

Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held Friday 2nd February 2019

Attendees: Julie Howlett (Chair), Nicola Woodley (KS1), Laura Granados (UKS2), Mrs Woodbine (Headteacher), Paul Harrison (Chair of Governors)

Apologies: Stephanie Fuller (KS1), Ayesha Ismaili-Field (SLIC)

1. The meeting started at 1.40. A welcome was given and apologies shared. Julie apologized that she had not placed the last minutes on the shared drive, and PC decided to agree minutes retrospectively for this meeting.

2. Staffing update.

PC asked how the roles that Mr Taylor has are being filled during his absence. Mrs Woodbine and Mrs Baldwin are covering the DHT post. Mrs Woodbine and Paul Harrison explained the legal position regarding a duty of care for staff wellbeing and privacy and stated that parents should be assured that school was doing whatever is needed during Mr Taylors absence, and would do so in any future staff absence. PC appreciated the reassurance and said that such a statement issued earlier in a significant absence may limit unhelpful speculation by a minority of parents, as staff have a right to privacy (as in any other walk of life) and most parents appreciate this.

PC asked about TAs in KS1, and were told that a new TA had started today to fill the role vacated by Miss Barrett a couple of weeks ago.

3. Survey topics

Following current research information and feedback from parents in the general survey last year, it seems that type/amount/variety/frequency of homework is something that it is difficult to get right for all. A more detailed survey will be sent to parents shortly in order to try and unpick the issues and try to develop consistency across classes and ultimately, improve the effectiveness and outcomes for pupils.

4. Parent consultation feedback

Anecdotal evidence suggested that the recent 10 min parent consultations were very welcome and seen as useful by many parents. Staff did not find them too onerous (due to the reduction in the number of Rainbow trackers issued) and the timing of them was suitable for staff too.

5. Logo and branding progress

Mrs Woodbine explained that she is awaiting 3 ideas for a new logo from graphic designers, from which a final design would be tweaked and consulted upon. It was hoped this would be done after February half term. Three new uniform companies have been found (and it has been confirmed that Tesco uniform service is closing) and these all have the option of buying PE t-shirts in House/Team colours too. Uniform samples will be tested when they are received from all companies before a final decision is made on which company to use.

In terms of branding and communication, Miss Burgess is now trained in managing/uploading to the school website, so school hopes to be able to make this more current and usable for all stakeholders, including parents, until a new website with new branding is developed next academic year.

6. Langafel Lake

PC engaged Jeremy Kite in a meeting a week after last November's PC meeting, where he provided an assurance that he would support the resolution of the road/lake issue, even if he was not able to provide full funding for it, due to the problem being the responsibility of the residents/properties fronting onto Gorsewood Road. He did however offer £10k of his annual community fund to support the fixing of the problem.

Mrs Woodbine reported that since that time, people from KCC have visited to survey the problem. They have stated that they would not be prepared to do a 'patch job' as suggested by Mr Kite, as they know that it would not provide good value for money. They have however agreed to do more detailed research into the problem free of charge and will be excavating a trial hole using percussive drilling during the February half term. They have costed a full excavation, adding an additional soak away, bringing gullies and carriageway up to current standards, which totals just under £30k. Mr Kite. Mrs Woodbine said that will facilitate a meeting with the involved parties in due course to move things along - the current hope is that works may be carried out over the Easter holiday. So, although this does not help the situation this winter, it is definite progress and more promising than it has been for years. We will watch this space with keen interest!

7. Swimming pool improvements

More bids for funding from various agencies are being submitted by Laura Marchant (having met with Mrs Woodbine) within the next few weeks. Mrs Woodbine reported that the source of the leak has been found and investigated, but to start work on fixing it right away would delay the summer term's swimming. It is a small enough leak to wait until the summer holidays to fix without impacting on our swimming provision, so that is the plan. Mrs Woodbine also reported that the quotes for new flooring are now in, and will be submitted with the bids for funding. PC were appreciative of the efforts of Laura Marchant and Mrs Woodbine in aiming to improve the swimming facilities at Langafel.

8. Parental engagement

Parent Governors – no applications were received for the role of Parent Governor. Another letter will go out to parents around half term and Mrs Woodbine will ensure she has the capacity to discuss the role with any potentially interested parent. The vacancy will also be placed upon a Governor vacancy website, in the hope that it may be filled one way or another.

FOLS – The FOLS AGM took place this week, which was well attended. All roles were filled, mainly due to the enthusiasm and organization of the new Chair, Laura and the wise succession planning and recruitment of new members by the previous committee (Susan, Nisha and Jade). PC and Mrs Woodbine expressed appreciation of the outgoing committee and of the new FOLS committee, who have fresh eyes and more ideas, which we look forward to supporting.

PC – our number were depleted at today’s meeting and we are aware that we do not yet have reps for each phase. (We are currently missing a LKS2 rep, but will be missing a UKS2 rep from Sept, when Laura G. leaves, and will need to recruit from FS.) It appears from discussions at FOLS that parents are not entirely sure still how FOLS and PC are different, so we need to support parents in understanding each body’s different roles.

We will put our heads together and attempt to represent the different roles of governors/PC and FOLS visually, in the hope that parents may find their skills niche and volunteer for the body that suits them best.

9. AOB

Photos – Van Cols had previously offered the school no other pricing options and presented the one parents were paying as default. This will not happen in future. This year’s photos will be cheaper following stern debate with Van Cols after the information presented at the last PC meeting.

‘HAPI Y6 Survey’ – Y6 parents were asked to provide consent for their child to complete an NHS online questionnaire. The letter from the NHS said the questionnaire will cover their health, wellbeing and lifestyle choices and behaviour. It will help to identify support children may need to help them feel more prepared and able to cope with their transition to secondary school. It stated that all data will be anonymised and then shared with your child's school. This will enable them to target healthcare action plans to meet the specific needs of the school community.

Just to confirm that this was an official letter and the children of any Y6 parents who have agreed to have their child undertake the survey will hear about their child completing it in school at some point over the next couple of months. School will keep these parents posted.

The meeting finished at 2. 20pm.

Date of next meeting: