**Parent****Council**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday 10th September 2015**

**7 pm, School Staff Room**

**Attendees:** Margaret Ferguson (MF), Sharon Burr (SB), Nicola Cameron (NC), Robin Critchard (RC), Carrie Heddle (CH), Alec Reid (AR), Anna Conniff (AC), Annmarie Graham (AMG), Alison Green (AG), Andy Case (AC), Hazel Innes (HI)

**Apologies:** Lesley Robertson (LR), Suzanne Rankin (SR), Heather Baxter (HB),

1. **Welcome and apologies**

AR welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

1. **Chairpersons Report**

AR gave a report covering the following issues:

* Failure of the current PSA to form a committee at their recent AGM. AR hoped the letter sent to all parents and carers would see new faces step up and come forward to help the school and the Parent Forum.
* The late opening of the new Hillside school (now due to open January 2017). Aberdeenshire Council now need to find space to accommodate the new classes that will eventually attend the new school. This could mean that spare Fishermoss space might be utilised.
* Rezoning consultations and continued debate over Enhanced Provision’s planned move to Portlethen Primary.
* Areas of the school that he would like to see added to Aberdeenshire’s School Improvement Plan, namely changes to the current staff room to allow more food prep and circulation space for staff, more shrubs needed for planting along the boundary of Bourtree park, and the inclusion of a new Multi Use Games Area.
* Changes to how the Council recruits School Crossing Patrollers - these positions will now fall under a general Caretakers role, with individuals being utilised within schools outwith crossing duties which will hopefully make recruitment of staff easier.
* Recruitment and deployment of teachers is a major concern. Aberdeenshire have been tasked with new targets and additional funding along with £8000 relocation grants available to some recruits who meet the criteria. Failure to meet the new targets will see Aberdeenshire Council penalised and could see some of the Block Grant being clawed back by the Scottish Government.
* £200 contribution was made to the school last term for school funds along with Sports day medals and badges.
* National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS) chaired by Bob Jones have set-up a Facebook account where Parent Council Chairs can speak freely about anything affecting their Parent Forum.
* National Improvement Framework from the Scottish Govt. The framework is based around standardised national assessments for pupils in P1, P4, P7 and S3. The assessment results are to be used by teachers to help form their professional judgement on how well a child is progressing in literacy and numeracy, and whether they have reached a certain level of attainment. These can be used to show an authority where a school needs more support, and to show where an authority needs more support. The framework is published as draft and feedback is being sought. The NPFS is the national stakeholder group for parents and will be providing feedback - hence we need to share our views, so we can give a good representative account to the NPFS forum. Engagement and feedback is also welcomed from individual parents (along with teacher and authority officers) via several nationwide engagement events. The details of the event in our region are 8th October at the AECC. There are afternoon and evening sessions (1-4pm; 5.30 – 8pm). To attend we have to register.

**Action: all to read National Improvement Framework draft and feed back comments to AR**

**AR also noted the following Outstanding Actions:**

* Meet with Newtonhill School to see how Friends of Newtonhill School works with the possibility of joining our Parent Council and PSA.
* Lobby Education department on the Staff room improvements, circa £10k for the inadequate kitchen space and M.U.G.A. Internal walls / partitions are still on the school wish list.
* Flooring in School can be slippery when wet; the mats tend to smell, so improvements could be made here.
* New signs have been erected to warn vehicles using the path from Bruntland Road down to Bourtree Park about Pedestrians. Aberdeenshire still need lobbied to have the Bollards installed that Parents want. Issue still to be resolved with the Bowling Club.
* Continue our relationship with the Safe Routes to School Co-ordinator and seek improvements around Fishermoss.
* Timetables and staffing remain a concern at Portlethen Pool; AR would like more classes to benefit from Swimming sessions at the pool not just P6s and P7s for six weeks a term.

AR reminded everyone that Portlethen has been chosen as a location for one of the upcoming Parent Council Chair Engagement Events on **5th October at 7pm in Portlethen Academy** with the other happening on 24th September in Fraserburgh. **Please attend if possible.**

AR finished his report by thanking everyone for their continued support on behalf of himself and the Fishermoss Parent Forum, and thanked outgoing members.

1. **Treasurers Report**

CH reminded the Parent Council that we are not a registered charity like the PSA. Our funds are in good shape because there is a little bit of money left over from the agility trail budget. We have received £321 this year from Aberdeenshire Council (up £10 from last year). Total amount in the kitty is £1949.

1. **Head Teacher’s report**

MF described the difference between the PSA and the Parent Council for the benefit of attendees.

**School overview**

* Overview of classes – 12 classes, nursery full. 291 is current roll but extra class has spread load so classes generally have space. Portlethen is capped - children can still go there but there is a ceiling.
* Class sizes p1s 19, composite at 21, p2 26, p3 29, Help with numbers please!
* National Framework – Aberdeenshire already has standardised assessments – incas and epips (p1). P3, P5 and P7 are done online, individualised to child sitting it – done live, stepped up or down on basis of previous answer. Developed by Durham University. Scores on potential as well. Fishermoss also has ongoing assessment in school based on staff assessments, and also as cluster. The National Framework will able the comparison to be made nationally and wider.
* Pupil Support allocation to class is done on level of need of individuals – consultations between MF and class teacher.
* Attainment: 88% reading (incas 92%), 80 writing, 90 maths, 94 health and wellbeing
* Closing the Gap between low and high attainers. Issue for Aberdeenshire is that funding is not coming because area is not seen as deprived. Harder to achieve without more staff.
* Quality Improvement visit last year commented on positive improvement plan of school.
* Surprise visit from Care Inspectorate to nursery – 5 very goods across the board. Missed excellent by a whisker.
* Last term’s questionnaire to parents had a good response rate 103 replies (one reply per family). Overall very encouraging response. Suggestions will be taken on board/furthered – amalgamation of PSA and PC was one suggestion.

**Improvement planning:**

* Cooperative learning to be continued
* One Plus Two upcoming programme for modern languages – number one will be pupil’s first language, then a second language will be learned from P1, then another one at P5. This can be different for different classes. The programme will require close cooperation with academies. Won’t be implemented until 2018 but need to start planning for this – training and input. ‘Poolside speak’ is the desired level. To be delivered by the class teacher.
* Authority focus – restorative approaches – how to tackle behave management in the school. Discussing with kids what happened – how are we going to fix this – discursive approach – moving on and making things better. Fits in well along Golden Time rules – warnings, then losing Golden Time, can’t get it back. Consequences have to happen. November in service days will focus on this.
* Glow with class pages – Mr Barrow forging on ahead with this. Will set up things for parents to see.
* PE and art frameworks for progression of skills
* School vision, values and aims to be revisited by the pupils. The core values don’t jump out at you. Need to be drawn out. All parents to be involved by providing feedback at upcoming Meet the Teacher evening.

RC commented that the school values are referred to in the Parent Council constitution and that these will need to align with the school aims.

**Staffing:**

* Support for Learning vacancy, interviewing on Monday. 3 posts to fill.
* Lynn Hodson is having a career change and leaving at end of month. MF will be able to replace post, lots of applicants, cover arranged already for when she goes.
* Aberdeenshire staffing crisis continues but Fishermoss has a full quota. Cover when staff ill remains a challenge.

**Building matters:**

* Flooring is going to be replaced – non-slip. Grateful to Hazel Hall. Colour chosen
* Play area resurfaced – nursery staff thrilled
* Plugs and doors being moved forward
* ICT suite converted to classroom. Just needs whiteboard. All been paid for by Council.

AR asked whether this represented a sea change by the Council over the issue of smartboards

MF replied there had been a significant amount of money put into schools for smartboards, that they are now being seen as core facilities.

* Refresh of IT equipment of 7 yrs and older – Fishermoss has benefitted in terms of replacement but not additional kit. The school’s wifi can’t cope with the tech we already have – connectivity issues if 2 classes are online at once.
* School Kitchen improvements have been made

**New school at Hillside**

MF reported that the new school will appoint a head teacher by next April. Will still form school in August 2016 as planned. Two P1 classes will be formed initially who will obviously need to go somewhere. Fishermoss has 2 classrooms, art and music room and another spare area – this is likely to be where the children will be housed.

AR expressed concern over where the extra children would eat at lunchtime – would there need to be another area set aside for lunches?

CH wondered how PE time would be accommodated.

MF replied that the school would need to be creative with space e.g. rugby lessons outside, but was aware there will be lots of issues to resolve e.g. would the new school pupils want to be part of Fishermoss assemblies?

1. **Election of committee members and office bearers**

The following members were elected to hold office posts:

Chair – Robin Critchard

Vice-chair – Alec Reid

Secretary – Anna Conniff

Treasurer – Carrie Heddle

**Date and time of next AGM:** Thursday, 15th September 2016, 7pm.