

**ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL**  
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING & AGM  
Tuesday, 14 January 2020

**Present:** Kate Costley-Wood, Vivian Crichton, Ailsa Currie, Alison Currie, Teresa Deighton, Suzie Dick, Rebecca Early, Susan Foster, Greg Hamill, Laura Helliwell, George Inglis, Carole Johnson, Howard Litton, Helen Logan, Lizzie McCarthy, JM, Cllr. Ellen McMaster, Claire McNiven, Lisa Morrison, Clair Reeves, Ann Reid, Sarah Riddle, Sgt Dougie Robertson, Keith Robertson, Judith Ross, Barry Smith

**Apologies:** Claire Gilmore, Andrea Hammond, Eric Milton, Gordon Provan

**Minutes:** Pauline Robertson

**Matters Arising**

- Jen Christie, Becky Early and Sheenah Fletcher have volunteered to be Staff Reps for the PC. They will attend on a rotational basis.  
Many thanks to Derek Wilson for his representation over the past two years.
- Vice Chairperson – no volunteers to date. GH requested members reconsider.
- Role of PC – to foster a positive ethos and make contact between parents and school as constructive as possible and maximise effect of parental involvement. Dorothy Hooper (FP) of Connect Scotland to be invited to deliver an Information Session in February or March.
- Welcome to Laura Helliwell, Community Representative.
- Communication – GH spoke to Colin Smeeton who has agreed that a brief summary of PC meetings may be published in the Arran Banner. CR volunteered to compose a short update from minutes and forward this to the Banner after each meeting  
**Action: CR to compose article.**
- Fundraising – GH will approach members to form a small sub-committee to focus on fundraising e.g. applying for grants, planning events etc.

**Drug Use in the Community**

Police Sergeant Dougie Robertson was invited to speak to PC members on drug use in the community, particularly student participation.

Police are aware of drug issues on the island but cannot act on anecdotal evidence alone: they have no power to act on rumour or speculation. Naming suppliers strengthens information required to provide intelligence, which in turn provides evidence. Reduce availability = reduce consumption.

Those with information may contact the Police in the following ways:

- Face to face
- Telephone 101
- Crimestoppers – free phone or email

There will be no repercussions for informants: Sgt Robertson categorically stated that Police will never identify or compromise a source.

All pupils in school receive age appropriate information on drug use etc. through PSE lessons.

**Action: GH & BS to discuss how PC can further support educational initiatives.**

**Treasurer's Report**

Fundraising a/c - £2844 (includes £1000 allocated for Health & Wellbeing)

**Action: SD.**

Admin a/c - £1387

Expenditure: buses for Christmas parties and Clerk payment.

Despite Groupcall push to all parents only one more entry was received for 50/50 Club. As present membership results in only £17.50 income per month it was agreed to roll out to members of the community.

## **Head Teacher's Report**

- Thanks to PC for donation for buses for the Christmas parties. Much appreciated.
- Staffing – ICT Technician vacancy is temporary position until March. Unfortunately, the preferred candidate was unable to take up the post due to these conditions.  
English – job to be re-advertised.  
BS will meet with Head of Service next week to discuss.
- Prelims – start 27 January. Fewer students @ Higher level than in previous years.
- Weather – has had a real impact on school: temporary staff from off-island unable to travel, staff/pupils unable to attend meetings/events. Music Prelim was postponed.
- QI Visit – took place on 12 December. Very positive feedback.
- Healthy & Wellbeing for All – strategy review; initial thoughts and ideas sought.  
**Action: Pass to BS.**
- Mental Health Interventions – improve understanding and capacity to support students with mental health issues. Physical activity will form part of Whole School Strategy.
- Thanks to community members for participating in the Careers Day on 9 December.

## **Wellbeing Centre Update**

SD presented information on current approaches and future strategies (see attached). She also spoke of establishing a small advisory committee for Wellbeing Centre from outwith the school community.

**Action: PC to play significant role in financially supporting Mental Health strategies.**

## **Mountain Bike Club**

BS spoke of his disappointment regarding a letter, which was circulated to parents of Mountain Bike Club participants and handed directly to the young people of the Club by members of school staff; which he had received a copy of today. The letter did not reflect his views, misrepresented ongoing internal discussion and he had no opportunity to contribute and clarify his position prior to the letter being sent. He reiterated his huge support of physical activities and in giving young people as many opportunities as possible.

BS made the following points:

- Minibus – ongoing discussion, may/may not come to be, may/may not be able to be parked at AHS
- Level 1 Accreditation – BS is in contact with Cycling Scotland seeking further information; ongoing discussion; no decision has been made
- Storage – part and parcel of a shared space – should not impact negatively on the MTB Club; some clarity needed from ongoing discussions
- Eco Savvy – BS met with Andrew Binnie to discuss, among other things, the possibility of establishing a Cycling Hub in Lamblash for all members of the community
- As HT, BS has to make decisions re the operational aspect of the functionality of the school taking many factors into consideration, not all of which can be in the public domain
- Clarity will become evident through professional discussion between HT and staff and may result in planning/policy change through time
- Parents are invited every year to the AGM of MTB Club
- The above points continue to be worked upon but no action by the school is forcing the Club to cease at Easter

Concerns from parents were mainly:

- Seeking reassurance that the club would not be stopping at Easter
- Storage – size of the space available may not be big enough for equipment of various group requirements, trying to understand the pressures on this from e.g. need to store other bikes, including triathlon and planned Hebridean trip, understanding what might be long term options
- Accreditation availability and if this might go ahead
- Minibus – if this might go ahead
- a list of questions had been collated by parents and these would be passed to BS

The possibility of purchasing freight containers was mentioned and it was agreed that this should be discussed. It was repeatedly recognised that the Club was very successful and positive for pupils and all wished to support it.

CR requested that the Parent Council be involved in discussions around extra-curricular clubs in general – this is our children’s spare time and is non curricular but very important. Any discussions, which involve the desire to balance and grow different clubs should involve PC.

Actions:

- There will be further meetings of the relevant school staff and school internal processes continue
- BS will write or communicate to parents/pupils regarding recent issues
- Organise a meeting with some of the concerned parents and the school with prior agreement of the purpose and attendance

**Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 21 April

Agenda item No. 5, Supporting Health and Wellbeing @ Arran High - our procedures, was unable to be discussed through time constraints and will be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

BS reminded those present that recording of meetings should not take place and all attending agreed.