



Ullapool High School Parent Council Comhairle Nam Pàrant Ardscoil Ulapul Minutes

Tuesday 30th Jan 6:30pm, Ullapool High School

1. **Present: (PC members):** Anthony O'Flaherty (Chair), Dave Maxwell (Secretary), Sue Pomeroy, Andrew Lintern, Fiona Saywell, Gina Mauger, Carla Lees (Pupil Rep)
Others in attendance: Robbie McFedries (Head), Anne Hunter (Depute), Jenny Cunningham (parent)
Apologies: Julie Allen, Ian Williams (Teacher Rep). Gareth Lewis-Ing, Anne Wood, Janis Patterson, Sot Otter, Joany McGuire, Christine Crook (Vice-Chair), Helen Meek (Treasurer), Nellie Collins, Stephanie Sutherland
2. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (6th Nov) –** Proposed by SP, seconded by GM
3. **Head Teacher's Report: (RMcF)**
 - **Winter Transport** –the Lochinver bus has been cancelled a number of times due to bad weather despite the excellent efforts of the drivers. Parents were encouraged to contact the Council about gritting, highlighting the number of school days lost (UHS has also done this). RMcF noted that gritters on roads managed by BEAR can be tracked on line.
 - **Education Governance** – The Scottish Government has proposed radical changes to the way schools are governed and Highland Council has completed a consultation on this (search for "Empowering Schools" on the scot.gov website). UHS, together with other schools in the area, have submitted a response.
 - **Budgets** – The annual amount of Pupil Equity Funding (combined locally to fund the new primary school Literacy/Numeracy support role) is driven by the number of pupils receiving free school meals and clothing grants. **Action:** Parents are encouraged to apply (in confidence) if they fulfil requirements, even if they do not intend taking up the offer of free lunches. Highland Council are meeting on the 5th Feb to discuss cuts in teacher numbers. Small schools will be protected and proposed cuts to support teacher numbers have been withdrawn. Parents are encouraged to contact the Council directly to make their views known.
 - **Course Selection (S3/S4/S5)** – As in previous years, this will be held over a 2 month period to ensure as many pupils as possible get the mix of courses they need.
 - **Garden of Reflection** – The school have worked with Andrew Mackay to identify and donate a space at the edge of the grounds which can be used for this worthy cause.
4. **Treasurer's Report (HM by email)** - The Bank balance is £1099.00. **Action:** AO'F and CC to be added as account signatories
5. **Matters Arising from previous meeting**
 - **Sailing Instructor** – unfortunately the KLB instructor is not available
 - **Sound Recording Studio** – issue resolved
 - **Easyfundraising** – HM will put reminders out of FaceBook and promote at the S2 + S3 parents eve
 - **Friday Afternoon Activities** -
 - **Photography**– instructor not currently available – **Action** RMcF to follow up after Easter
 - **Guitar**– check in/out system now in place - resolved
 - **Drama** – IW has started a group
 - **Dance** – Becky/Alice are running sessions
 - **Rock-climbing** – beginner sessions running
 - **Fundraising** – **Action** AO'F to follow up with SS
 - **Facebook** – more items being posted including weekly agenda. **Action:** RMcF to post link to Highland Council budget proposals
 - **Transport from Dundonnell** – limited interest from parents. SP will co-ordinate locally

6. **Pupil Update:** (CL)
 - **Prelims** – some pupils found MacPhail room noisy compared with the usual exam room. AH explained this was due to higher numbers resulting from compressing the prelim timetable. The summer exams will be held over a longer time and will use the exam room.
 - **Toilets** – Pupils were reluctant to use the toilets as some were out of order and locks were broken. **Action:** Pupils to report to Ian or the office. RMcF to issue a reminder at registration
 - **Youth Space** – this project is difficult for pupils to progress because of the funding issues and long timescales involved. **Action:** AO'F to speak to Yvonne Boa to see if the PC can help to move this forward.
7. **Transport to Ullapool for School Activities** – the minibus provided for events such as the school Ceilidh is already subsidised and it was decided on balance that PC funds should not be used to subsidise further. RMcF noted that parents can contact the school about help with costs.
8. **AOB**
 - **Cost of School Trips** - the Japan and proposed Alps ski trip were discussed – some felt they were expensive, others felt they were a great opportunity and a good way to encourage older children to earn/save money. RMcF noted that a ski trip to Aviemore did not go ahead due to low take-up and that the Lagganlia trip, which all pupils are encouraged to go on, is part funded by the school. CL noted that the number of trips offered by such a small school was “amazing” and pupils were very thankful. **Action:** AO'F to look at possible PC fundraising
 - **Netball Club** – if not enough to play, can other options (e.g. badminton) be looked at esp. for pupils waiting for the later bus? **Action** RMcF to look into this.
9. **Date of next meeting:** Tue 27th Mar @ 6:30 pm