

**Aboyne Academy Parent Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
**Aboyne Academy**

**Attendees:**

Office Bearers	Parent Council Members
Rob Brooker (Chair)	Sarah Leahy
Natasha Pawlukiewicz (Secretary)	Lynn Murphy
Julie Mitchell-Mehta (Treasurer)	Gail MacTaggart
	Gill Ewart-Bannister
Lorraine Scott (Head Teacher)	Suzanne Sant Angelo
	Veena Fernandez
	Charles Dunbar

**Other attendees:**

Ashley Easton (Teacher), Jane Summers (Teacher), Cllr Paul Gibb

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Michael McCann (Teacher Representative)

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018)**

Arising from previous minutes:

Pupils signing out of school – completed.

Document for S6s – all have signed up to it.

Checklist for S1 parents – handbook and summary sufficient.

Study leave – **Action – Rob/Natasha to put on the agenda for next meeting.**

Assessment of support for prelims – Mandy Phillipson has looked at this – to be checked at next meeting.

Information on additional exam support. **Action - SLT to ask for this to be posted on school web pages. PMN: SQA additional arrangements information now made available on website.**

The minutes were approved.

**2. Chairpersons Report**

Rob thanked everyone for their support as he finds his feet. He is open to suggestions as what new things could be done by the AAPC. One idea is for posts dedicated to certain themes such as social media. There will be more structure on this at the next meeting.

The AAPC held a raffle at the school show, and also did refreshments at the Careers Fair,

however the PC wasn't easily identifiable at the latter, and if we want parents/carers to use these events as an opportunity for a chat then we made need to address this.

### **3. Treasurers Report**

The money to be transferred from the Council is in progress – it is unclear whether the constitution has to be agreed first.

The raffle at Grease made £500.01 over the two nights, and lots of prizes are left over for the next events, including quite a lot of Christmassy items.

The current AAPC bank balance is £1045 with a float of £161.05 kept aside for the next event. A cheque for £800 was written for the school.

### **4. Head Teacher Report**

Lorraine welcomed everyone to the new plaza, and explained that the space will be made available to S6s for study when not in use otherwise. Room 5 has become a computing room with new equipment. The outdoor learning area has become a welfare suite/wellbeing hub which is manned by 2 pupil support workers.

Lorraine noted that Ashley Easton is a permanent member of AAPC, and Jane Summers and Michael McCann will also remain members.

- Aboyne Academy together with Glentanar Estate was awarded the Inspiring Futures Award
- 'Youth Speaks', the first debating competition held at Aboyne, went very well and Aboyne Academy won against Banchory Academy
- The school show put on Grease over 2 nights
- The Young Musician of the Year took place, with some outstanding performances from S1s
- The School Christmas Fair takes place on 24<sup>th</sup> November
- During the inset day staff are taking part in training relating to mental health issues, which is a worrying issue for pupils, parents and staff alike
- A uniform survey has been sent out, for now just testing the water

Lorraine noted that it can be a challenge to get engagement from families in rural villages so she may select families at random to attend 'have a chat and a cup of coffee' type meetings held in their local village .

Parent Councils should have a social media presence, and someone or a working group could take this on. Julie and Charles are happy to get involved. **Action – Rob to send a guidance note to both for discussion at the next meeting. PMN: Done**

The Positive School Climate to be discussed at the next meeting. **Action – Rob/Natasha to pick this up for next meeting agenda**

There was a query as to which school events require input from the PC. **Action – SLT**

## 5. AAPC Constitution

The AAPC constitution is 5 years old. Aberdeenshire Council has circulated guidance on how they believe PC constitutions should be set up. The PC needs to tell the Council what we've done about our constitution (if anything) and how we intend to vote parents on. **Action – Sarah and Lynn to look at both old and new constitutions before the next meeting to see if anything needs to be changed.**

## 6. Learning Together Consultation

There is an online questionnaire for parents to fill in, as well as a consultation event taking place in Aboyne on 27<sup>th</sup> November. The timing clashes with the S2 Parents' Evening. Cllr Gibb added that it is worth turning up to give direct feedback to the Council. **Action – SLT to follow up with reminders nearer the time. PMN: Information circulated by the school, 15/11**

## 7. UCAS process

S4s can take six National 4s rather than eight as in many other schools outwith Aberdeenshire, and it is unclear how it can be explained on the UCAS form that this limitation comes from the local authority. Ashley explained that guidance teachers are already helping to provide the local context on the UCAS form but will feedback the concerns to the guidance team. **Action – Ashley.**

## 8. Anti-bullying policy

Ashley talked through the anti-bullying policy document explaining that there will be assemblies on the topic for all year groups, and that an anti-bullying group will be set up. She would like to roll out the policy in the school as soon as possible. It would be good to have an update on how the pupils react to it. **Action – Ashley.**

There was a request to visit the welfare suite/wellbeing hub at the next meeting. **Action – Rob/Natasha to pick this up for next meeting agenda**

## 9. Fundraising

Christmas Fair 24<sup>th</sup> November: **Lynn** to sort hampers (including collecting items); dedicated call for items (**Rob, Julie, Lynn**), chocolate tombola – **SLT** to put out call for chocolate. Email to be sent out (**Natasha**) requesting helpers. Prefects can also be on hand to help out. The Christmas concert on 12<sup>th</sup> December can use up what is left over from the Fair.

## 10. AOB

- Youth Philanthropy Initiative – could grandparents/older people's groups be invited to the final of the YPI as a way of showing the community what the pupils get involved in? **Action – SLT to pass on to business team.**

- Lunches – none left for pupils held back. **Action – SLT to investigate.**
- Industrial mentoring, which is targeted at middle performing pupils – does the school get involved? **Action – SLT to pass on to Michael Foy.**
- Access to the building – for discussion at the next meeting. **Action – Rob/Natasha to pick this up for next meeting agenda**
- £500 raised at the school show – do we tell parents other than through the PC minutes? Same applies for what the money is spent on. Suggestions as follows: the staff could come along to the PC meetings and say what they need money for; ask the Pupil Council; ask for suggestions prior to the Christmas concert. **Action – SLT.**
- Could the PC see the Pupil Council report? On agenda for next meeting and an invitation will be sent to the Pupil Council asking for a representative to come along. **Action – Rob/Natasha to pick this up for next meeting agenda**
- Cllr Gibb explained that Marr Area Committee have approved the building of Castle Park development, which will mean 35 houses being built each year over the next 4 years, working out as 7 further pupils each year. After a discussion about concerns regarding capacity, and how Developer Contribution could be used, it was agreed that Rob would collate any concerns the PC may have, and put them to Paul. This would also allow for a discussion on longer-term planning with respect to school infrastructure. **Action - Rob**

**11. Date of Next Meeting:** To be agreed via Doodle Poll. **Action - Natasha**