**Parent****Council**

**Thursday 10th September 2015**

**8.30pm, School Staff Room**

**Attendees:** Margaret Ferguson (MF), Nicola Cameron (NC), Robin Critchard (RC), Carrie Heddle (CH), Alec Reid (AR), Anna Conniff (AC), Annmarie Graham (AMG), Alison Green (AG), Andy Case (AC2), Hazel Innes (HI)

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

1. **Welcome**

As new Chair, RC delegated to AR for this last meeting.

1. **Previous minutes**

The previous minutes were agreed.

1. **Head Teacher’s report**

MF said she had nothing else to add to her AGM report other than to discuss further the issue of the PSA being unable to form a committee.

CH commented that it needs to be acknowledged that the Parent Council are aware and not ignoring the PSA’s plight. She wondered if we’d missed an opportunity by not inviting PSA people to this meeting, but AR pointed out that the constitution dictates that the agenda needs to be set 2 weeks beforehand.

CH said that high on the agenda for both groups should be sustainability of both groups.

The Parent Council discussed again the possibility of merging the two bodies. The main issue of concern was how to avoid diluting the good work of both bodies. Could we co-opt for different events? Would it be possible to take quick decisions en masse and then have different parents take charge of different elements/sub-groups? AR commented that he thought a combined body would have to be more dynamic and use social media.

AR stated that we really need to meet with Friends of Newtonhill to see what’s on their agenda. He didn’t think they’d been as active as Fishermoss in fundraising.

AC2 commented that it had been a real eye-opener to know how little money is given to the school by Aberdeenshire Council, and that MF’s letter may encourage parents to join the PSA. Other members agreed.

CH asked why the PSA spending money on ink cartridges [this had been mentioned in MF’s letter about what the PSA raises funds for]. MF replied because this is a core need. CH felt this was letting the council off the hook, and AR and AMG agreed that we need to lobby the council on this matter.

AC2 said that he felt the PSA should have another call for the AGM and take it from there. Other members agreed. RC agreed but said that the PSA AGM should have a motion to see if there’s an interest to combine the two.

**Action – RC to contact Lynette about new date for PSA AGM, to be discussed with MF**

1. **Parent Council financial contribution to the school**

MF placed a funding request for pupil council badges amounting to £45.60. She also asked the PC to pay for engraving the young volunteer’s cup, a mini replacement for when the cup gets returned, and Golden Rules certificate for children who hadn’t lost any golden time, amounting to £187.40 in total.

The Parent Council agreed to donate £200 for administration costs to the school.

1. **AOB**

NC had a question about the buddy system – if a P7 is off, does anyone check that the child has a buddy? Nobody had noticed when her son’s buddy was absent.

**Action: MF to mention to Ms Anderson and P1 staff.**

The next deadline for the Cloch next deadline 1st November.

**Date of next meeting:** Thurs 12th November 7pm