

Cornhill Parent Council Meeting
6pm Wednesday the 18th of May 2022
Zoom meeting

Present – Heather Mackintosh, Diane Rough, Mark Evans, Matthew Edwards, Hazel Cameron, Nicola Watson, Helen Young, Vicky Low and Bijitha Rennid.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Diane welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Lyndsey Spiers and John Edmond

3. Head Teachers Report

A really positive start with everything feeling more normal, visitors and trips out. The p7s were off to play tennis, the p3s went to the science centre today, which was their first trip out of school since nursery, the p4s are going to swimming lessons, and tech fest is coming up with lots of activities for the nursery children. It has also been great to get assemblies back and mixing year groups again.

Staffing is running smoothly, we are well placed for going into the next academic year.

We are currently running health month, it is great to get all the children involved as a whole school and fantastic to have them spending more time outdoors.

Mr Evans asked if we had any questions:

Matthew – before Easter we were getting lots of letter informing us that our child had been around a class mate with covid, now we get no letters. Has the policy changed? Yes, the policy changed and we don't inform parents any more. The government has updated the risk assessment, there are now no tests and no letters. Parents still inform the school, but there has only been 1 or 2 cases.

Heather – asked what the school thought of MacDonalds hoping to open a drive through close by. Mr Evans had not heard but did not think it would affect the school as the children do not get out at lunch time, and it might bring jobs to the area.

Nicola – asked if there was anything that could be done about traffic. It is very bad around Brierfield Road. This morning there was a very near miss just by the bollards, a boy on his bike and a car going too fast. Nicola was worried it might get worse, if there were Just Eat bikes taking short cuts through the area. Mr Evans said that we have ongoing traffic issues. With people parking illegally and not paying enough attention, especially on Beechwood Road. The school highlights this all the time, and city wardens are in the area at drop off and pick up time. Mastick police have a special initiative this week and are currently increasing patrol around all the schools in the area. But Mr Evans is very happy to highlight the issue again.

Diane asked if we could do anything to help. Maybe make a poster to send around. Nicola thought that it would be good to educate the children and they could then tell the parents when they were doing something wrong. Helen thought that it would be very easy to tie this in with Health Month, as her classes focus was on road safety. Maybe the children's homework could be to talk to parents about safe driving. Mr Evans mentioned that they always talk about road safety at assembly. He also thought that it might add more weight if the parent council put out something, Diane to make up a poster and send it round a few people to see what they think.

4. Laura Robertson-Young - Family Learning Worker

Laura offers one to one and group support to parents of all children feeding into St Machar Academy. She has just started her job and this term she would like to meet people in the area and get a feel of what people would like her to do and how best she can help. She wanted to stress that she is not social work and that people did not have to feel wary around her. She is a parent and

recognises that parenting is really hard, and that covid has brought extra challenges, and wants to help parents deal with them.

Some of her workshops are on Parenting Strategies, Emotions, especially understanding tantrums and how you react to them, Assertiveness, and Power Tools, like teaching healthy minds and mindfulness. Sleep Clinics, and Life Skills for Little Children like self care, and boundaries. But if a group of people wanted help in a different area, then she would try and put together a workshop.

On Friday morning she will be holding a tea and talk meeting in the community centre to tell us what she can offer.

Diane said that this sounded good, with lots of opportunities for everyone take up.

Helen asked if the workshops were in the evening, or on zoom? Laura said that it was a mix. If people wanted in the morning, afternoon or evening, online or in person she could accommodate. She said if people wanted to attend a workshop but not around the other parents in the school, they could attend one ran by a colleague. She would work around whatever was needed.

Diane said that this sounded like it should be added to the P1 transition. Laura said it had been.

5. Treasurers Report

No change, still £6,891.00

Next week the accounts will go to Diane Allen to audit and then to Diane to sign.

Vicky still needs to pay for the p7 residential bus, Mr Evans to find out how it gets paid and to let Vicki know.

6. AGM

Chair, Diane Rough was renominated by Vicky Low and seconded by Heather Mackintosh.

Treasurer, Vicky Low was renominated by Diane Rough and seconded by Heather Mackintosh.

Secretary, Heather Mackintosh was renominated by Matthew Edwards and seconded by Helen Young.

Diane read out the constitution, all 12 points were agreed. Heather to send this out to everyone and to update this on constitution.

Diane asked if we had an auditor for the books, Vicky said that our old treasurer Diane Allen had agreed to do this.

7. Fundraising

As parents are allowed back in school we can host fundraising events again. Diane would really like to book some discos for the children to enjoy next year. We agreed that it was too late notice to hold a summer disco this year.

There are about 380-390 children, about half in the junior and half in the senior section. Before covid there were too many parents attending the event, so next year we think that parents should be told to drop off their children. We will ask for more helpers, and Mr Evans will ask more teachers if they can help out. He thinks that they will say yes, as they are very accommodating and everyone wants to see the children enjoying themselves at discos again.

Diane is going to find out our old DJs number and try to book him for a Halloween, Valentines and Summer disco next year. The same times as before, 6-7.15 and 7.30 -8.30. with tickets staying at £2 and including crisps and juice.

The summer fair takes in more money, but we don't have many parent volunteers, so Diane thought that it would be better to start off with a Christmas fair. With external stall holders and individual classrooms selling things this takes away most of the organising and we only need a few parents to help. We thought 26 October/17 November.

Heather is happy to organise the Christmas cards again.

We agreed that there will be no bingo.

There was discussions about organising group tea towels. We decided against this, as you can buy tea towels with the Christmas card order.

Matthew asked if we could have electronic payment instead of cash. Mr Evans pointed out that the

school still operates on cheques. It would be more convenient to accept card or pay pal payment. Vicky has set up one of these before, so she is going to look into it.

8. Write Right About Me

Diane read the Write Right About Me email that we had received from the city council. This is going to change the way that council workers write about children in school. Diane thought all the topics sounded tricky and might need some time to reflect over. She thought it would easier if Heather forwarded the email to everyone to think about the Language section. Heather to send it out and offer to add any comments for anyone that can not work Jam Board.

9. AOCB

Diane went around everyone and asked if they would prefer meetings in person or on zoom. Heather said that it was more convenient online, but it might be easier to attract more people in person. Matthew said in person. Vicky in person. Hazel said if she had time to get through the traffic she would love to attend in person. Helen said in person. Mr Evans said in person, but we could have a link to the online meeting if anyone could not make it into school. Diane pointed out that it would have to be a Teams meeting, not over Zoom.

Diane apologised to Laura for not asking her. Laura said that she would like to attend the first meeting, but would be coming to along every so often to the others.

Diane thanked everyone for coming, especially Hazel our councillor, and reiterated how important it was for councillors to come along. Hazel said that Neil had wanted to come but had been in meetings all day. She said that one of them would try and come along to all future meetings.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday the 21st of September 2022

Wednesday the 16th of November 2022

Wednesday the 8th of February 2023

AGM Wednesday the 17th of May 2023