

Parsons Green Primary School

Parent Council Meeting

Monday 19th June 2023

Held in person in staff room



1. Welcome

Present:

Gillian Turner (Vice-Chair),

Simon Millar (Treasurer),

Susan Cochrane (Head Teacher),

Jennifer McGowan (Deputy Head Teacher).

Parents: Hilary B, Angela, Manousos, Axelle, Hilary R, Amy, Nikki, Harpreet

Apologies:

Rachel King (Chair)

Claire Haggett (Secretary)

2. Introduction

- Gillian opened the meeting, and this was followed by a round of introductions. It was noted that Claire Haggett was moving on from the Secretary role, as her daughter is leaving PG for high school. The group thanked Claire for her contributions to the PC and to the life of the school over the past 7 years.
- It was noted that Axelle Lanne had volunteered to take over the Secretary role, and that this will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting after the summer holidays.

3. Treasurer update and Fundraising requests

- Simon gave the Treasurer's update. The current account balance is **£7,893.70**. Donations were recently received from Easy fundraising, the Bike Swap, the Summer Fair and Abercorn Tennis Club. Some income from the Summer fair is still to be added (card machine payments and some further cash donations). It was noted that the Summer Fair had been a great event and had raised lots of funds.
- There have been several funding requests as follows: P6 football strips, wildflowers for garden; the welfare fund, the nursery digital whiteboard, P3 music lessons, and wooden toy blocks as part of the play pedagogy request. The PC agreed to meet the funding requests for: P6 football strips, wildflowers for garden; the welfare fund, the nursery whiteboard, P3 music lessons, and to make a contribution towards the play pedagogy wooden blocks.

- There was a discussion point around whether toy blocks could be donated by parents rather than being funded through the budget.

Action: Simon will liaise with the school business manager and with the other requesters to obtain invoices for the items noted above and arrange for these to be paid.

4. Sub-groups and volunteers

The increase in the number of volunteers and parents and carers in the school over the past year was welcomed, as was the brilliant activity happening through the various sub-groups. The sub-groups gave the following updates:

a. Climate Action and Sustainability group

- There are scheduled works to carry out building upgrades with solar panel, new windows etc.
- To help develop the Wildflower meadow, there may be a request to arrange water access to the top grass. There is a tap outside the kitchen that could be of use.
- Bike/Scooter sale – the initiative was very well received with £310 raised. Due to its success, there is a desire to repeat a similar initiative and potentially look to sell different items such as Christmas jumpers.
- Tackling Food Waste – Manousos has been in talks with representatives from the Council and Parent Pay to obtain data to inform decisions on how to reduce food waste. There is opportunity for changing the way meals are ordered in Parent Pay to allow to select more options than just main meals and to reduce unwanted choices.
- Hilary has drafted a sustainability policy, which will be reviewed and discussed at the sub-group meeting on Thursday (21/06).

b. Fundraising / events

- Following the success of the Summer Fair, there is a desire to carry out initiatives similar to the bike sale at the Halloween and/or the Christmas fairs.
- More volunteers and donations are needed. More baking donations would help increase the takings from that stall.
- It was suggested that we could ask pupils to get involved at the Halloween and Christmas fairs. One idea is to have class-led stalls with one parent or carer for each class to coordinate that stall. Another was to have parent relation representatives within the Parent Council to recruit parents in class.
- It was suggested that the Summer Fair could be held on a Saturday instead of a Friday, but this would incur a let charge.

Actions:

- Agree dates for next fundraising events (Halloween & Christmas fair).
- Enrol further volunteers from parents/carers pool to assist with events.

c. Ground tidy

- There was a good turnout and enthusiasm during the event. A few jobs were undertaken such as mending benches. The aim is to have another event in September and we should focus on advertising to increase turnout.
- Other Big Green Week initiatives included a drawing competition.

d. Library

- The pupils are appreciating the new books that have been received through donations or ordered via the Wishlist.
- One of the shelving units requires a middle shelf being inserted and help may be required from a parent with the required skills & tools.
- More reading volunteers are needed.

5. Head Teacher update

- The Quality and Improvement supported evaluation has taken place. The play-based approach adopted by the school as well as Health & Wellbeing and digital work were recognised as key strengths of the school. We are awaiting the report and the focus for next year will be on differentiation.
- Learning Together Survey – there has been little response (only 8) so parents and the Parent Council group members are encouraged to fill it in.
- A number of workshops are coming up including Raising Children with Confidence, which has received positive feedback in the past. It will be a series of 2-hour evening workshops.
- The Northfield & Willowbrae Community Centre recently held a Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th June, as an opportunity to share thoughts on what could be improved in our area. Other forthcoming events include:
 - The next Meeting of the Community Council will be held on the 18th July at 7pm at the Northfield & Willowbrae Community Centre. This will **not** be a public meeting. Members of the public may attend as observers and can participate in the open forum at the end. If people wish to suggest items for discussion, they can contact the Secretary two weeks before the meeting by emailing: secretary@northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk. The council is looking to co-opt two new members to the Community Council to serve until the next election in 2024 and would particularly like to hear from younger people and those from underrepresented groups. If you are interested, have some free time to commit and a constructive solution-based approach, they would like to hear from you. To express interest and find out more, please contact secretary at the email address above.
 - The minutes of previous meetings and agenda for the next, as well as updates to current CEC consultations, relevant to our area can be found on the NWCC website www.northfieldandwillowbrae.org.uk

6. Parent council update

- There was discussion around how the parent council should be run in the future. The Chair and Vice Chair roles will become available after the summer due to Rachel and Gillian's children moving on.
- The role of the Chair was discussed.
- It was suggested that representatives from the sub-groups could take turns in chairing the Parent Council meetings. While this was deemed a good short-term solution, the Chair & Vice-Chair also remain focal points so the Parent Council should still look to recruit to these roles.
- It was agreed to confirm arrangements at the AGM in August.

7. Any other business

- The Newsletter format may change to Sway to improve the user experience and help with readability.
- Mrs Cochrane and Manousos are looking to arrange regular guitar lessons on Tuesdays after class. The school currently has 20 ukeleles to lend but guitars may need to be sourced.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual General meeting, after the school summer holidays. Date to be confirmed.