



Dingwall Academy Parent Council Meeting – Monday 26th October 2015

Minutes

Present: Karen Cormack, Helen Cameron, Sam Blyth, Alister Mackinnon, Alan Radin, Laura Ross, Lisbeth Collie, Eileen Bice, Anita Munro, Lindsey Ramsay, Alison McLeod

Minute Taker: Fiona Cameron

Apologies

Stephen Mackenzie

Laura Rae

Mike Evans

1. Presentation by Colin Howell, Head of development and Infrastructure - Kinnairdie Link Update

Colin gave an update on the Kinnairdie link road. The road has been a long time in the pipeline. The first part of the works to improve the junction at Renatos is underway and due to complete in February 2016. The full link road is contained within the capital budget and is programmed for completion during 2018/2019. Network Rail have withdrawn their objection to the proposals and planning consent has been received.

Flood attenuation works have to be completed prior to the road works. KC and HC asked about the consideration of pupil safety both during the works and once the road is complete.

During works – method statements covering all health and safety aspects will be signed-off with the contractor. These proposals will specifically consider pedestrian safety. KC particularly wanted the bus access and egress to be considered whilst work is underway.

There was concern raised over works/ noise and traffic delays particularly during exam time when pupils are already under stress. Colin took this on board

reassuring the PC that the Highland Council would have control over the contractor on these matters.

Completed works – The original proposals showed a pedestrian bridge link from the school side. The parent council are keen that there is an options appraisal undertaken looking at desire lines to ensure that the pedestrian route best mirrors custom and practice. Colin reassured the Council that they would review the options and consult with the Parent Council on proposed pedestrian crossings. It was agreed that pupils should be involved in this consultation as this is more likely to lead to an appropriate solution.

LC asked about cycling and whether there was an integrated solution within the new road. Colin advised that this isn't the case. KC commented on the cycle to school week and the preferred route taken. There was a request that the Council review this aspect whilst the road plans are finalised.

Colin advised he would forward on the traffic control report.

There was agreement that the PC would be consulted going forward and that the Health and Safety of the children was always at the top of the agenda.

3. Approval of previous minutes

Lindsay proposed minutes, Anita seconded

4. Matters arising from previous minutes

IT Refreshment

Mrs Cormack – IT Refreshment will begin next month. Dingwall Academy will be first in the 1 to 1 programme of tablet distribution - Chromebook is the device of choice and they will be available some time after Christmas.

There are questions regarding the ability of the school wifi to be able to cope with the number of 1 to 1 devices. Wifi hasn't been properly tested in Dingwall and the pilot schools were considerably smaller.

There will be a Parental/pupil contribution - £10 per year.

There will be no designated area for devices to be kept in school therefore they will be the total responsibility of the children.

KC to check whether P7s will all get them at the same time, in advance of S1. It was agreed that an information evening for parents might be useful due to queries about the use of the chromebooks and any restrictions.

Sponsored walk

The school chose not to use bbq because of a lack of staff and the kids choice to stick with bacon rolls.

Alister and Helen complimented pupils' behaviour when taking part in the walk and Karen gave thanks to all who helped.

S1 parent information evening went well. One new member on the PC as a result.

5. Parent council fund raising

Laura - Since last meeting after drinks and snacks for sponsored walk there is a balance of £854.73

The music department has shown an interest in having a ceilidh/burns night January. This led to the view that a Parent Council Ceilidh in November was not viable. Sam suggested a Christmas fayre however availability is restricted and KC not keen to pursue due to an already full agenda over December.

Karen will ask Dingwall players about catering opportunities. (post meeting note – this wasn't an option due to lack of availability of PC members)

6. Treasure update

Current balance £854.73

7. AOCB

Staffing update

Emma Fife – Successful in obtaining a depute post at Inverness High School

Eilidh Mathieson – appointed to HFT

KC confirmed that the school has a full staffing compliment.

Date of next meeting

18th of January 2016