

# **Woodside Primary Parent Council**

Chairperson: Barry Naismith  
Treasurer: Jonny Simpson  
Secretary: Ali Gibson

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## **Parent Council Meeting – Minutes**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 7-830pm  
Woodside Primary School

### **In Attendance:**

Ali Gibson, Barry Naismith, Councillor Gavin Wylie Keatt, Eileen McKellar, Elaine Renwick, Elizabeth Fletcher, Gillian Anderson, Jennifer Beattie, Jen McLarnon, Jonny Simpson, Kelly Cook, Kenneth Stark, Lara Lorenzini, Laura Swift, Leanne Anderson, Sakhya Rashid, Sarah Jane Aitchison

### **Introduction and Welcome – Barry**

#### **PVGs and Parent Helpers**

Every parent helping needs a PVG.

Thanks to the teachers for helping at the disco and allowing it to happen. It could not have gone ahead without them. A few parents have brought IDs tonight to start their PVG process. The next event is the February disco and we need as much help as possible. If you would be helping at any events or at school e.g. walking to the Church, you need a PVG. Please contact Miss McLarnon.

### **Treasurer's Update – Jonny**

We have purchased cameras for the new Woodie Wonder Wall and juice & snacks for the discos. Teachers have now used their £75 gift for each classroom. We are waiting on the Disco funds to come through from Parent Pay and awaiting the funds for the celebration cards.

Current Balance is £547 (With savings of £8022 ring fenced).

All agreed we will again support the festive fun day snacks and drinks. Elaine will investigate Twinkl use and get back to us if they require renewal. Agreement if they require it, we will renew. Defib pads will be checked for expiry and replaced if need be.

### **P7 Hoodies**

Samples and colours are in the office to allow the children to choose a colour and a backup second choice colour. Being aware of the cost of the school day and the busy expensive Christmas period we will start the process in January.

Agreed we will contribute same as last year: £7 per hoodie. Parents will be asked to pay £7.95 (or £8.95 for adult sizes).

### **Celebration Cards – Ali**

The cards are being processed and are expected in the next few days. Rebranding as celebration cards was a good success. We had a lovely variety of designs.

### **Disco feedback – Open to all**

Went ahead with no hiccups. A well-run Disco. The kids loved it.

Thanks to all for helping, especially the teachers who came along to support our Woodie Weans after a long working day. Many local schools had to cancel theirs due to lack of helpers with PVGs. We need as many parent helpers with PVGs as possible so we can manage the discos in February.

The SumDog parent workshop on the night was a success – very well attended.

### **Summer Fayre – Open to all**

We have volunteers for a summer fayre committee – Laura, Gillian and Kenny. Please let us know if you are interested in joining. We have all details from previous years. Laura is happy to start looking at different things to try and is looking for help to do so. Only changing little things as it is running well. We want to start the process earlier, so it is not so much pressure in organising.

## **Fundraising – Open to all**

We are looking at other fundraising ideas. Please let us know if you have any ideas and we will discuss at the next meeting in January. Looking into community grants.

School priorities are digital fundraising and books & reading.

## **Councillor Update – Cllr Gavin Wylie Keatt**

### **Council Budget 26/27**

In the process of setting the budget for 26/27. Projecting a large budget gap and the potential impact on education and other services. Proposals have been published, some in education. It will be another difficult year.

### **Reduction in Class Contact Time**

Ballot from unions regarding this. There may be industrial action.

### **Mobile Phones in Schools**

Ongoing discussions about mobile phone use in schools. SLC did not endorse a blanket ban. School have scope to do what is right for them.

### **Silvertonhill Avenue Speeding**

Ongoing. Request for CCTV cameras has been declined.

### **Delay with Autism / ADHD Assessments**

NHS are working with August 2021 referrals. This is having a knock-on impact on schools.

### **Roadworks and Parking**

They have completed works around the school. Still a lot of works going on around the extended area.

Continued issues with parking outside of the school. Reminder to parents to park responsibly to ensure the safety of all.

## **Headteachers Update – Elaine**

### **Cost of the School Day**

Shared Feedback from SLC on Cost of the School Day survey:

- Top costs are uniform, clubs, fun events, food
- We have a large selection of preloved uniform available to all. It will be out on the Open Morning.
- School trips cost around £5-£7 We are doing our best to reduce costs.
- We reduce pressure with World Book Day, Halloween and our Dress down days etc to find a balance to celebrate events but ensure we are not putting pressure on families e.g. celebrating Book Week Scotland in school and dress down in PJs
- If someone cannot pay, they are still attending discos and fayres with no stigma
- We have our Toast to Go service each morning
- We strive to be upfront and honest and give plenty of notice

### **New Homework Policy**

We saw a dip in spelling results and a dip in uptake in homework with under 50% return on worksheets. We asked staff, parents and children for their feedback.

Starting Monday 25 November, P2-P7 will have a spelling jotter sent home. P1 will vary. There will be a weekly SumDog activity. P6 & P7 will all be online via Google Classroom in line with what will happen in High School. We have checked in with parents, and all say they have access online to complete this homework.

A reminder that it is ok if you don't get it done. Some weeks are busy. Some children are settling after a busy school day and focusing on home.

### **Mobile Phones**

Woodside do not have issues with mobile phones. The rule has always been that we should not see phones – they are off and in school bags.

The new mobile phone policy will be shared and launched on Friday at assembly so that it can be launched before any new devices that may be given at Christmas.

Phones must be switched off and in school bags from entry to the playground and watches must be set not to function between 9am and 3pm. Use for any exemptions e.g. diabetes is authorised.

If phones are found, they will be stored in the office. If anyone is taking videos or photos school will call home and ask for the device to be removed.

On the school bus parents are responsible for managing behaviour. The children have agreed on a set of rules.

The full policy will be sent to all parents, and they will be asked to confirm their agreement.

### **Thank you for the £75 for classrooms**

The teachers make it go a long way

### **Christmas Period**

We will attend Church on 12 December. Festive Fun Day on 17 December with P1-P3 party, P4-P7 obstacle course and P1 having a visit from Santa. We have purchased Christmas crafts. 18 December will be a house building day so that the children have more opportunities for children of all ages to spend time together in their assigned houses. It will be Christmas themed. 19 December will be the Christmas Karaoke. These all cost nothing and are open to all.

### **PEF participatory budget - Jen**

We want to make it sustainable and to meet the needs of the children.

After school clubs have won the vote this year.

We have purchased new Chromebooks to use for coding, AI tools, STEM robots. Purchased new books for a reading club. Purchased visualisers, topped up sensory items and have new mats for athletics clubs.

### **Any other Business**

Laura Swift is co-hosting a parental support group on Friday 2 December. It is a safe zone to come and have a chat. No agenda, drop in for a cuppa and a biscuit.

An email has been sent to SLC regarding starting a Woodside Facebook account to share fun photos and updates with families. Waiting for further guidance.

### **Next Meeting – Wednesday 21 January**