

BANCHORY ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL (BAPC)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 30 August 2018

Present: Trish Amundrud, Cllr Rosemary Bruce, Val Chapman, Jacqueline Conroy, Louise Considine, Katie Davies, Ruth Duddy, Vikki Duncan, Kate Ellison, Lesley Fletcher, Rebecca Glansbeek, Andrea Hale, Megan Hare (Chair), Moira Langmuir, Colin MacLeod, Jill Matthew, Scott Newey (Vice-Chair), Andrea Peake, Jeanne Ritchie (Treasurer), Cllr Anne Ross, Alison Smart (Secretary), Marion Strassberg, Linda Stromberg, Naomi Smith, Judith Wight (Rector).

Apologies: Jeff Wallace, Jackie Wilson.

Action

1. MINUTE OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the AGM meeting held on 7 September 2017 were formally approved. There were no matters arising.

2. PARENT COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Megan Hare, Chair, gave an oral report on the activities and events of the past year, which highlighted the following (refer Appendix):-

- There had been 11 BAPC members in 2017/18, with all school years represented. It had been a busy year with eight meetings; thanks were extended to all members of the BAPC, as well as to parents from the wider Parent Forum who had attended, the two School Captains, and the local councillors. All had contributed towards supporting the ongoing strong contact between parents and the school. The work of the teachers was also recognised.
- Scott Newey had responded to the Scottish Government Empowerment consultation on behalf of BAPC.
- BAPC had responded to various concerns raised by parents and the wider community including: uniform; off-campus pupil behaviour; mobile phones; drainage at Tillybrake; swimming pool; new academy etc. Many of these issues were ongoing.
- BAPC had strongly supported the school's excellent alcohol and drugs information evening for parents
- The Chair had represented the school at the annual conferences of both Connect (formerly SPTC – Scottish Parent Teacher Council) and the NPFS (National Parent Forum of Scotland). The Chair had also attended Aberdeenshire Council's two Parent Council Chairs' meetings, at which the over-riding concern in Aberdeenshire education was indicated to be teacher recruitment.
- BAPC members had continued to participate in several working groups in key areas i.e. literacy, numeracy, and careers. A very useful presentation had been delivered by the school's Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisor Christine Stidolph; BAPC members continued to work closely with staff on the delivery of lunchtime careers talks. Claire Burt, English teacher at the school, had given an overview of the work of the Literacy Group.
- Members would continue to work on the following:-
 - o Parental involvement in schools, which the Rector was very appreciative and supportive of and the Government was pushing for.
 - o UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools award (LF).
 - o Maintenance of the BAPC Facebook pages (LS).
 - o Maintenance of strong links with feeder primaries.

- Improving communications with the wider Parent Forum.
- Forging closer ties with the PTA, which had experienced a difficult year in respect of fundraising.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jeanne Ritchie, treasurer, presented accounts for the year ending 31 July 2018 (see Appendix). Money had been received from Aberdeenshire Council for use by the Parent Council. Three payments totalling £771.20 had been made during the year to cover: a contribution to the Youth Philanthropy Initiative at Woodend Barn; a contribution for teachers to attend senior prom and; Chair's expenses (travel etc.). The closing balance for the year was £1233.09.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS 2018/19**

The appointment of the following Office Bearers was approved/noted:

Megan Hare: Chair (ongoing appointment)
Scott Newey: Vice-Chair (ongoing appointment)
Jeanne Ritchie: Treasurer (re-elected)
Alison Smart: Secretary (new appointment)

Additionally, the following parents present at the AGM volunteered to form the Parent Council for the year:

Trish Amundrud, Jaqueline Conroy, Katie Davies, Vikki Duncan, Kate Ellison, Rebecca Glansbeek, Colin MacLeod, Jill Matthew, Scott Newey, Marion Strassberg and Linda Stromberg.

Secretary's Note:

Subsequent to the meeting, it was confirmed that Jeff Wallace, a 2017/18 member who was not present at the AGM, would stay on. Jackie Wilson, a member for many years, would not be a member for 2018/19 but would continue to attend meetings; Jackie was thanked for her contributions to BAPC to date.

MH to
JW

Sincere thanks were extended to the outgoing Secretary, Alex Wilowska, who had completed a 4-year term as Secretary to the Parent Council prior to demitting office.

MH to
AW

5. **CONSTITUTION**

Colin MacLeod had led a review of the BAPC Constitution. The revised constitution had been made available on the school [website](#) for comment by the Parent Forum, prior to submission to the AGM for approval. Members confirmed they were happy to **approve** the Constitution.

Chair's Report: August 2018

Welcome everyone. I am Megan Hare, Chair of the PC and it is my job at the AGM is to give a report on the work of the Parent Council over the last year.

Looking back, I would say the Parent Council has had a good year, and a busy one.

We've had 11 members, representing all school years.

Thank you to all the members for giving up their time to attend the meetings and show real interest and ensure strong contact between parents & the school. There has also been good support from a few members of the Parent Forum this year, so thank you to them.

The School Captains attended several meetings in the last year, giving the all-important pupil perspective on various matters.

We have had strong support from our local councillors, all three of whom were newly elected in 2017 and so new to the Parent Council.

Judith has continued to be a head who is extremely approachable and supportive of parent involvement.

We've covered a lot of ground. So, a quick look over what we've done in 2017/18:

At the start of the year we all spent quite a bit of time wading through the Scottish Government consultation about Empowering schools, which followed on from the Governance consultation the year before. Jackie had responded to that consultation on our behalf, and this year Scott formed a response from us to the empowerment consultation. Just before the summer holidays, having reviewed all the responses, the Scottish Government explained how they would take governance and empowerment forward, so I would like us to take a look at that and understand how it will affect us.

We have represented parent and community concerns, and worked with the school to address matters such as uniform, behaviour of pupils at lunchtime off the school premises, mobile phone use, toilets, ShowMyHomework.

We strongly supported the school in its excellent drugs & alcohol information evening, which was extremely well received by parents.

We have liaised with the local councillors to pursue the school's interests at Local Authority level, and we thank the councillors for their strong support of our Parent Council. Jeff took up the issue of poor drainage at Tillybrake Field, and hopefully we will continue to work on this. We have continued to seek clarity from the Local Authority about plans for the future of the pool area in the school and the current sports centre, once the new sports centre opens and the old pool closes.

With regard to a new academy, Vikki represented the Parent Council on the local Community Action Plan the year before. This year our Parent Council wrote to the Marr area councillors to ask that a piece of land continues to be set aside for a future new academy in the next Local Development Plan.

Jacqueline and Rebecca and myself, together with Linda and Naomi of the Parent Forum, attended some Connect workshops and learned how we should be running our Parent Council, which has been very useful. I have almost finished reading through all the

leaflets we collected! Joking aside, the leaflets are excellent, and Connect offers great support.

I represented our PC at the Connect Annual Conference and the National Parent Forum of Scotland Annual Conference. Both are organisations that aim to support parental involvement in schools, and from what I saw they are both doing excellent work at doing just that. I also attended the Local Authority's two Parent Council Chairs' meetings.

Jacqueline has represented the parent perspective on the school's Literacy Group, and Jeanne on the school's Numeracy Group, meeting once a term. We had a presentation at the start of the year from English teacher Claire Burt about the school's Literacy Group.

We also had a presentation from Christine Stidolph, the school's careers advisor, about the work of Skills Development Scotland with the pupils, and about the excellent MyWorldofWork website.

Rebecca and I worked with Depute Scott Phimister to continue the programme of lunchtime careers talks for pupils, bringing in a whole range of people to speak about different jobs and further education.

Thalia Groucott, outgoing School Captain, started the ball rolling working towards the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools award and Lesley Fletcher of the Parent Forum has volunteered to work with the new School Captains on this.

Rebecca and I have forged links with the Parent Councils of the feeder primaries, which reflects Judith's work, and the general trend, to work more closely with the cluster schools.

The Parent Council Facebook page has been energised by Linda, populated with lots of interesting posts, and is now being shared much more widely.

Linda & Alex have worked with office staff to improve our communication with the Parent Forum through the use of the school's GroupCall system.

We have tried to establish closer ties with the school's PTA so as to understand their situation in a difficult period, and try to assist in getting more support for much-needed fundraising from the Parent Forum.

Throughout the whole year, Colin has thoroughly overhauled and updated the PC constitution – to be ratified this evening hopefully.

Finally, at the end of the year there was really good support from PC members and members of the Parent Forum for the refreshments for the staff at the Sports Day, as a way of showing our appreciation for the hard work of the teachers.

So, in summary, a busy and productive year, and long may it continue!