

### **Present**

Catherine Richmond	Alison Drew
Lorraine Farmer	Richard Dane
Fiona Dane	Alison Clarke
Mike Finlayson	Martin Rattray
Andy Thompson	Michael Aitchison
Aileen Mackay	Karen Mackay

### **Apologies**

Maxine Smith

### **Special thanks**

Thanks were given to Alison Cartwright and Fiona and Richard Dane for all their support with the parent council and best wishes were given to Robert and Georgia for their future.

### **School Items**

- Staffing – Mr Aitchison was appointed head teacher and will take over the running of the school in August. An advert is currently out for depute head teacher and the school are eager to have this in place before summer. Interviews are due on the 29<sup>th</sup> June (professional) and 30<sup>th</sup> June (with councillor and parent council representatives). Alison Drew has been in touch with councillors and the parent council has chosen Catherine Richmond and Fiona Dane to take part in the interview process. Donald Paterson had wanted to school to let the parent council know how helpful representatives were all the head teacher interviews and the parent council also felt that Donald was extremely helpful and listened and included the parent council voice in questions.
- Incident – a teacher has been the subject of a recent press release and the school were asked why this teacher was given a post at Invergordon if they were subject to a GTC hearing which was taking place this week. The school were reassured and wanted to emphasise that the Highland Council had held a hearing in 2013 relating to allegations against a teacher and they concluded that there were no safety issues or concerns of this teacher. There is a GTC hearing today and tomorrow and due to the conclusion of the Highland Council hearing there is not expected to be any diversion from this. There has been lots of rumour and speculation with regards to this as has been reported in media – Martin has been in touch with Bill Alexander re the use of social media in relation to teachers and the parent council would like advice taken from Jim Steven on how best to inform parents of the true story to both protect children and indeed the teacher if the allegations are quashed – Alison Drew will speak to Jim on how best to inform pupils and parents. Ms Hansen is able to cover the classes at present.

- Art post – there is currently and advert out for the art post. Ms Fegan is expected to transfer to Fortrose for a full time post.

### **Budget up-date**

Yearend figures for the school are in a good place – the budget deficit has reduced by 90% - this has been brought about by staffing. Highland council have now wiped the slate clean of dept so starting from next year. The school is now staffing neutral so there is the possibility of savings. Invergordon Academy has now been chosen to be part of the Scottish Government Attainment Challenge. This is linked to areas of deprivation and as Milton is a primary within our ASG then we can take part of this. There is funding that comes with this so a great initiative to be involved with. Funding is to close the attainment gap ideally. Aileen has been involved with this in primaries and is happy to meet with Mr Aitchison to give some expertise. Funding can be used for anything thought to bridge the attainment gap from SALT to teaching resources, to revamping space but there needs to be a clear detailed plan linking into to improvement methodology. Karen can help with this also through the work she has been involved with in the early years collaborative.

### **School refurbishment**

Loads of ideas – the janitor’s house would make a great nurture base and the plan is to work in partnership with outside agencies. The youth development worker is hoping to come to the school to have a base and Andy is writing a proposal re this and also the work to be done in the house. HMIe are putting a focus on partnership working and it is paramount that the school include this as an inspection is not far away. The proposal is putting the emphasis on partners, community and school. No option to use local contractors to help with refurbishment as the procurement process for the council does not allow this. Cafe 102 is the old sewing room – still to fit the catering equipment but the painting is done. Mrs Ovenstone has 4 pupils who are getting training at the Storehouse to work in the cafe and environmental health are also going to meet with the youngsters.

Office space also needs looked at and the library is hoping to be relocated to the ground floor to make more of a local resource – this will not take away from the local library but provide more of a community social space – inviting people in for local events etc.

Space could be made for effective behavioural support and also the music rooms need redecorated.

### **Uniform supply**

Parents have asked to change the supplier from DCS to Tesco. It was explained that S4 – S6 will now be shirt and tie and we have committed to stock from DCS until they run out - in the recent survey pupil preference was a shirt and tie and this was the cheapest option so the school are happy with this and have plans to supply pupils with ties – as long as a tie is on display there needs to be no other clothing worn with the school logo so reduces cost greatly.

### **Public Health Issues**

Public Health Dept have linked with Mr Abenhiemer re the increasing smoking incidences.

The issues with the SHARE programme not being run effectively was discussed – this is a sexual health and relationships programme run by Highland council/ NHS Highland and the school are aware of issues – it was asked why the local youth development team have no involvement with this

when Alness teams run this in their academy – the school are in discussions at present with the YDO about widening their remit within the school.

Andy has taken on board and will include in the improvement plan a need to link more closely with health and well being and improve outcomes in the school.

### **Finance**

Karen has been to RBS to sort out forms and has another one for Cath to complete re who is/ is not signatories

### **Councillor Up-date**

SSER – no up-date – we were given assurances re engagement and this has not happened with local communities – there has been no up-date with Bill since his meeting at the school probably over a year ago. Martin is disappointed and has e-mailed Bill for an up-date. Alness Academy will be rebuilt in 2020 and we want assurances that we will get funding included in this package for up-keep of Invergordon – Cath will also write to Bill requesting an up-date

### **New members**

New S1's have induction week next week and parents evening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm – volunteers to man an information stall re parent council was agreed – Alison Clarke is free from 5pm and Lorraine can also help

### **Pupil council rep**

There used to be a rep on the parent council but now communication between the two is via the head teacher – it was felt that a pupil representative would be good to have at next meeting

### **Holes in road**

Mike Finlayson discussed how there is a hole in the road outside the school – Martin said a hot patcher was coming to the area in June and will ask them to fill the hole in

### **Ms Drew**

A long and happy retirement was made to Alison Drew who will officially leave on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August – the parent council are very thankful that she has left the school in such a good position – she said she was honoured to be appointed here and has been at the school since May 2007

### **Date of next meeting**

30/8/16 at 7pm