



Tír na nÓigheachd – Ard-Sgoil Thiriodh

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Title:	Tír na nÓigheachd Parent Council Open Meeting
Date:	Thursday 19 th January 2017
Location: Time:	Tír na nÓigheachd (Home Economics room)

Chaired by:	Will Wright (WW)
Present:	Graham Wilks (GW), Julie MacLennan (JML), Jayne Smith (JS), Mairi Forbes (MF), Jaclyn McNeil (JMN), Lynn MacCallum, Will Wright, Mairi Brown, Paul le Roux, Ishbel Campbell (IC), Jo Bennett, Sarah-Louise Goode (SL), Jen Skinner (JSk), Elspeth MacKinnon (EM), Aine Cooney (AC)
Apologies:	Alison Colthart, Jo Vale, Emma Rossiter, Sian Milne
Minutes by:	JML

1. Welcome

WW welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Under matters arising from previous minutes:

- **School Trips Funding** Totalizer is looking really good - £5272.16 raised to date. GW stated that there has also been a healthy donation made which will go some way towards reducing the costs of trips, however at this point couldn't comment on the amount.
- **DHT Appointment** – WW congratulated Mrs Aine Cooney on her newly appointed post
- **IT Technician** – GW informed us that Stuart Smith is expected back to work on 7th Feb. In Stuart's absence, the school has been seeking help from Oban High. At this point GW stated that unless completely necessary the school were willing to manage on their own until Stuart's return as the costs of out-sourcing were proving high.
- **Community Involvement** – representatives of TMF have started a 4-week block working with seniors.
Fiona Malcolm has implemented an 8-week cooking block
Dance teacher is needed for another block. GW is open to the community for suggestions. JML will possibly carry-out a Zumba/dance block
WW has worked with individuals on bike-maintenance in the past. He offered his services to this again.
GW suggested that it might be useful to have a carpenter come into the school for a block. Lucy Roper (tech teacher) had been in in the past. GW will look into this again – Derek Campbell a good contact for this.
- **Panto and Christmas Quiz** proved very successful
- **Burns Night** - GW asked if this was something that was missing in the community. There are a few taking place on the island. GW suggested that the school could possibly host one in February instead.
- **Talent Show** - seniors have organised this for end of February
- **Music Club Concert** – Miss Kilpatrick is hoping to organise one sometime in May

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3. Update from Head Teacher

ELCC

ELCC working group put together and distributed a survey to determine the needs of parents in early years. 23/25 responded. GW will now collate the results and circulate to all parents involved. Working group to meet again in the very near future. All very keen to move forward with a decision to implement the English/Gaelic morning/afternoon sessions.

IC questioned when a decision would be expected to be made and by whom – locally or authority? GW stated that the decision lies with everyone, although difficult to please all. It would be a local decision with input and advice from A+B.

IC put forward concerns from CnP regarding the short timescale for the new P1 starts in Aug. They want to make sure that as much Gaelic is provided for them as possible before Aug.

GW advised us that plans for moving ELCC into the current P1G classroom are ongoing. The Quantity Surveyor is drawing up plans for costs at the moment outlining who would be responsible for what costs – School/Library Services/ELCC all have to contribute. GW hopes to have a better understanding by end of Feb 2017.

Any building works would be carried out over the summer months. Meanwhile plans to install new security doors in the main building will be completed over the Feb weekend.

DHT Appointment and Staffing

GW congratulated Aine on her new post. Aine takes up her new post on 20th Jan. For the moment, she has been shadowing Mrs leRoux. GW sent commiserations to Mrs leRoux and thanked her for all her support to him since his start in Aug.

JMN asked if Aine would continue her role in ASN in her new appoint. GW stated that she would like to be kept involved with this and he was keen to keep her invaluable experience, however her new job roles and commitments would have to be looked at. Unclear at this moment.

GW was recently at a school staffing meeting hoping to have some clearer answers for further staffing improvements. However, he is still a little unclear.

GW thanked JML and IC for their ongoing support with their rolling contracts.

Library Assistant Appointment

WW informed us that Tiree's new Library Assistant is Rowan Walker from Edinburgh who will be taking up post on the 27th Feb. She is currently looking for accommodation on the island if anyone has any suggestions.

Community Survey – Part of School self-evaluation

GW highlighted that THS should be up for a HMI inspection in the near future as the last one was carried out 9 years ago.

As part of the schools self-evaluation he would like to consult with the community to gather their opinion of the school. This should help form the starting point on improvements which must be made.

He would like to include the Parent Council as the key group for consultation, but also include; Tiree Trust, Community Council and a range of other groups. This will be carried-out over the new few weeks and months.

6. School Minibus

The authority took the minibus away, resulting in a loss which has already been noticed within the school. For the moment the school has been substituting with the Ring 'n Ride and hiring from Nancy.

Mr Rossiter is struggling to organise the up and coming OWL trip without our own vehicle – resulting in high hire costs and tough logistics.



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GW informed us that there is an A+B Council Pool where we can hire A+B School buses on the mainland. Staff need to have gone through a special driving test for this, which he currently passed. Restrictions also apply depending on the date your car driving test was passed. **GW will look further into A+B Pool.**

Flit Hire in Oban was recommended to GW. **GW to look into this.**

EM recommend Stramash near Oban. **AC to action this.**

The idea of finding funding to buy our own minibus was floated but it was maybe thought that it would only be used 80% of the year? Before we look down this avenue is there anything we can arrange with Nancy McKechnie when taking transport off island? **JML to speak with Nancy.**

It was suggested we could go to the Trust for funding or find out if any other groups have put forward the desire of a minibus that could be shared? **Aine to look into this option.**

7. Any other business

Blue ELCC Box

WW pointed out that there seemed to be a disused blue box outside ELCC beside the Clothing Bank. IC said it was the roof box for the old school minibus. WW asked if it could be removed as it serviced no purpose and looked a little unsightly. All agreed. **WW will action this with Tommy.**

Sports Hub

WW told us about a recent Sports Hub meeting he attended with some other key 'sports' members of the community. This is a group funded by Sports Scotland with the idea being to bring all the sports communities/leaders/teachers together to 'work better together and achieve more' – sharing ideas and ambitions.

There will be a meeting at Tuesday 7th Feb 7:30pm at the Trust Offices, for anyone interested

New Starts Open Evening

JSk raised the point that there was a recent new P1 starts open evening that took place at very short notice. She was unable to attend and wondered if there were any other opportunities for parents to visit the new class with their child?

JS said that Mrs McIntosh is making plans to allow parents that opportunity.

MF suggested that CnP are also looking into an information evening and would be happy to help inform new parents.

Scottish Puppet Festival

JSk has arranged funding from the Trust for a visiting Puppet Show to the island during the Scottish Puppet Festival 27-31 March. She wanted to ask when would be the best possible time and date to suit the school.

It was suggested that straight after school when the bus can drop off pupils at the venue would be best.

The show is a story about a Selkie 'The Fisherman and the Seal'. Great for all ages 5+

Days and Times of Meetings

WW asked if the current day and time suited everyone.

SL suggested that some find it difficult to go to school meetings so late as they struggled to find childcare their young children. She suggested that in other schools they have them set at earlier times and pupils/children are able to come along too with an activity taking place to keep them busy.

It was suggested that this could be something that we peruse in the future and we could possibly alternate the times.

8. Date of next meeting

AGM - Thursday 20th April 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 9.00pm