

Woodside Primary Parent Council

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

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Parent Council Meeting – Minutes

Wednesday 9th September 2025, 7-845pm
Woodside Primary School

In Attendance:

Ali Gibson, April Taylor, Arnab Ghosh, Barry Naismith, Brooke Thompson, Carol White, David Winton, Eileen McKellar, Elaine Renwick, Elisa Mason, Elizabeth Fletcher, Cllr Helen Toner, Jennifer McLarnon, Cllr John Ross, Jonny Simpson, Kelly Cook, Kenneth Stark, Lara Lorenzini, Leanne Anderson, Natasha McNair, Rachael Smith, Sakhya Rashid, Sandra Brodie, Sarah Walker, Taiwo Awosina, Tammy Evans

Apologies:

Cllr Celine Handibode, Charlotte Officer, Gillian Anderson, Jennifer Beattie

Introduction and Welcome – Chairperson Barry Naismith

Barry welcomed all to the new school term. Introductions were made around the room and those joining online.

Treasurer's Update – Treasurer Jonny Simpson

The balance has grown well and is looking healthy.

As agreed last year, we ringfenced £8,000. Leaving £2,300 in the day to day account.

With an awareness of the Cost of the School Day so that we don't put too much on families, we have agreed the following:

2025/26 Schedule of Events

- **Photographs – Tuesday 16th September**
Parent Helpers are needed to help students look smart before their photo. Ali will lead this. Contact the Parent Council if you can help.
- **Leavers Hoodies – End October**
We will begin the process after the October Week by asking the P7s to choose 2 colours for their hoodies.
- **Celebration Cards – End October**
Templates will be given out after the October Week.
- **Discos – 6 November & 26 February**
Parent Helpers needed on the night. Jonny will lead the Disco Committee. Contact the Parent Council to be added. PVG is required - contact the school ASAP to process.
- **Summer Fayre – Friday 5 June**
Parent Helpers needed. Information to follow closer to the time.

The Parent Council annual gift to teachers this year has been raised to £75 for each class teacher, as we have given £50 for many years. Elaine will pass this on and expressed her Thanks.

Agreement to purchase juice, sweets, and small items as required for festive fun day, sports day, health week etc; P7 leavers trophies; and to renew Fishy Music and Twinkl accounts.

Thank you to Leanne Anderson with all your continued support with grant research and applications.

Cllr John Ross informed that SLC has agreed to give £4,500 funding to each primary school. Elaine has updated that the school will spend this on new reading books and passed on her Thanks. The children made a card to say Thank You, which was passed on this evening.

Amazon Wishlist has been suggested by parents for classes to purchase required items. Since we have just given our class teachers gifts, agreed to relook at this after the new year.

PVGs

We require our parent helpers to have a valid PVG. These will be processed via the school, and it is not an easy or quick process. If you wish to help and do not have a PVG, please contact Miss Charlotte Officer next week (beginning 15th September)

GDPR

All parent council members will receive a separate email to confirm GDPR permissions.

Headteachers Update – Elaine Renwick

It has been a really settled start to the school year. This is in part due to it being year 3 of the Relationship Blueprint. Expectations are fully embedded, and it makes a difference across the school.

We have welcomed 56 P1s – our lowest number in years. Which has really helped them settle in. We are under 500 pupils across the school at the moment, but we have had 14 new families join since term started.

Elaine shared the School Improvement Plan which can be found on the school website. Key Achievements have been increased writing attainment, consistent reading and numeracy attainment, Children’s Rights Award and the introduction of ‘Teach Target, Play’ in P1. This will be rolled out to P2 this year. Goals this year are sustainability, improvement of technology and differentiation – getting it right for each individual child as they all have different needs.

Stressed the importance of attendance. Elaine shared that if a child’s attendance is under 90% each year, by S3 they will have missed an entire year of schooling.

As last year, a £5 Donation will be asked to contribute towards school trips.

We will again tie in Scottish Book Week instead of World Book Day to limit the pressure and cost on parents.

We have again brought in a Place2Be Councillor this year.

Shared and discussed new Mobile Phones Policy. These must stay in school bags throughout the school day. Elaine emphasised that the number of issues at the school involving mobile phones are very limited. But this policy will support information sharing and boundaries.

Asked about ideas for a new platform to communicate with parents since no longer using twitter. Concluded the most likely new platform will be Facebook. #

Will complete a further Homework consultation.

Asked for printer and frames for a new ‘Woodie’s Wonder Wall’ which will be used to celebrate achievements outside school. Agreed.

Councillor's Update

The Councillor's encouraged all to get in touch with them at any time and emphasised you do not have to wait for a meeting.

Any Other Business

Question asked about P5 swimming buses - Due to updated Scottish Government legislation, any core curriculum off site should have no charge to a parent. Therefore, the children have been walking to and from swimming. After communication back and forth parents have voted to pay for buses.

Next Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 19th November