

Parsons Green Primary School

Parent Council Meeting – Minutes Tuesday 11th June 2024,
7pm to 8.30pm Held in person in the staff room.



1. Welcome and apologies.

Present: Amy Goodwin-Spivey (Chair), Nikki Isles (Chair), Harpreet Palray (Vice-Chair), Simon Millar (Treasurer), Susan Cochrane (Head Teacher), Jennifer McGowan (Deputy Head Teacher), Hillary Burwell, Roy (Pippa's Dad).

Apologies – Axelle Lanne (Secretary)

Amy opened the meeting, and it was followed by a round of introductions. We then covered the following agenda points.

Susan will be meeting with Paddy Dearlove before the summer holidays to discuss extra curricular clubs.

PC to ask Rachel if she has spoken to another parent to help out with clubs co-ordinator role (PC seem to recall Rachel had someone in mind).

PC to order 2 more No Parking signs. The signs seem to be working well but issue around who puts them out & takes them in.

Dates for 2024-2025

Tuesday 17th September 2024 Parent Council AGM

Tuesday 12th November 2024 Parent Council meeting

Saturday 30th November 2024 Winter Fair

Tuesday 4th February 2025 Parent Council meeting

Tuesday 13th May 2025 Last Parent Council meeting of the year

Susan suggested PC set up a table at the Bring Your Grown Up to School night.

3. Sub-group updates

Library - Library sub group has been amazing. They have done a great job packing up the library for the 1st phase of the refurbishment & putting everything out again. They are going to pack it all up again for the 2nd part of the refurbishment which takes place over summer. The library is looking for more volunteers as the current volunteers are moving on after summer. Kaylee has kindly said she will stay on for the time being.

Climate sub-group - Members of the group helped at the Summer Fair, running a bike / scooter sale, re-used clothing rail, and generally helping out.

The Food waste project continues, with a view to hopefully submitting an application to the Food for Thought Fund at the end of the month. A discussion in the meeting with Susan & Jennifer means the focus of the application will be on farm visits.

Susan and Hilary met with Craig Robertson, who is overseeing the school redevelopment works, and Mark Symmonds who looks after active/sustainable travel, both from Edinburgh City Council, to discuss bike shelters. We mapped out potential areas, and Mark suggested that he would be able to match, at least, the £3k funding we have earmarked. The current possibilities are: 2 'bread-bin' style bike stores at the front, with two long loops for cargo bikes, a 4-6 loop bike parking area outside the front door, and a covered bike shelter in the rear playground, where the shipping containers are currently placed for the building work.

Sam Rutherford and Poppy Richards from MothersCAN have been working with Ms Ross and the P6/5s to bring together a Creative Cimate project to take to Parliament that will express their voice on climate issues. The children have called it 'Protect our Future' and, broadly, it will form a chain, made by links created by the children, around the parliament. The workshop is to be scaled up to the rest of the school next year and hopefully to other schools, and the high school after that. It will be picked up again in the new term. Hilary C has instigated and been overseeing the project from the Climate sub-committee.

Smartphone Free Childhood - HC asked the parent council and the staff to support the promotion of Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/> a growing network of parents and carers who want to protect children from the dangers and distractions of smartphones.

There was an extensive discussion about the benefits of restricting or not having access to smartphones before the age of 14, and the SFC network encourages schools to bring parents together who are in agreement on this to make a pact that they won't give their children smartphones before 14. The idea being that there will then be a solid group of children moving up through the school and in to high school without them, so no one feels like the only one. The hope is to engage the primary cluster, and Portobello High, and be part of the vanguard to get smartphones out of schools. It was agreed that SFC would be promoted in a Friday newsletter before the end of term and that HB could set up a Parsons Green group on the network. Roy Dahl was also in attendance to promote and discuss this issue, bringing to our attention Dr Jonathan Haidt, who has written extensively on the subject of how smartphones are detrimentally affecting children's learning.

ASN/Neurodiversity sub-group – An end of year meeting was held at The Last Nairne Beefeater. The group will continue to meet next year as a support group & to share resources with each other.

Equality and diversity subgroup - Beetle Drive (multicultural social family event).

Susan & the PC feel the Bring Your Own Dish/Beetle Drive event was a success & would like to do other similar events. Susan already has ideas of more games to play. Susan & PC to book a date soon for the autumn term.

Treasurer's update - Current Balance: £7,779.78

Current liabilities:

£50.58 expense payment to Nikki Isles (Summer Fair)

£472.98 for school microphones and setup

EXPENDITURE:

£166.80 expense payment to Melanie Smith (Summer Fair)

£266.36 for No Parking signs

£701 contribution for P7 Benmore trip

£20 for small lottery license

INCOME:

£1374.50 cash takings from summer fair

£48.88 card machine takings from summer fair

£335.26 cheque banked from Winter Disco

£88.30 received from Easy Fundraising

Balance available to Spend £2,256.22 after above liabilities plus Neighbourly Grant £3000 and sinking fund £2000.

NOTE: Summer Fair Total: £1,206

PC has not received monies raised from the fundraising walk. Susan to chase up.

