



## **Troqueer Parents and Friends Council**



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**TPFC MEETING WEDNESDAY 28th April 2021**

**Via Microsoft Teams 6.00pm**

### **Minute**

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Apologies: Nancy Torbett, Lilli Irving, Lyn Gordon, Lynn Wilson, Alistair Bloxham**

**Present, Martin Armstrong, Lisa Muirhead, Kirsteen Macintyre, Lisa Crosbie, Gillian Walker, Elspeth Scade, Nikki Jardine, Nikki Cameron, Lisa Ashton, Joanne Russell, Liliana Iordan, Councillor Davie Stitt, Councillor Ian Blake, Itziar Goiriena**

**2. Approval of Minute of the 17 March 2021. Martin agreed to provide the Teacher's Report Section to Kirsteen. Kirsteen agreed to update the minute for the school app.**

#### **3. Matters arising from last minute (17 March 2021)**

- (a) Trim trail/MUGA repairs (covered in Head Teacher's report)**
- (b) Dyslexia Month (October) This was carried forward from previous agenda as Lynn Wilson was not present and she had initially raised the issue. To be carried forward again.**
- (c) Pedestrian Crossing on Pleasance Avenue. (covered in Head Teacher's report)**

#### **4. Partnership with school and local community to create welcoming inclusive school**

##### **(a) Headteacher's Report (notes provided by Martin)**

##### **i) School operations**

**All pupils are now back. For most children, this has been successful and they have settled back into learning and enjoying the company of their peers. There have been a few challenges for some, both inside and outside of school. Pupils' misuse of social media continues to be a growing concern.**

**Staff have been assessing progress in an ongoing basis and some pupils identified for focussed support. This is something which continually happens regardless of the current situation.**

**The operation of bubbles continues to be a challenge, particularly around staffing and break times. There is talk now that the next guidance may indicate that bubbles are no longer necessary but are a mitigation and so should be maintained if possible.**

**We have had one positive case in school. The response to this was led by public health and we are pleased to report that I have not been made aware of any onward transmissions.**

**Our use of technology has been brought to the fore, and accelerated by our working during the pandemic. Political parties are now talking of a device for all children which will revolutionise the way that we work.**

**As we move into next session, we will consult parents about positives to keep.**

##### **ii) Reporting**

**Taking on board the comments from TPFC and the consultation survey, in late May, parents will receive a basic report containing level of progress in Literacy, Numeracy and a written comment from the teacher, ahead of our more usual interim report in the Autumn and a full report again next spring. Parents will then have the opportunity to book a phone consultation with their child's class teacher.**

### **iii)Classes for next session**

**Whilst work has begun on this we are not able to finalise until we have ‘final’ numbers for P1, currently in the mid 30s. Parents will soon be offered the opportunity to comment on their child’s next class. As with previous years, once the class lists are published they cannot be changed.**

### **iv)School Improvement Planning**

**Due for the end of May, our School Improvement Plan will have two over-arching themes. These generally will stay on the plan for three years. The SIP this year is being considered a ‘reset’. The two themes are technology and school ethos with the second of these picking up on where we left off prior to lockdown and consideration being given to how we can make the bigger gains quickly in terms of pupil well-being. Prior to lockdown our attainment was amongst the best in the country at P1, P4 and P7 (the measures collected) and our successes in sporting events and the arts are also significant. We will continue to promote our leadership of activities within our community. Such successes are borne out of nurturing children individually, building confidence and self-esteem.**

### **v)Trim Trail and MUGA**

**I have again been in touch with Larann Foss about the MUGA and I know that Cllr Blake has also. He reports that he has not yet been provided with a date.**

**(Councillor Blake offered raise this issue with Gillian Brydson, Director, Education, DGC and will report back)**

**The trim trail has now been repaired enough to be brought back into operation, with some minor work still to be completed.**

### **vi)Crossing patrol**

**The response from community assets:**

***‘Dear Mr Armstrong***

***Apologies for not getting back to you sooner.***

***Following your last email I did look into your query and would make the following response:-***

***The position for a crossing patroller at Troqueer has been vacant for around 2 years and has therefore been deleted from our establishment.***

***When the last holder of the post left and we struggled to get a replacement it was decided, with agreement from school at the time, to not have a crossing patroller at this location.***

***Guidelines for the operation of School Crossing Patrols (provided by Rospa – Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents) states that it is not a good idea to have what is essentially a double provision of service (manual and automated) at the same crossing as it can confuse users and motorists.***

***Other schools in Dumfries have had positions filled, and some are being advertised currently but none of these have automated crossings.***

***In Sanquhar there was immediate rejection of the proposal to not replace the crossing patroller at the automated crossing which meant that the post was still there and could be re-advertised.***

***I hope this goes some way to offering an explanation as to what happened in this situation. Please come back to me directly if you have any further queries.'***

**For the record, I subsequently clarified that there was no agreement from the school and Council employee clarified that this is what she was told when she took up post. We were never consulted, we were told that Mrs Flannighan would not be replaced.**

**(Following discussion it was agreed that Lisa Muirhead as chair of the TPFC and frequent user of the crossing, would write to the Council about this issue. Parents were concerned that it should not take an accident occurring and someone being seriously hurt before the crossing patrol is re-instated. Kirsteen agreed to assist Lisa with the letter.)**

**vii)Sports Day / Sponsored run**

**Each bubble will have its own Sports Day featuring races in the morning and the TPFC sponsored run in the afternoon. The guidance to the school which outlines what events parents can attend is changing and Martin requires to clarify this, but he is**

hoping that parents/carers could attend for the morning races, which would be a great step forward. Martin is looking into this and will give as much notice as possible if parents/carers are going to be able to attend.

viii) P7 leavers- subject to change with Authority route map

Restrictions are making this a real challenge. Staff will organise an out of school event – the opportunity to get dressed up!! This will involve food from outside caterers and probably the P7 awards. *New guidance may allow a P7 leavers assembly to take place, albeit socially distanced – Martin is looking into this.*

TPFC donations will go on the food for the event, the event itself and a professional photograph of the cohort.

**5. Promote partnership with school, pupils, Parent Forum and community**

- (a) **Can school meals be paid for electronically by bank transfer? (Question from Elspeth Scade)**

Martin advised that the Council is planning to bring in an electronic means of payment. This is imminent, either the end of this term or the start of the new school year.

**6. Develop and engage in activities which support education and welfare of pupils and represent parents' views on education and welfare**

- (a) **In the event of another incident whereby a class requires to self-isolate for a period of 10 days, what will the contingency plans be to continue Education at home during the self-isolation period? (Question from Kirsteen Macintyre)**

Martin advised that were such an incident to occur again, the plan would be to move to online learning using Teams immediately, in relation to affected classes.

## **7. Fundraising.**

### **(a) update from Tea Towel Fundraising Group**

**To date approximately 240 have been sold at a profit of about £200. If there is enough interest a second order will be made.**

**It was noted that the setting up the Paypal account has worked well and will be useful for other events in the future.**

**Well done to all involved and thanks to all who have purchased the tea towels.**

## **8.AOCB**

**i) School BBQ. Martin noted that it might soon be possible to have outdoor events involving larger groups. The Licencing position at present was not clear. Following discussion, the feeling was that it might be too soon to hold a BBQ before the summer holidays. Many parents have yet to be vaccinated. A BBQ at the start of next term was more realistic and may involve planning over the summer holidays. To be discussed again at the next meeting.**

**ii) Council Grant to Parent Councils. Gillian asked for information about how to do this. Martin agreed to put her in touch with Vanessa Morris in the Council's Education Department who is liaison person with**

**9. Date of the next meeting. Agreed as 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 6pm via Microsoft Teams.**

