**Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) Meeting**

**Held on 20th February 2023 at Abernyte Primary School (APS)**

**Attendees**

Parent Council Officers

Greg Clark (Chair)

Sarah Donoghue (Treasurer)

Matt Sierocinski King (Secretary)

Teachers

Jen Clark (Head Teacher)

Members

Esther Strickland (EsS)

Lynda Shanks (LS)

Tony Foster (TF)

Ewan Stark (EwS)

Claire Stein (CS)

John White (JW)

**Minutes**

1. **Introductions**

Greg Clark (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) meeting at Abernyte Primary School (APS) building this academic year.

The Chair announced that apologies had been received from:

1. **Minutes from the previous meeting**

Greg Clark (Chair) asked everyone to review the minutes of the previous meeting for matters of accuracy. No queries were raised.

**Decision**: The Parent Council approved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

1. **Actions Arising Not Otherwise on Agenda**
   1. Greg Clark (Chair) to draft press release for issue before end of year [2022] regarding the result of the catchment review.

This matter remains ongoing.

**Action**: The Chair shall issue a press release regarding the catchment area outcome.

* 1. Parents encouraged to keep promoting school to those outside catchment including via private nurseries etc.

A variety of members reported on their experience of doing so at Busy Bees and Red Squirrel Nurseries. The Parent Council discussed the matter.

**Action**: Members of Abernyte Primary School Parent Council (APSPC) shall discuss the promotion of Abernyte Primary School (APS) make plans on how to do so at the first meeting of the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

* 1. Greg Clark (Chair) to tentatively sound out Inchture Nursery potential to promote.

The Chair updated the Parent Council on the progress of the action. The Parent Council discussed the matter, with discussion including the diplomatic sensitivities of the issue, and whether the Inchture Nursery could promote Abernyte Primary School (APS) to the parents of Inchture Nursery pupils who reside within APS’s catchment area.

**Action**: The Chair shall approach Inchture Nursery with the view encourage them to promote APS to parents of Inchture Nursery pupils within the catchment area.

**Action**: Members of the Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) are to promote APS on community Facebook groups and other locally focused social media.

**Action**: The Chair shall engage with Inchture Area Newsletter on the promotion of APS.

1. **Finance Update**

Sarah Donoghue (Treasurer) gave the Treasurers Report to the Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC). The Treasurer highlighted the £400 received from Perth and Kinross Council, of which £200 was spent on the website, the £1500 received from Tesco, and the money raised from the craft fair.

Mrs Clark (Head Teacher) raised the topic of Teachers funding resources for the school out of pocket. APSPC conveyed their collective dismay that circumstances put teachers in this position, and discussed options regarding a resolution to this matter. The Head Teacher relayed their discussions with other teachers to APSPC on the differing approaches by other schools.

Lynda Shanks (LS) asked APSPC how the Gardening Club could be funded. APSPC discussed the matter.

**Noted**: APSPC noted their collective surprise that APSPC had won £1500 from Tesco, compared to the expected funding of £500.

**Decision**: APSPC authorised the funds raised from the Craft Fair to go to APSPC.

**Decision**: APSPC authorised the sum of £200 to be split between two store cards (e.g. Tesco and Asda) to allow the teachers to buy equipment for the school as needed.

**Decision**: APSPC authorised the sum of £50 for the Gardening Club to be claimed on a receipt-style basis its Committee members.

**Action**: The Treasurer shall transfer the funds from the craft fair to the accounts of APSPC.

**Action**: The Treasurer shall set up two store cards with £100 each upon them to be used by teachers for school equipment.

1. **School Update**

Jen Clark (Head Teacher) gave the School update, drawing the attention of Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) to the following key headlines:

* The children had engaged in Eco- tree planting, the potato project, and Read, Write, and Count competition;
* Abernyte Primary School (APS) had achieved RSPB bronze award;
* Mrs Martin had completed Forest training;
* APS had engaged with the Digital- Lego league, introduction of Indi’s and Safer Internet Day;
* The recent Pupils as Teachers Parents as Learners (PATPAL) sharing session with a focus on digital and literacy learning, highlighting a strong turnout and well thought out activities to demonstrate the learning undertaken;
* APS’ plans to celebrate World Book Day.

The Head Teacher moved on to the topic of staffing, and explained that APS had welcomed Mrs Vicki Jones, who had met some parents at the PATPAL session. She explained that Catriona Morrison, the local Reverend had visited the school to share stories from the bible with the children in P2/1, with a date in the near future set for a visit to the church.

The Head Teacher drew the attention of APSPC to Learning Conversation Guide and the How to Support My Child at Home booklet and expressed a hope for its usefulness.

The Head Teacher raised the topic of events and trips in the current Spring term, highlighting the Easter church service on Wednesday 29th March at 9:30 to which all were welcome to attend. She sought to enquire as to whether there was any interest in a planetarium visit, noting the price was £250 ex VAT for half a day, and presented the alternative idea of a visit to Dynamic Earth which was roughly £10 per child plus cost of transport. APSPC discussed the costs of school trips with a focus on the cost of living and transportation costs. The Head Teacher clarifed that it was possible for APS to take children on public transport for school trips, which, with an NEC card for each child, would reduce the costs considerably.

The Head Teacher updated APSPC on the work undertaken by staff during the February In-Service Day, with the following highlights included:

* A focus on attainment data of children to further understand the children on track and the who required additional support;
* APS staff discussed and reflected on our learning and teaching and looked at recent HMI reports
* Attended digital training with the team at Inchture Primary School, Errol Primary School and Invergowrie Primary School and learned about digital support to help learners improve reading and writing, as well as optimising class time.
* Workshops with training modules on Trauma Informed Practice in relation to nurture and adverse childhood experiences.

The Head Teacher wished to emphasise APS’ sympathy towards the current rise in the cost of living, noting that within our rural communities, these costs are often greater. She directly offered the assistance of APS in helping families to mitigate these costs as much as possible. The Head Teacher wished to extend an offer of her support to APS Parents who wished to access the services listed below, including, but not limited to, help to complete applications. She wished to share a few of key links which may offer some support:

* On School Meals:
* All pupils from Nursery to Primary 5 can now access a school meal at no cost each day without the need for parents/carer to apply. This will be expanded to include Primary 6s and Primary 7s soon. Menus are available:  [Primary school meals - Perth & Kinross Council (pkc.gov.uk)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17330/Primary-school-meals).
* Families with pupils in P1-P5 can also apply for a clothing grant of £120 per year if you are in receipt of certain benefits. If your child is currently in P6 and P7 you can apply online for free school meals and a clothing grant if you are in receipt of certain benefits. For full details see: [Free school meals and school clothing grants - primary and secondary - Perth & Kinross Council (pkc.gov.uk)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)
* On Available Benefits:
  + This page lists all the current benefits that are available to families, some to which are available to all, some to which are based on levels of benefits received - [Benefits for parents, children and young people - Perth & Kinross Council (pkc.gov.uk)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/benefitsforfamilies)
* On Local Food Larders:
  + This page lists details of local food share larders that aim to reduce food waste and support families - [Local larders - Food support for people in Perth and Kinross - Perth & Kinross Council (pkc.gov.uk)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/communitylarders)
* On the cost of the school day:
  + APS has continued to focus on how APS can reduce the cost of the school day., including the cost of trips and uniform costs.
  + APS offer a healthy snack (usually fruit) to children who do not have snack with them.

Additionally, the matter of pupil numbers for 2023-2024 academic year, was raised. The Head Teacher informed APSPC that 3 placement requests had been made for P1, with a resulting pupil number of 26 for APS for the forthcoming Academic Year. APSPC discussed the matter, with members present raising information of potential pupils within the new extended catchment area, choosing to put in placement requests for a variety of reasons. APSPC discussed the matter of the 2021 pupil intake (currently in P2), continuing to be split between two classrooms, and understood that this was expected due to pupil numbers. This will result in a P1-3 class and a P3-7 class.

**Action**: All parents of APSPC are reminded to take 5 minutes to provide APS with a little feedback on [Digital Learning](https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?subpage=design&FormId=6dxqdyZdSUeiAvCf7-EFkItmGNPUDPFKlUbZSgk3b1FUNFcyMURZSEZHWU9HM1o1OFRXMDdGM1ZKRC4u) for each family in order to give valuable information to help APS plan for next steps and to see where the gaps are in APS’ communication and for APS to support parents.

**Action**: All parents of APSPC are requested to review the Cost-of-Living support links in the School Update section of the minutes, and, if they feel such information could support them, to investigate the information contained on the webpages linked.

**Action**: Any parent of APSPC who would like further support in applying for any Cost-of-Living support, is kindly requested to email the Head Teacher, who is available to assist APSPC parents.

**Action:** Any parent of the 2021 intake (2022-23 P2s, 2023-24 P3s) who wishes to discuss the matter as to which class (P1-3 or P3-7) that their pupil will join for the 2023-24 Academic Year is requested to approach the Head Teacher privately on this matter.

1. **Playground Proposals**

Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) discussed the topic, and Mrs Clark (Head Teacher) confirmed that the children had decided on a Ship theme. An engaging discussion took place on the potential materials and design for the playground.

**Decision**: The Playground Development Committee (PDC) was established by APSPC, with a membership of: Tony Foster (TF), John White (JW), Ewan Stark (ES), and Greg Clark (Chair).

**Action**: The Chair shall invite all members of the APSPC to join the PDC.

**Action**: PDC holding its first meeting before 6th March 2023.

**Action**: TF shall produce mock-up designs with materials to be reviewed at the next meeting of APSPC.

1. **School Grounds and Out of Hours Access**

In the absence of Helen White, John White (JW) raised this matter to the Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC). APSPC discussed the matter. Jen Clark (Head Teacher) confirmed that there was no access to the school grounds out of school working hours. APSPC discussed how this could be compatible with regards to the playground’s funding requirements to be accessible to the community.

**Action**: A review of playground access is to take place at the next meeting of APSPC.

1. **Gardening Club**

Lynda Shanks (LS) introduced this agenda item, and spoke about the planning meeting that was held at the home of LS, with a variety of parents in attendance. Claire Stein (CS) added to the update. LS and CS updated the Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC), on the work for the pond. APSPC discussed the work of the Gardening Club further, and with a tangential discussion as to whether such a Club could form part of an after-school provision at Abernyte Primary School (APS).

**Noted**: The Gardening Club could continue work on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 as Mrs Clark would be present on site.

**Action**: More discussions are to be had regarding the Gardening Club as a form of After School provision at the next meeting.

1. **Nursery and afterschool care**

Lynda Shanks (LS) introduced this agenda item, and the Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) discussed the matter in detail, along with the possibility of a nursery provision, and a suggestion of approaching Wild Sparks.

**Decision**: APSPC agreed to set up the After-School Exploratory Committee, with Matt Sierocinski King (Secretary), Esther Strickland (EsS) and Claire Stein (CS) as initial members.

**Action**: The Secretary shall engage with JACS after school club regarding how the after-school club was established at Inchture Primary School, and report back to the next meeting.

**Action**: The Secretary shall message the Abernyte Primary School Parents’ WhatsApp group to garner interest from parents in an After-School provision.

**Action**: Greg Clark shall engage with Baillie Alastair Bailey on the matter of a nursery provision, and report back to the next meeting on their discussions.

1. **PE Uniform Standardisation**

Sarah Donoghue (Secretary) raised the matter of PE Uniform Standardisation, and wished to garner the perspectives of the Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC). The members present discussed the matter, with Jen Clark (Head Teacher) offering her support to parents on the matter.

**Decision**: APSPC agreed that there was a degree of flexibility in PE uniform which shall extend to plain (ie commercial logo-free) clothes, with tops with the Abernyte Primary School (APS) emblem permitted.

**Action**: The Head Teacher shall gently remind parents/carers of the PE Uniform and the flexibility agreed by the APSPC.

1. **Inchture Area Community Council (09/03)**

Matt Sierocinski King (Secretary) gave a shameless plug about the Inchture Area Community Council (IACC). The Secretary explained that it covers Inchture, Abernyte, Rait, Kinnaird and everywhere in-between. The Secretary announced that the first reconstituted meeting of the IACC was expected to be held in Abernyte Primary School (APS) on 9th March at 19:30 and encouraged members of the Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) to attend.

**Action**: The Secretary shall promote the meeting on the Abernyte Primary School Parents WhatsApp group.

**Action**: The Secretary shall engage with the outgoing Chair of the IACC regarding the appropriate equipment and access needs for the Inchture Area Community Council’s meeting, to ensure they are declared in the booking form.

1. **Frequency of Future Meetings**

Matt Sierocinski King (Secretary) introduced the paper (Paper APSPS-2023-02/B) on the frequency of meetings for the next academic year. The Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) discussed the matter, with comments also focused on the new committees and clubs established.

**Decision**: APSPC agreed to hold 6 meetings a year for the next academic year, with the first two terms having one meeting each, and the second two terms having two meetings each.

**Action**: The Secretary shall produce a draft set of dates for the next academic year to be presented for consideration and decision at the next meeting of APSPC.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting of the Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) will be in mid-March 2023.

**Action**: Greg Clarke (Chair), Sarah Donoghue (Treasurer), Matt Sierocinski King (Secretary), and Jen Clark (Head Teacher) shall agree the date and announce it to the members of APSPC.

1. **Any Other Business**

Two additional items were raised.

1. Esther Strickland (EsS) raised the prospect of a quiz. Abernyte Primary School Parents’ Council (APSPC) liked the idea.

**Decision**: APSPC agreed to hold a quiz on 12th May 2023 at Abernyte Primary School (APS)

**Action**: Jen Clark (Head Teacher) shall investigate the possibility of booking the School Building for the event.

**Action**: EsS, supported by Matt Sierocinski King (Secretary), shall lead on composing and running the Quiz event.

1. There were discussions about holding another Fun Day at Abernyte Primary School.

**Action**: Everyone shall bring their ideas to the next APSPC meeting regarding the Fun Day.