



Tiree High School – Ard-Sgoil Thriodh

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Title:	Tiree High School Parent Council
Date:	Thursday 12 th November 2015
Location: Time:	Tiree High School Library 7.30 pm

Chaired by:	Will Wright (WW)
Present:	Myra McArthur (MM), Julie MacLennan(JM), Jo Vale (JV),Margaret Worsley (MW) Duncan Urquart (DU) Elspeth MacKinnon (EM), Kirsty Maclean (KM) Aine Cooney (AC), Joe Bennett (JB) Jayne Smith (JS) Caroline Chalkley (CC)
Apologies:	Jaclyn McNeil, Lynn MacCallum, Mandy Kelso, Mairi Forbes, Paul Le Roux.
Minutes by:	Jo Vale (JV)

WW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

JV gave apologies received.

2. Minutes of last meeting

These were reviewed, discussed and agreed to be an accurate account.

3. What the Parent Council is: update for new members

WW outlined the role of the parent Council and the parent Forum and outlined the changes to the constitution. JV queried whether there needed to be a vote on the proposed changes, WW said this could be done at the next AGM.

AC and JB volunteered to be the teacher representatives on the Parent Council.

Action:

JV to put Parent Council new constitution on teachintiree website.

4. Current work areas

a) Fundraising

WW thanked volunteers for teas at Gala day.

A discussion was held on ideas for fundraising and purpose of fundraising. It was agreed to focus on: Sports Day teas, TMF, Gala Day as in previous years.

Other ideas included a Car Boot sale at Easter and Halloween event in the School

Use of funds raised was discussed, possible projects needing funding include Community Radio Station, IT equipment, Sports equipment. MM said it would be useful to have input from Parent Council to help identify other sources of funding available to the school.

WW suggested looking at funds available and developing a funding strategy.



Action:

DU to look at Easter Car Boot Sale
JM to investigate Halloween event further

b) School Uniform Survey

JM had drafted survey. It was agreed to go ahead with survey looking at changes to secondary uniform only.

Action:

AC to put link to web survey on skills board and in school newsletter.

c) Communication

AC commented that the School has a new improved website. The school newsletter is now available on the website and the events section updates regularly.

It was discussed whether the School should have a facebook page. DU commented that Oban High School has a very good facebook page. MM said there were issues with using facebook and meeting Argyll & Bute Council's child protection guidelines. All agreed it would be useful to see the guidance.

It was agreed that Parent Council could share information re events etc on their facebook page

Action:

JV to put link to School website on Teachintiree website
MM to give Parent Council Argyll & Bute Council guidelines for using web and social media.

d) Partnership working

No further update, still waiting for more guidance on the new Community Empowerment Bill. WW stated there was a willingness from all to work in partnership.

e) Buses – Tiree specific guidance

JM had spoken to School, Argyll & Bute Council and contractors and drafted Guidance for using the buses on Tiree. JM is still awaiting confirmation from contractors on a couple of issues. All agreed it was very useful guidance.

Action:

JM to finalise document

f) Update on Gaelic Early Learning & Childcare Pilot Assessment

Following the return of Questionnaires Alison MacKensie met with some parents to discuss the Gaelic Pre 5 pilot. The feedback from the questionnaires and Alison's visit is not available yet. Concern was expressed that only 5 parents returned the questionnaire.

It was suggested that the questionnaire should be made available again to get more feedback from parents.

EM asked what effect the Gaelic pre 5 pilot had had on the level of Gaelic of children entering P1. MM said the school were assessing this. EM said Comman nam parant were keen to be involved in any evaluation process.

It was agreed it was useful to have a representative from Comman nam parant on the Parent Council.



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MM said that a bilingual Early Learning Child Care centre might be more appropriate, as for financial reasons it is difficult to offer both English & Gaelic when numbers are small.

Action:

MM to look at possibility of re-issuing questionnaire.

g) School name

There was a general discussion on the suitability of the name Tiree High School for a school that covered age 3 upwards. It was agreed to add a question to the School uniform questionnaire asking whether the School name should be changed.

Any change of name would need to be approved by Argyll & Bute Council.

Action:

JM to add question to uniform questionnaire

5. Staffing Update

MM stated that the school was very sorry to lose Kat McIver from the teaching staff. All agreed she was a great teacher and wished her well in her new post.

MM was delighted that JM has agreed to teach in the primary department 3 days per week.

The post in primary has been advertised and the closing date is 27th November.

MM also said she was very grateful to Hannah MacKechnie and Caroline MacLean for providing teaching cover.

6. AOCB

a) IT policy

MM stated that the school needed to have a discussion with parents on IT policy and the provision of equipment, as many of the school laptops were now 5 years old and it was not certain if they will be replaced. It was agreed to set up a sub group to look at IT strategy for the school. Joe Bennett, Aine Cooney, Mark Vale, and Julie MacLennan volunteered to be on the group.

Action:

MM to organise initial meeting of IT sub group.

b) Argyll & Bute Council Service Review

MM stated that she was very concerned about the effects some of the proposals in the Service review would have on the School and Tiree Community. MM urged everyone to read the consultation and respond. MM was concerned that council cuts had already impacted on the school. DU queried whether if further cuts were made whether some teachers could teach others subjects. MM stated that all teachers were currently working to capacity.

Action:

All read Service Review Consultation & comment



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c) Piping Tuition

EM expressed concern at the lack of piping tuition in the School. MM explained that there were difficulties as the current tutor has been unwell. Donna at Tíree Development Trust is looking into possible piping tuition on Tíree. All agreed that the Parent Council would support in any way we could, and possibly something to include in fund raising plans.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 14th January 7.30pm .