). K.Whiteley informed the group that she expects to begin to receive approaches from families in the next year or so, requesting that their children attend Stoneyhill. Recalling past discussions, L.Melville asked whether these children would be blended in to existing classes or whether a separate class would be created – pupils had expressed a preference for integration. K.Whitley confirmed that integration will be the initial approach, when numbers are small, and that the effectiveness of this will be reviewed regularly as numbers grow. All of this will be handled sensitively, including welcoming Craighall parents.

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	<p><b>Christmas Cards:</b> As discussed at previous meetings, children’s artwork for Christmas cards has been sent home, and any orders should be returned to school asap. <b>Action: S.Jones to pick up orders from school.</b></p>	SJ
5	<p><b>Parent Council Business</b></p> <p><b>Science Week Grant:</b> T.Warren highlighted this grant to K.Whiteley. S.Jones forwarded details during the conversation.</p> <p><b>Traffic build-up / Road Safety around Whitehill area:</b> Some parents have written to the Council and alerted the Parent Council about concerns relating to traffic around drop-off and pick-up time. Some specific examples were given e.g. cars covering drives, using the cul-de-sac at Whitehill avenue as a roundabout, and near misses when children are walking over the street. J.Williamson said that consideration had been given in the past to putting in speed bumps to deter traffic and inconsiderate parking. There were similar issues at the Clayknowes side of the school boundary which took years to resolve. The following suggestions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C.Colville could ask for the cut-out figures which had been supplied by the Council in the past. These could be used in a themed week.</li> <li>• The JRSO video from 2018 could be used / refreshed</li> <li>• JRSO have now been elected and they will be arranging the pumpkin parade on 29 October. This could be a good opportunity to remind families of this issue.</li> <li>• Pumpkin Parade letter could include a reminder about road safety, possibly a rhyme.</li> <li>• Road Safety officials from the Council could walk around the school at busy times, as they did when considering the issue at Clayknowes, as referred to above.</li> <li>• “Slow” signage on the roads?</li> <li>• Could the Council supply high-vis arm bands for pupils?</li> <li>• A reminder for pupils when walking / cycling, particularly in the darker mornings and evenings.</li> </ul> <p><b>East Lothian Parent Council Chairs Meeting:</b> T.Warren attended the latest meeting of this group and fed back the discussion. Further to the update from K.Whiteley, she informed the group that covid restrictions will remain</p>	

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	<p>unchanged for the moment and that it is unlikely residential trips will be possible until around 2023. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, Scottish Government and Council advice will be issued and shared.</p> <p><b>School Photo / Class Photo:</b> C.Haddow asked whether photos would be possible, following on from discussions at past meetings. K.Whiteley confirmed that this is entirely dependent on Scottish Government advice and restrictions. She is awaiting advice after the October holidays as to whether an all-school outdoors photo can happen in spring 2022. <b>Action: pick this up at next meeting.</b></p>	<p>TW/KH</p>
	<p><b>Parent Council Business: Fundraising and Events</b></p> <p>T.Warren confirmed that a Christmas Fayre won't be possible and that a summer Fayre may be, but plans around that shouldn't be progressed at the moment.</p> <p>Existing fundraising:</p> <p><b>25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea Towels:</b> C.Colville has organised these. They are at the printers and will be ready for purchase from 1 November – she will share a photo when they arrive. The cost is approx. £1.50 so need to decide what to sell them for. <b>Action: Note for next meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Cards:</b> discussed under agenda item 3.</p> <p><b>Clothes recycling:</b> Following from previous discussions around the school making money from donations of textiles that can't be used by charities e.g. old clothes in poor condition, T.Warren asked if this was something that the group would like to progress. The following comments were offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could possibly not generate a lot of money – other activities would be more lucrative</li> <li>• Something that can make money in the background (as it would be permanent) in addition to other fundraising activities</li> <li>• How big would the container be? If it was in the school grounds / outside the grounds, assume Council permission would be needed</li> <li>• Has worked well in the past e.g. the school used to do the "Ragbag" scheme</li> </ul>	<p>KH / TW</p>

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	<p>T.Warren said that this can be considered and revisited at a future meeting. Aside from the school lottery, which remains lucrative, T.Warren invited any additional fundraising ideas – either to be shared at the meeting or brought to a future meeting.</p>	
9	<p><b>Parent Council Business: Supporting the School; Parent / Teacher requests</b></p> <p><b>Playground upgrade:</b> S.Jones has set up a small sub-group for volunteers to take this work forward – all interested please get in touch. Wood is coming from Newhailes (L.Melville arranging) and paint is to be purchased. Need to consider best time of year to do this work.</p> <p><b>Taylor upgrade:</b> C.Colville has received information from the people who originally decorated the horses. It was agreed that pupils should be invited to contribute to the design, albeit any refresh would need to be kept relatively simple. <b>Action: K.Whiteley to discuss with pupil council. Action: Note for next meeting agenda.</b></p> <p><b>TT (Times Table) Rockstars:</b> This has been trialed in school and looks good. The group agreed to pay the £90 annual subscription. <b>Action: K.Whiteley to have invoice sent to L.Taylor.</b></p>	<p>KW TW/KH</p> <p>KW</p>
10	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>T.Warren invited any other business from attendees. The following items were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L.Melville complimented T.Warren on her first meeting as Chair. She asked for a volunteer to take over management of the school lottery as she would like to hand it over. If interested, please get in touch.</li> <li>• A possible fundraiser which has been discussed at previous meetings has been a Crazy Hair Day, where pupils can come to school with unusual hair and make a donation to the parent council. It was suggested that this could be done on the same day as the Pumpkin Parade, the Friday before Halloween. The group agreed that this was a good idea, though acknowledged that not every pupil would want to take part. <b>Action: C.Colville to check on the easiest way to collect donations.</b></li> </ul>	<p>CC</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D.Brown asked what the policy was on letting pupils in to the school early in bad weather, as there is currently little shelter and it can be difficult for families with children of different ages e.g. when older children go into school at 08:50, younger siblings have to wait until 09:00, and again for a longer period at the end of the day. K.Whiteley was sympathetic and explained the issue of the time that staff begin work - although children may have been allowed in slightly early in the past, this cannot be the expectation as staff aren't ready. The overhang just over the doors provides shelter but isn't big enough, particularly to allow sufficient distancing. It was agreed to investigate the cost of a shelter or awning and to revisit this at the next meeting. <b>Action: Note for next meeting agenda.</b></li> </ul>	TW/KH
11	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>T.Warren thanked the group and confirmed that the next meeting will be on <b>Wednesday 3 November, 19:00, via Google Meet.</b> All welcome.</p>	

Katie Hislop  
October 2021

*T. Warren 5-11-21.*