**Parent****Council**

**Thursday 25th February 2016**

**7 pm, School Staff Room**

**Attendees:** Margaret Ferguson (MF), Nicola Cameron (NC), Robin Critchard (RC), Alec Reid (AR), Anna Conniff (AC), Annmarie Graham (AMG), Hazel Willox (HW), Lesley Robertson (LR)

**Apologies:** Carrie Heddle (CH), Heather Baxter (HB), Alison Green (AG)

1. **Welcome and apologies**

RC welcomed everyone to the meeting, and proposed this meeting progress via the action points from the last meeting.

1. **Previous minutes**

The previous minutes were approved (with the proviso that RC did not appreciate the multiple fonts used. AC proffered her apologies.).

1. **Previous action points**

RC suggested that meeting topics should focus on previous action points:

**Action** MF to set Fishermoss family homework to come up with suggestions for a school motto.

**Action** MF to take query over monkey bars back to the pupil council, plus options for springy things replacements.

**Action** MF get someone out to have a look at the school playground surfaces (asphalt and grass) for quotes.

**Action** AR to put together e-mail to arrange meeting with key stakeholders (Parent Council, Fishermoss Football, Jean from KDP, football officer at Aberdeenshire Council etc.).

**Action** RC to have chat with chair of PSA re Parent Council/PSA possible merger

**Action** AMG to progress questionnaire to parents on issue of parking

**Action** AR to raise line painting at next community council meeting

**Action** AR to get in touch with new head of roads re lines outside Bourtree Park

**Action** AMG to write to chair of PDCC to get Fishermoss parking issues on next agenda. Letter to cover dangerous/inconsiderate parking issues, lack of lines painted in car park etc.

**Action** MF to follow up on fact that not every child is getting what they asked for at school lunches due to pupils being allowed to change their minds.

**School motto**

MF fed back that she had received a number of suggestions for a school motto from families with the common thread of ‘being the best’. She asked all the staff to rank their top 5-10 choices. There was a clear winner, drawing on the school visions, values and aims, and applying to both students and staff: “Being the best we can be”. Congratulations to the Cameron family for coming up with this.

The new motto will be taken back to Pupil council before sharing with rest of school.

**Action** AR to ask Dennis Darcy at Recognition Express to run up upward banners to encompass values and motto.

**Monkey bars and springy things**

MF met with the pupil council and they confirmed that they do want the monkey bars lowered.

**Action** AR will to take this forward with landscape services.

MF reported that replacements for the playground springy things still need to be discussed with the pupil council.

**Action** AR to provide suggestions for replacements.

**Football field**

The potential for an all-weather football surface was discussed.

AR reported that the Portlethen Community Sports Hub being taken forward, with AR as the treasurer. They are hopeful of attracting other clubs in the area in the future, then will look to developing sports facilities and a football field will be high up on that agenda. AR thought it was possible that a deal could be done to have the playing field next to the school coming back under council control or under community control under the Section 75 agreement.

A discussion about which type of surface was best followed, with awareness that some surfaces have been linked to poor health outcomes.

**Parent Council/PSA**

RC reported that he had contacted the PSA via email in light of their problems forming a committee, following the resignation of their chair, but had received no reply. However, since David Wilkins has now stepped up to chair, this issue has been resolved. The Parent Council would like to recognise the contribution of Grant as former chair.

The PSA will need to call an AGM soon. RC will take up discussion with David and see if he can attend the next PSA meeting.

**Car parking survey and transport issues**

AMG reported the main results of the car parking survey. There were 94 replies.

* 71% of respondents feeling car parking is dangerous in morning.
* 75% of respondents feeling car parking is dangerous in afternoon.
* 36% of respondents feeling car parking is dangerous at lunchtime.
* 55% would like lines painted in the car park to indicate parking spaces, with allocated parent and child spaces.
* 59% want reverse parking.
* 58% want council to review parking.

Other issues raised included:

* The possibility of a bus bay in front of the school with the Hillside pupils due to start at Fishermoss in August, however not all pupils from Hillside will be travelling by bus. Craig Clements (Head of Resources and Performance at Aberdeenshire Council) informed AMG that council intentions on this front would be known by the end of March.
* Possibility of a zebra crossing or lollipop (wo)man where the steps go meet Berrymuir Road
* Extending zigzag lines to the corner with Aspen Way
* Parking in the bus stop
* Speeding
* Enlarging Bourtree car park
* Speed bumps

AMG attended PDCC and presented these results.

AR reported that the speed limit on Berrymuir Road needs to be lowered to 20 mph in order to meet criteria for crossings. The limit needs to be signposted with the red bordered signs. We would first need to get the community council on board, then take it from there. Can’t have toucan crossing until properly enforced at 20 miles per hour.

AR has been in touch with Philip Leiper, Head of Roads for this area, who said he was willing to look at car park line painting. Wendy McLaren will be in touch to see what we need. Use of the car park by MTM will run till end of March, but they have agreed to no additional manoeuvring at school drop off/pick up time. Recycling points are due to be dropped as soon as MTM leave, so there will be a loss of 4 or 5 parking spaces.

RC proposes to have a follow-up meeting in about a month’s time with Joanna Stewart and Michael Urquhart if they can make it. It was suggested that Alison Evison also be invited. AR advised that RC mention that we are also waiting for Wendy Maclaren to get in touch.

**Action** RC to contact Joanna Stewart and Michael Urquhart to arrange date for meeting, and invite Alison Evison along when date is set.

**Action** AMG to contact PDCC once a date is set for the meeting with Joanna Stewart, and ask them to hold fire on any decisions until after that meeting.

MF suggested that when classes send out assembly invites, a reminder could be included to please remember to park in right place. If pupils did simple flyers this could be effective. Another idea might be to have a lucky prize draw e.g. if your car is in the car park your registration number entered into a draw with a £5 prize.

**School lunches**

MF spoke to the cook about ensuring pupils are not allowed to change their minds about school lunch choice at last minute. The new ticketless system should help with this as pupils wear a rubber bracelet colour coded with their choice.

1. **Head Teacher’s report**

MF spoke about Restorative Approaches which had been the focus of the February inservice days for Fishermoss staff. The emphasis was on exercises that can be done with pupils, and also how to share information with parents. Staff created a Fishermoss RA leaflet by copying and pasting from other education authorities, in a cooperative learning style. All had look at the Restorative Approaches leaflet. RA has been used at Fishermoss for years but what hasn’t happened is making the pupils explicitly aware – would like to have pupils as mediators out in the playground ultimately, with adult guidance. Gives scope for people to have an out – only looking for acknowledgement that something wrong has been done. Not every conflict needs this approach. This leaflet is about the mediation part, rather than intervention.

The Parent Council were given a demonstration of the new Fishermoss web site which is up and ready to go live.

1. **AOB**

RC reported that he had been sent information from Aberdeenshire Council on parent council chairs, and that he will send the minutes round.

RC will get back to group about car parking issues meeting.

**Date of next meeting**: Tuesday 28th June 7pm