

**Burnside Primary School Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

**7th May 2025**

**Present:**

Lyndsey Shakespeare (Chair)

Gayle McDonald (Head Teacher)

Lynne Mullen (Deputy Head Teacher)

David Mackenzie (Teacher)

Cllr Robert Brown

Fraser Bedwell

Alison Burns

Pamela Dick

Louise Crolla

Amy Davidson

Susan Summers

Laura Bennison

1. **Apologies**

Scott Millar (DHT)

Katy Bhatia

Laura Taylor

Lesleyanne Gibson

Monica Tinney

Alise Middleton

Carolyn Paterson

Libby Urvois

1. **Minutes from last meeting**

The minutes from the meeting on 10/03/25 were approved without alteration.

1. **Chairperson’s update**

The chair updated the meeting that she had arranged for a retirement gift for Charlotte (School Crossing Patrol) and a 60th birthday gift for Mr Woods (school janitor) from school funds.

Cllr Brown updated the meeting that Network Rail were leading on the railway bridge replacement and although this is progressing no timescales have been finalised.

No issues are expected in the Parent Council complying with changes to the PVG scheme. Cross-referencing of records between the parent council and school has been done and everyone requiring a PVG been agreed.

Louise Crolla is kindly organising ice cream for all pupils on the last Friday of term.

Pre-loved uniforms stocks are good and arrangements are in place to make these available to incoming P1s and new pupils.

Author Simon Lamb is scheduled to visit the library between 2-5 June. A reminder to parent to return remaining library books will be issued through school social media and app. Fraser Bedwell highlighted local author Alan Windram, author of the One Button Benny series, might be available for a future author visit for the lower school.

1. **Treasurer update**

Parent Council funds currently sit at £13,050. £7,544 of upcoming payments are expected imminently (school trips c. £3k; outdoor classroom c. £3k; P5 swimming buses c. £1.8k). Once remaining costs are accounted for the expected balance expected to be £3,681.

P7 funds currently sit at £1,825.

1. **Head Teacher Update**

**Trips**

P7 are currently at Lockerbie Mannor and are having a great time. Other class groups have enjoyed their trips – P1 Summerlee Heritage Park, P2 open top bus tour of Glasgow and P3 to Kelvingrove Museum & Art Gallery. GM expressed her appreciation to the Parent Council for its financial support to make these trips possible.

**Fundraising**

The sponsored read-a-thon raised £3022 which will be put towards the outdoor classroom campaign, which expects to reach its fundraising target in the coming academic year. A further £537 was raised for the National Deaf Children’s Society following the dress down day. GM requested an email from the Parent Council to confirm what the donation of £2500 for outdoor classroom was for to satisfy the auditors. **ACTION Pam Dick**.

**Grow73 / Nature Rangers**

The Nature Rangers club continues to be extremely popular and Eugenie is holding a tour of the outdoor space this Friday (9th May).

**World of Work Week**

This proved to be very popular again with several parents giving up their time to share their professional experiences with the children. Thanks to Mrs Mullen for coordinating this.

**School Improvement Plan 2025-26**

Work is now underway with the staff team to identify school improvement priorities for next year and the 3-year planning cycle. Outdoor learning will feature as well as the use of SLC’s Pedagogy Palette. There will also be more use of data to inform improvement using the new BGE Data Tool. All Stonelaw Learning Community primaries plan greater use of the SLC Skills Framework.

**Sporting Success**

Burnside FC won both of their recent games at Cathkin High, demonstrating excellent teamwork, and will participate in the Landemer Cup later in May. Our P4s won the South Lanarkshire tennis competition and now go on to the West of Scotland finals in June.

**New intake**

We now have confirmation of our incoming Burnside Butterflies with two P1 classes expected for the new term in August. The school in now visiting the feeder nurseries and contacting all new parents. P1 induction will be over three visits, including an information session, class visits and a Groovy Movers session with Active Schools.

1. **Parent Council Conference update**

Fraser Bedwell attended the above South Lanarkshire Council event on behalf of the Parent Council. Slides from the various presentations can be accessed by [clicking here](https://glowscotland-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/gw07southlanarkshir2_glowmail_org_uk/EeXz4orTZYpLog4WTDT_rlEBfAMfkEkQQXDPT0LDLLCXwQ?e=YDcY5w). Key topics discussed at the event included presentations from Gary Lambie, Performance, Planning and Operations Manager at South Lanarkshire Council regarding the Council’s strategic priorities for 2025/26. Examples of best practice in parental engagement were shared by the head teachers from Chatelherault, Netherburn and St Anthanasius Primary Schools. SLC Principle Education Psychologist Sam March shared an update on the upcoming Health & Wellbeing Survey. SCL have recently joined Connect, offering membership to all Parent Councils which includes a wealth of resources, insurance and other assistance. Finally, there was a presentation by the National Parent Forum of Scotland with an overview of their work and priorities.

1. **Car Boot Sale**

17 vendors have confirmed (mix of stall holders and local businesses) with the remaining places expected to sell out.

Further promotion is planned through Parent Council and school social media/app. This will include a push for home baking.

Lyndsey Shakespeare to contact Simon Trobe to look into serving hot dogs, and Katie Bhatia with regards to using stock of soft drinks and crisps from the discos at the boot sale. **ACTION Lyndsey Shakespeare**.

The school will look into P6 and/or P7 helpers. **ACTION Gayle McDonald**.

1. **Smartphone free childhood**

Laura Bennison introduced a new parent-led movement which encourages knoeldge information-sharing for parents on mobile phone use. Their website (<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>) offers a wealth of resources for parents to make informed decisions around mobile phone use, as well as access to a non-smartphone phone bank. Others highlighted a recent podcast by Mel Robins called “How to stop screwing yourself over” and a Channel 4 documentary “Swiped” as further sources of information for parents. Gayle McDonald highlighted it was an area the school are wary to overstep in this area as they are sensitive to parental choice, but welcomed a wider discussion amongst parents on the topic.

1. **In-service day**

Feedback had been received from parents about the timing of the early May in-service day, which was on a Thursday before a Monday bank holiday. This decision is taken a a South Lanarkshire Council level so parents are encouraged to get in touch with the education department directly.

1. **Outdoor classroom day**

This will take place on 28th May and will include three activities (to be finalised). Children will be outdoors all day, including lunch. School lunches will be provided but will be cold rather than the usual hot options. Active Schools, Taylors Crisps and a poet are expected to feature on the day.

1. **Sports Day plans**

Parents fed back that there was confusion over multiple sporting events that were open to parents to attend last year. This won’t happen this year with sports day scheduled to take place as follows:

P1 - 3 (Rooms 1 – 6): 5th June @ 0930 – upper school playground

P4 - 7 (Rooms 7 – 15): 6th June @ 1100 – 1200 (P4 & 5) and 1330 – 1430 (P6 & 7) – Stonelaw High School rugby pitch

1. **School disco**

Plans are in place for the final school disco of the year. The date has been brought forward by a week and will take place on Thursday 5th June.

1. **P1 visits**

Discussed under item 5 above.

1. **AOB**

Inconsistencies in approach to homework between SLC schools and indeed between Burnside class teachers led to a discussion on this topic. Gayle McDonald proposed a consultation with pupils and parents in the new academic year to examine this further. **Action Gayle McDonald**.

1. **Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 9th June, 2025 @ 7.10pm