

Tayport Primary
Playgroup and Ferryport Nursery
Parent Council
Minutes of Committee Meeting
Held on Thursday 14th January, 2016
At 7pm in the school

Present: Sherree Rennie (Chair), Jill Tennant (Vice Chair) Linda Welsh (Treasurer), Vanessa Rengger (Secretary), Jane Holmes (HT), Jennifer Peterson (DHT), Jacqui Sugden, Cllr. Bill Connor, Chris Torrance, Niki Sage, Anna Moss, Nicola Wallace, Amanda Simpson, Heidi Ford.

Apologies: Cllr. Maggie Taylor.

1.	Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting 27.8.15. The minutes of the last meeting were approved, proposed by Jacqui Sugden and seconded by Niki Sage.	
2.	<p>Chairperson's Report (SR)</p> <p>SR had meeting recently with JH and most matters discussed will be covered in the School Report, however SR reported on a few issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state of the clinic in the playground is still being discussed with Fife Council, but, in the meantime, if anyone sees anything untoward can they please phone the police. • The bin cage is now locked with a padlock. • Fire doors are now fully repaired. • Christmas disco for the P5-7's went very well, 85 children attended and there were positive comments from parents. 	
3.	<p>Treasurer's Report (LW)</p> <p>The bank account balance is £8003. The Parent Council paid for the P5-7 disco and contributed £500 towards the cost of the Panto (Total cost was £1300, which seems expensive, but if the school takes pupils to a theatre this would be the cost of the coaches alone). Contributions were also made to the Christmas parties and the Nursery party.</p> <p>The committee would like the school to consider whether the younger classes would like a disco next year, although JH and JP think the teachers do like their traditional Christmas parties.</p>	
4.	<p>Secretary's Report (VR)</p> <p>VR reported that the Awards for All grant for the trim trail had now been signed off. JH thanked VR for all her work on this.</p> <p>Quotations for a plaque acknowledging funders are still being sought. Cheaper white aluminium board signs with digital printing cost about £100, but may not be appropriate, so VR is going to get quote for a more expensive plaque which we could put on the new extension. Bill Connor feels there will be restrictions as to what we can place on the building. Although we have already enquired, JH will speak to Miriam Farquharson at</p>	<p>VR</p> <p>JH</p>

	<p>Fife Council again and ask if there is an approved supplier. Spree Book sales last term raised £50.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>School News-JH Staff news JH introduced Nicola Wallace who has been appointed as acting DHT. Miss Wallace has experience of learning support and has previously been acting DHT at Crail Primary School. Her remit is to develop support for learning across the school pending filling the post of Learning Support Teacher. The school has interviewed 3 times this year but a suitably qualified candidate has not yet been found. Concern was expressed by Chris Torrance that the situation has not yet been resolved, given that the Inspection in April 2014 highlighted that children’s needs would be better met by improving support for learning and that Nora Conlin, Fife Council Education officer for Tayport, had assured the Parent Council that learning support would be a priority. The interim solution of retraining a teacher to fill this role had not produced the level of learning support needed and 18 months down the line the school’s ‘support for learning arrangements are not yet fully effective’ as highlighted in the recent follow up inspection report in December 2015. JH responded that they could only advertise the post, but if CT wished he could speak to Nora Conlin directly. JH also advised that Mrs Mitcham(Learning Support Teacher at Newport Primary) is working in the school one day a week and is ensuring records are kept up to date. Mrs. Avery had a baby boy, Sam, before the Christmas holidays. Mrs Froehlich from Boston, USA, is covering P5/6 during Mrs. Avery’s maternity leave. She has an interest in additional support needs.</p> <p>Technology upgrade Windows 7 is due to be installed in February in the Nursery and in March in the school. Wireless provision will be provided in Rm 2 and in the Sports Hall and Teachers’ Resource base. Hardware is also due to be upgraded. Each classroom, including rooms 10 and 12, will have 2 desktops and 1 laptop. Teachers’ Resource Base, office and Nursery hardware will be replaced like for like and additionally the Nursery will be made wireless as well. JH intends to increase the number of laptops from 6 to 12 and add 10 iPads.</p> <p>PLANT –Community Garden PLANT came in to school on November In-service day to outline how the school could link in to the Community Garden project.</p> <p>Web Page There has been a significant increase in visits to the web page, and JH is always looking for any ideas for improvements. SR suggested a bag drop to remind parents to use this facility.</p> <p>Family and Community Support Team (FACST) Are providing a confidential drop-in service in the school for parents on Tuesdays from 2.30 to 3.30pm. This service is not connected with the school; the team is very good at referring people on to relevant agencies if needed.</p> <p>Inspection Return Visit This took place after the October holidays and the work that has been done in the last 18 months was acknowledged. Positive comments were made about the physical improvements in the school. JH was disappointed, but not surprised that the inspectors will return again. High level messages from</p>	<p>JH</p>

	<p>the Inspection are on the school website and the meeting was given a summary sheet. Behaviour Support is included in the School Improvement plan. Distribution of questionnaires to parents to gauge concerns will be ongoing.</p>	
6.	<p>Nursery News (JP) The Care Commission visited in September and issued a very good report, which can be found on the school webpage. Transition to P1 has started today. Each year the process proceeds as follows: In the first term the EYO's visit the P1's in their classes, from October the Nursery children start to visit the Sports Hall, this term they visit both P1 classes for 10-15 minutes as they have not yet been allocated to a class. Teachers will start visiting the Nursery and next term the children will be allocated buddies. Nursery applications are currently being submitted with 3 year olds applying this year due to the extended hours on offer. Enrolments for P1 in August 2016 are being made in the school, with parents being asked to bring a birth certificate and proof of address. Nursery is celebrating Burns on Monday 25th January Chinese New Year will be celebrated on 8th February- it is the Year of the Monkey. PEEP (Parents as Early Education Partners) sessions are being held by Mrs. Brotherston every other week</p>	
7.	<p>Playgroup News There was no representative from the Playgroup present.</p>	
8.	<p>Fundraising Christmas Fayre was very successful raising £1209.45. JH asked if any funds could be made available towards the IT refresh these would be most welcome. The Nursery is keen to have tablets rather than laptops; Fife Council only support iPads. SR suggested that the sponsored walk this year could be towards IT. Agreed a Friday would be best. The Parent Council intend to use funds raised to purchase a stage once the weather improves. JP is to order the ghetto blaster for the playground with funds already donated.</p>	SR/JH to discuss
9.	<p>AOCB Mrs Simpson advised that a gym mat trolley had been ordered to preserve the life of the mats. Also funding was agreed for indian scarves for the group of pupils attending the Fife schools dance/gymnastics event. JH advised that the trim trail had been inspected recently by a contractor on behalf of Fife Council, who found water damage. VR to please email Caledonia Play to organise re-varnishing/treatment. Mrs. MacMaster is taking over the Eco Committee during Mrs. Avery's maternity leave. Planters will now be managed by the Eco-Committee in</p>	AS to give receipt to LW VR

	<p>conjunction with PLANT. Eco Bins still outstanding. Clinic in playground- the owner is now being billed for the repairs, which is why the process is taking longer. Cllr Bill Connor suggested that people could report it as a derelict building on the Council's website. Once the committee have worked out how to do this we can put a post on facebook and the Parent Council website. In the meantime please report untoward activity to police as already mentioned.</p> <p>Class Representatives- suggestion that the Parent Council take a table at the Parent's Evening advertising what we do and seeking interested people.</p> <p>Scottish Parent Teacher Council training session</p> <p>This was cancelled in November due to lack of interest, but SR has received an approach from Wormit Parent Council suggesting that we plan another one at Tayport and coordinate with Wormit, Newport, Balmerino and Balmullo schools so that we achieve the minimum number of participants.</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>VR to check</p> <p>SR/JT</p> <p>VR/SR</p>
--	---	--

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Next meeting will be Thursday 3rd March at 6.30pm in the school