

Friends of Maud School Parent Council

Minutes

Wednesday 28th October 2015

John Curno (Chair), Kenny Westmacott (Vice-Chair), Louise Cran (Treasurer), Kath O'Connor (Secretary), Carol Fleming, Helen Ritchie, Sonia Will, Katie Fordyce, Jennifer Gray, Tracy White, Wendy Moir, Heather Portsmouth, Gaynor Steel

1. Apologies

Veronica Thomson, Lynne Adams, Louise Catto, Louise Muir, Louise Bisset, Mrs McManus, Mrs McCue

2. Minutes from previous AGM

The minutes from the previous minutes were summarised by Kath O'Connor and approved.

3. Treasurers Report

Our bank balance is currently sitting at £830.32. Obviously the significantly reduced balance is due to our recent donation of £2,500.00 to the school. We banked £120 last month, the proceeds from the school disco organised by Carol Fleming - she was thanked for this kind donation.

4. Maud School Football

The AGM was on the 5th October and the new office bearers are Chair – Steve Dalgarno, Vice-Chair – Stuart Wood, Treasurer – James Begg and Secretary – Louise Cran.

Due to increased numbers and the move to indoor training, the offer of an All Weather Pitch at New Deer was taken up. The groups will swap throughout the winter months, but currently P1 & 2 are in Maud Village Hall followed by P4-7s with the P3s at New Deer. The first session was a success with children, coaches and helpers happy. Reminders for when the sessions change will be issued near the changeover.

The Strathythan indoor league starts soon on a Saturday night; this is for the older players as we only have 2 teams this year.

Helpers are desperately needed for the rota to take the register and money and generally help the children and coaches. A note has been sent out to parents and it is hoped parents will willingly volunteer soon!

The school confirmed, Mrs McCue is the teachers' representative and is aware of the next meeting on 2nd November. School also confirmed there will be swimming lessons this year and would keep Football informed as they kindly pay for the bus.

5. School Website

Access to maintain the school website has been sort from the Council but is still outstanding. Mrs Steel and Kenny Westmacott are liaising about this. **(Action Point)** It was thought the first priority was to refresh the information there and when that is done, discuss what is to be added. The format is similar throughout the Shire.

It was asked if Aberdeenshire Council were happy to have a parent update the website. Yes. Due to any information posted being approved by the School first, with them having overriding authority and being able to remove/update anything themselves.

6. Parent Council Communications

It was explained that the current procedure for issuing minutes, notes, agendas etc. was time consuming for the School and wasted resources. Discussion was held on the best procedure and it was decided that once the website was running, parent council documents would be available there and a paper copy held at school. Until then the current method would be used. Alongside the website a closed group Facebook page will be set up. It can be used to remind parents to events and update them to parent council members. (More discussion was held on this when training was discussed later in the meeting.) **(Action Point)**

Mrs Steel asked about the School Facebook page being an open group with many members not known to the School. Advice from a few members were given with the recommendation to change it to a Closed Group, delete all the members and ask them to re-join. Mrs Steel and the School will follow this up.

The format of communications was discussed also as some parents find opening Word documents tricky and PDF format would make anything sent from the Parent Council and School more accessible, especially on phones. The School will look into this and help was offered, should it be necessary. **(Action Point)**

7. SPTC Training

The SPTC had invited us to run a training session for ourselves and other local parent councils. The courses were discussed and Focus on Communication was most of interest, although the SPTC would be approached to see if they could combine some aspects of another course. As these discuss Facebook, any page would wait until after the training. **(Action Point)**

8. Fundraising

• Christmas Fayre

A note was need to amend the donations of chocolate to the school – as the previous one clashed with in-service days. Mrs Steel offered the library to wrap again. Miss White collected the cellophane and will store it for us.

• Lucky Squares

We are again running the lucky squares for £100 theatre voucher. A note needed to go out to parents reminding them sheets could be taken to work places if they can. They would also be on sale at the Christmas Fayre. The winning square will be drawn at the Christmas concert.

• Organised Mums

Fundraising packs are available and looking back at previous years it has been a good earner (2011 raised £243 and 2010 raised £563). It was agreed to run again, selling at the Fayre. The need for two tables and an increased number of helpers was suggested and would be followed up. Also, it was thought that the items could be made available on an afternoon after school to increase sales.

• Candles

Carol Fleming had produced an example of a candle which could be sold to raise funds. Various places of where they could be sold were highlighted and what designs could be used. Miss White took the example to discuss with one of the school groups to see if they wished to take it further.

• Jute Bags

It was thought that it had been left too late to do this for Christmas sales so this will be raised again in the new year. **(Action Point)**

It was agreed that we would continue to raise funds specifically for new reading books. Notes for all of the above would be done. **(Action Point)** (The need for new curtains in the P4/5 class was raised as on sunny days the white board is not visible, even with the curtains closed. Kath offered to make the curtains if/when material was available.)

9. Date for the Burns Ceilidh

A provisional date was set for 29th January 2016, dependant on Hall and fiddlers availability. The fiddlers from last year will be given first refusal and another sort if required. The café would be approached about food. Prices would remain at £7 for adults and £3 for children.

10. AOB

- A thank you note had been received from Mrs Brown for the gift the parent council gave on her leaving.
- School will contact Tempest about school photos.
- Carol Fleming asked everyone's view on the Halloween disco as it clashed with Aden-een. Everyone thought it should go ahead. School would remind people on Facebook.
- Children's Christmas gifts were discussed. It was thought that last year's arrangements had not gone well and selection boxes had not been popular; suggestions were sought. After some discussion Louise Cran, Katie Fordyce and Kath O'Connor would meet and then liaise with Carol Fleming, Helen Ritchie, Sonia Will and School to make the arrangements and ensure the gifts were ready for the parties.

11. Date for next meeting

Wednesday 13th January 2016, 6.30pm