

**MINUTES of Carmondean Parent Council Meeting held on Wednesday,
31.01.18**

Present: Gordon Chree (Chair)
Ken Merson
Gillian Millar - Headteacher
Matt Shanks - DHT
Claire Pringle - Acting PT (Nursery)
Aileen Jamieson - Class Teacher
Fiona Harding - PSW (Minutes)

Gillian Brunt	Caroline Colquhoun
Kirsty Laing	Diane Maden
Heather Marriot	Cheryl McLeary
Laura Sneddon	Leeanne Turner
John Mackay	John Miller

INTRODUCTIONS

Gordon welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year and thanked all present for their attendance.

ATTENDANCE

GC said the number of attendees at tonight's meeting was extremely positive and he took the opportunity to invite anyone who would like to put their name forward with a view to joining the PC to let him know at the end of the evening. Their remit would require them to support the school in contributing ideas, pass on suggestions, perhaps assist with some admin and attend six meetings throughout the year with occasional possible attendance at a Cluster Forum. We require a core number of people to attend these meetings to get the message out and re-energise the PC.

QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Question from parent John Miller - How does the PC differ from the PSA?

- PSA are mainly fund raisers for the school i.e. spring fair, discos, helping out at events which they contribute to admirably.
- PC are here to represent the views of all parents on various subjects - the most recent being the successful completion of the new hall, which can be partly attributed to previous PCs putting

pressure on the Council to follow through on this extension to the school. KM told the meeting that this project has been on the agenda since the last HT was in the school.

Parent Leeanne Turner voiced concerns about how we can engage with parents more to get them involved. We need a strong PC to go forward to help make a difference in the school, therefore we need to get views from parents right across the school. We need to advertise what we are, what we stand for, what we have achieved and what we want to achieve! Although there is a Facebook page and information appears on the Blog, some parents are still unsure of the differing roles between PC and PSA and of course not everyone is on social media. GC suggested putting up a video on FB showing recent tangible projects undertaken successfully by the PC. Could we also target parents with an informative leaflet at the forthcoming parent consultations next week? Include a form asking parents for feedback to gauge what they would consider important topics for future agendas. This could be filled in anonymously if they wished. then returned via their children and collected in by pupil support workers during their morning admin time. Certainly the on-going matter of the playground seems set to be a long term campaign, although we do not want to appear as being too prescriptive and need to get the message over to all parents that we are open to other discussions for the agenda. Another idea proposed was the introduction of a suggestion book. HT agreed that any compiled leaflet could be printed out by the school for distribution.

PLAYGROUND/ICE

Although parents acknowledged that the school cannot be held responsible for every accessible path leading to the school, concerns were voiced over the recent spate of icy weather when it proved extremely dangerous to negotiate surrounding streets safely. Gates leading to the playground were also frozen. HT informed meeting that there is pressure from the Council and parents to keep the school open, although Senior Management took the decision early on in the day in question to cancel the after school clubs for the safety of children and staff alike. It is the duty of the Janitorial staff on the early shift to clear one footpath to allow access in the morning to the building. WL Council then follow up on this by prioritising which areas to clear first, but even their resources are limited. Could we work with the PSA towards costing and obtaining grit bins for future use?

DISCUSSION TOPICS FROM LAST YEAR

KM spoke briefly about the on-going parking problem which has also been a subject on the PC agenda for a few years. GM had previously received a letter from Police Scotland about the poor parking and telephone calls

from residents in the area and still the problem of driveways being blocked and cars parking in Keep Clear areas persists. Last year parent Ian Anderson repeatedly lobbied the Council to clear flooded underpasses leading to the school and also campaigned successfully to have more dog fouling bins placed around the community.

NEXT MEETING to be held on Wednesday 28 February, 2018 at 6.30p.m.

