

Ullapool High School Parent Council
Comhairle Nan Parant Ardscoil Ulapul

Parent Council Minutes Tuesday 13th May 2025 6.00pm, Ullapool High School and through Microsoft Teams

Meeting opened: 18.05pm

1.0 Present and apologies: Nadine Lunn (Chair), Sian Curley (Secretary) , Heather Smith (Treasurer), Elaine Macaskill, Chris di Rollo

Lee Coutts (Headteacher) Jo Stewart (Deputy Headteacher), Andrew Inglis (Teacher Representative)

Apologies: Tim Loftus

2.0 Minutes of previous meetings

Jo noted error regarding job titles. Action: Sian to update and circulate.

3.0 Matters arising from previous meetings

3.1 PC constitution

The Constitution needs to be updated. **Action:** Nadine and Lee to meet and update (ongoing)

3.2 Assynt pupil transport

Sian attended Assynt Community Council meeting on 24th April to share PC concerns about school transport. ACC are campaigning for improved gritting programme during winter weather which would improve school transport routes. Proposal that school buses should be equipped with winter or all weather tyres.

PC discussed whether school transport could run later during icy or snowy weather so buses are travelling on treated roads.

Action: Sian to attend June ACC meeting

Action: Elaine to ask bus drivers about number of service bus users

4.0 Treasurer's Report

4.1 Bank account

	Incoming	Outgoing
Ragbag	£70.41	
Interest	£9.41	
		-
BALANCE	£1721.97	

4.2 Grants/funding

Heather contacted Ragbag regarding a second bin, but they are unable to supply one.

- Easyfundraising account has been transferred to Heather.

Action: Heather to make posters to promote further

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4.3 Funding requests

£300 Support agreed for pupil social event

5.0 Head Teacher's report

See attached notes for full report

- Lee described timetabling change to ensure ring fenced time for leadership activities for senior pupils

6.0 School Facebook page

Nadine described a parent concern about children's photos on social media. Lee explained that photos are checked carefully against the list of young people with photo permissions and that photo permission can be withdrawn by parents at any time.

Action: concerned parents to contact Lee directly

Action: Lee to include note explaining withdrawal of photo permissions in next Headteacher Update

7.0 Pupil Social Event

Actions:

- PC to request helpers to set up room 4-6pm
- PC to request pudding donations
- Pupils living outside of Ullapool to request places on transport
- Heather to ask Andrew Hayton about Tesco donating puddings

8.0 AOB

8.1 Parent engagement in Parent Council

Discussion of a social fundraiser event for parents. A quiz night was suggested early in the next session.

8.2 Much Ado about Nothing

Nadine offered help with school play.

Action: PC contact with Ian Williams

Meeting closed 19.10pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25th June, 6pm

Head Teacher Update for Parent Council

12 May 2025

Overview:

- Whole school assembly took place on 23 March – pupils were updated on school life and over 50 pupils received a merit certificate.
- Weekly HT update providing information on school life and activities – positive feedback received.
- New Facebook page showcasing life at UHS has very good interaction and followers (approx. 250)
- We are progressing with our work on Rights Respecting Schools and hope to accelerate progress towards Silver in the new session. Visibility of pupil rights is being heightened across the school.
- We will shortly be submitting our application to become a Silver SCQF Ambassador School.
- We are currently a Silver Sports Scotland School and I am working with Ben Bruce and our PE department to accelerate progress towards achieving Gold next session.
- Well attended P7 Information Evening took place on 23 May. The P7 transition days will take place on 12 and 13 June.
- The school celebrated the 25th anniversary of the current building on 4 April. This was marked by a trip down memory lane in school and a re-enactment of the procession that took place for the original opening.
- We continue to encourage pupils to take part in different focus groups to ensure their voice is being heard on matters that impact them.

Pupil achievements and activities:

- Girls' Football Team won the Active School's West Coast Cup against Gairloch High School
- Powering Future Presentations took place in Inverness on 28 March
- Young STEM ambassadors visited Lochinver Primary School to deliver STEM training before Easter and are back this week to deliver Maths work
- Scoraig Primary visited on 4 May and took part in Science activities
- The 'Bud Bus' – Poppyscotland's travelling museum visited on 23 April and all our S1 and S2 pupils took part in a range of activities around heritage, veterans' stories and the poppy's history
- We continue to promote pupils signing up for the Rural Athletes Support Network (RASN) – see Ben Bruce
- Rehearsals for Much Ado about Nothing continue to take place and tickets for the performance on 25 and 26 June can be pre-served at the Macphail Theatre
- S3 Rural Skills visited Wester Ross Salmon in early May

- S2 took part in a range of Hill 2 Grill activities which resulted in a final session with NW Highlands Geopark. Pupils created recipes, branding and unique names for their burgers and then presented their ideas to a panel of judges from the Geopark, Rock Stop Café and the Caledonian Hotel.
- Mental Health Awareness week places place this week and we are encouraging pupils to wear green on Thursday to raise awareness
- Fundraising activities for our Trip to Nova Scotia continue to take place.
- School Dance – Oscar’s format – will take place on Thursday 29 May.

Self-evaluation activities:

- Several activities have taken place to gather pupil and staff voice on a range of matters.
- **Learning, teaching and assessment survey** took place with pupils before Easter. This is the fourth time this survey has been completed in 2 years. The main points were:
 - The percentage of pupils who strongly agree or agree increased in 9 out of 14 indicators since September 2024.
 - Pupil understanding of how homework supports their learning has slightly improved but remains an area for focus.
 - Homework policy has been revised for August.
- Similar audit of teaching, learning and assessment is currently taking place with staff.
- The local authority undertook an **attendance survey** with pupils and parents during the winter.
 - 25 parents completed the survey
 - 47 pupils completed the survey
- Attendance and timekeeping are priority areas for the school – results of the survey will be shared in due course.
- Our average attendance is 85.8% against a council average of 86.8% and Scotland average of 88.2%
- We continue to educate families and pupils on the importance of attendance and timekeeping.
- **Highland Lifestyle Survey** was completed a couple of weeks ago – waiting on results being provided from the authority
- **Glasgow Motivation and Wellbeing Profile (GMWP)** completed 2 weeks ago – results are encouraging. Generally upward trend in pupils feeling they belong to the school and feel important. Other areas remain similar from results in November 2024.
- The **school uniform** question we asked pupils a month ago was split. We are talking to pupils about the pros/cons of uniform and will ask the same question again soon.

School Improvement Plan Update:

- Making steady progress towards our 4 priorities:
 - **Learning and teaching** - to better meet the needs of all learners and provide a more consistent learning experience across the school.
 - **Curriculum** - to ensure that our curriculum meets the needs of our learners and maximises attainment.
 - **Wellbeing and leadership** - to improve the wellbeing of pupils and staff and further develop leadership at all levels.
 - **Gaelic** - to increase awareness and appreciation of our local culture and heritage.
- In year 2 of a 3-year improvement cycle
- We are currently reviewing progress towards our 4 priorities, and this will allow us to fine tune them for next year.
- In line with recently published Scottish Government priorities, there will now be explicit focus on the '**A-B-Cs**' of education (**a**ttainment, **a**ttendance, **b**ehaviour, **c**urriculum) within our school improvement documents.
- This year's Standards Quality Report will be published in late June and our School Improvement Plan for 25-26 in September.