



Ullapool High School Parent Council
Comhairle Nam Pàrant Ardsgoil Ulapul
Minutes

Tue 5th Feb 5:30pm, Ullapool High School

1. **Present: (PC members):** Seori Burnett (Chair), Christine Crook (Vice-Chair), Dave Maxwell (Secretary), Sue Pomeroy (Treasurer), Gina Mauger, Suzanne Lewis-Ing, Anthony O'Flaherty, Janis Patterson
Others in attendance: Robbie McFedries (Head Teacher), Anne Hunter (Depute Head), Alan Sears (parent)
Apologies: Fiona Saywell, Donna MacGregor, Steph Southerland
2. **Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (27th Nov)** – Proposed by SP, seconded by SL-I
3. **Matters Arising from previous meeting**
 - **Youth Space** – Meeting arranged by Yvonne has been delayed **Action:** AO'F to provide an update at the next PC meeting
 - **Role of the PC** – SB and others represented the PC at the S1 Parents eve and the Chromebook meetings
 - **School Showers** – curtains have been ordered
 - **Canada Trip** – A wide range of views on school trips were discussed, but all agreed that these trips can provide amazing opportunities for the children's learning. RMF explained that the intention is to link the Canada trip with various cultural and historical ties relating to the Ullapool clearances, Gaelic language etc. RMF agreed to keep the PC and parents fully informed of future travel plans. The PC would be happy to assist the school in generating additional funding to ensure that these opportunities are accessible to as many pupils as possible in future.
 - **Xmas Ceilidh / Ball** – RMF explained that the Ceilidh was preplanned as a whole school event with a separate senior's event being offered after the exams in the summer term. This was due to several concerns around the seniors Xmas ball in previous years and the pressure of January prelims. The PC are keen to support teachers and help with the organisation of the senior's event.
4. **Head Teachers Update -**
 - **Budgets** – the school role is currently 195 and is forecast to drop to 178 over the next 3 years. This has implications for the number of teachers and subjects which will be funded in the future. The PC agreed to contact Highland Council to express our views on the impact of funding cuts on small schools and also discuss Winter Road Maintenance. **Action:** SB to draft a letter from PC and invite the new HC Chief Exec to a meeting in Ullapool
 - **Governance:** The earlier HC "Empowering Schools" proposal to combine the management team across multiple schools has been put on hold
 - **Option Choices:** S3/4/5 choices will begin this week and all pupils will receive a booklet to take home
 - **Trips:** A Wyld Swan trip for S5s in Aug has been proposed by the Harbour Trust – details to be sent to pupils and parents this week
 - **Driving Lessons:** Funding is potentially available to senior pupils actively considering career/training opportunities with a driving license requirement e.g. OpenReach apprenticeships. Contact the school office for details.
5. **Fundraising Event**
 - The event was a fantastic success with £1166 raised in the raffle, bottle stall, sale of books + DVDs and lunches. A big thanks to all those who helped or provided things to

- sell. GM commented that as well as raising money, it was a great opportunity to meet other parents.
- After lots of creative ideas, it was decided that two Friday afternoon activities would be progressed (i) a bloc of Climbing and Kayaking instruction – **Action:** CC investigate possible instructors with others helping with funding as required. (ii) Equipment for the “Fusion Club” – **Action:** Alan Sears to speak to Yvonne Boa - others to help as required. **Action:** PC Members to agree the best funding approach for each at the next meeting.
6. Winter Road Maintenance – FS highlighted by email that Assynt Community Council are meeting HC tomorrow (6th) to discuss road maintenance including the impact on school buses.
 7. **AOB**
 - Currently we do not have a Pupil or Teacher Rep on the PC. **Action:** RMF to raise again with staff and Pupil Council.
 - Steph Southerland and Donna McGregor have decided to step down from the Parent Council – the PC would like to thank them for the time and effort they have contributed
 8. **Date of Next Meeting:** Tue 26th Mar at 5:30