

Friends of Maud School Parent Council

Minutes

Wednesday 4th November 2020

Christine Wood (co-chair), Louise Muir (co-chair), Lynne Pirie (Treasurer), Katie Fordyce (Secretary), Mrs McCue, Mrs Steel, Georgie Curno, Donna Sutherland, Louise Cran, Rachael Smith, Kath O'Connor, Mrs Sutton

Apologies:

Cat Anderson, Shona Esslemont, Caroline Simpson, Kate Noble.

Minutes from previous meeting:

Lousie read through these. No matters arising and they were approved by Lynne Pirie and seconded by Christine Wood.

Election of committee – alteration:

After the AGM, it was brought to our attention that members of staff are unable to nominate or second office bearers. Therefore, new nominations were sought for both the Chairperson roles.

Louise Muir – nominated by Katie Fordyce, Seconded by Louise Cran
Christine Wood's nomination was seconded by Louise Muir.

Head Teacher's report:

Things are ticking along in school and the procedures, which initially felt strange are now just part of our routines. Risk assessments are being updated regularly by the authority and changes are being made in school but these mainly impact the staff and how we have to go about our work.

The main things impacting pupils and parents are that parents are now expected to wear face coverings when doing drop off and pick up, PE can now take place indoors, which is detailed in a letter sent out on Monday.

We endeavour to maintain a bit of festive cheer in the face of Covid-19 cancelling a lot of our fun! This term, classes will still be making and selling their Christmas crafts, Class parties will go ahead (minus a visit from Santa) and we also hope to do a Christmas Concert and film for you to enjoy.

Individual pupil reports will be issued this term as we try to maintain some level of reporting to parents. Seesaw has been working well during these times, ensuring communication between home and school but just last week, Aberdeenshire Council made the announcement that schools are no longer allowed to use this platform. A recent ruling by

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the EU in relation to Privacy Shield, which was how Seesaw and a number of other apps collected and stored its data, means that schools are no longer permitted to use Seesaw. Aberdeenshire Council are in the process of reviewing a number of apps and software packages to offer an alternative but Seesaw will, unfortunately cease later in November.

Treasurers report:

Lynne reported that as of 13th October we had a balance of £929.44. £400 donation was given to the school which was still waiting to be cashed and £204 was paid in from the Halloween squares, so the current balance is £733.44. Some of this will be used to purchase the Christmas presents and also to provide some juice and snacks for the Christmas parties.

Fundraising:

A huge thank you to the 'Disco mums' for organising a Halloween Hamper and raising £204 for the Parent Council. We are extremely grateful for the help and support, especially when fundraising is so difficult this year.

I'm a celebrity get me out of here – is our fundraiser that we are currently running. This starts on 15th November. Obviously with it being 2020, things might be slightly different this year and we are still unsure as to how many celebs will be entering and if there will be any late arrivals this year. Therefore, it was decided that the fairest way that we could do this, would be to allocate random numbers before vote off begins. We hope that you support this fundraiser as the proceeds will be used to purchase a gift for each class to use at choosing time/rainy days. The winners from each group will receive a £10 gift voucher of their choice from any local business in Maud.

Our biggest fundraiser for 2020 is our Christmas Window Decorating Competition which we are all really excited about! We are asking homes, the school and businesses around the village to get involved and decorate for Christmas. We hope that it will bring some excitement and community spirit to the village this year. We will be selling Christmas activity packs which will include a wordsearch, colouring in page, Christmas baking recipe and some other bits. We will also be asking some of the houses that will be taking part to include a letter in their display that will make up a word or phrase and will keep the kids interested in their walk around the village. Everyone will also have the opportunity to vote for their favourite display and the winner will receive a prize and of course, the most important title of the 'Best Christmas Window Display of Maud'. We are hoping that this will be well supported and bring some much-needed festive cheer! Please email your interest to friendsofmaudspc@gmail.com so that we can note how many houses are planning to be involved and that we have an email address for you, so that we are able to send some a letter that we will need to be displayed. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

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Christmas:

Thank you to all parents for your very quick response for consent of names being used to purchase a personalised gift for the children. It has made our job so much easier that these came in so quickly and we have been able to order these gifts, which will give us more time to wrap and quarantine these as per guidelines before the Christmas parties are held.

As stated earlier, Mrs Steel informed that it is their hope to still be able to put on a Christmas concert in class bubbles this year, which will then be filmed and possibly sent out as a link rather than a DVD. However, as the concert is normally a good fundraiser and there will be no ticket sales this year, it was asked for ideas as to how to raise money for this. It was thought that a suggested donation could work and Mrs Steel said that she would discuss this further with the staff team.

There has been no information received yet about the Christmas Lunch. Normally all staff and children have lunch together in the hall. The teachers are still very keen to do something similar but this year it might be that teachers have lunch together with the children in their classrooms.

As there will be no school Christmas craft fayre this year, staff are keen to create prototypes of the crafts that will be available to order this year. Order forms will be issued in the near future to allow classes time to make the orders. Again, we have to adapt to these times we are currently experiencing but also try to maintain as much normality as possible.

With regards to Covid and the quarantine guidance that is issued for schools, we asked if we were still able to hand out information to the public. The current committee is very fortunate to have our local postie as co-chair so we wondered if there was any guidance about Christine posting flyers or the Christmas packs we will be selling. It was agreed that if people got in touch and expressed an interest in receiving this then as long as it was quarantined for the 72 hours beforehand then it would be ok. We thought this may be particularly helpful for some of the older residents in the village who may not have links to the school or access to a computer or printer. This way they can still hopefully be involved with our Christmas festivities this year.

Football:

Normally at this time of year we'd be setting a date for next years gala and organising our biennial quiz night. Obviously under the current circumstances everything is on hold right now. The Strathythan winter league has also been cancelled and the current guidelines have also affected our training with the P1-3's and P4-7's having to train on alternate Tuesdays at New Deer Astro. We will continue to follow both the government and SYFA guidance so that all our players, coaches, volunteers and parents can stay safe. Our next

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meeting will be held on Monday 9th November at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Louise Cran if you would like to attend and she will pass on the zoom invite. Thank you.

A.O.B:

Christine had mentioned that her children would like footballs at school to use. Mrs McCue stated that she is in the process of purchasing footballs and is also looking at using some of the money donated by the Parent Council to purchase crates to store equipment for outside.

Louise thanked everyone for attending.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 13th January 2021 @ 6.30pm – All welcome