

Draft Minutes of Parent Council meeting 26 August 2020 7pm via Zoom.

Opening remarks

KG welcomed everyone to the meeting. CK and teaching staff are not able to attend due to zoom restriction from CEC. So school-related questions held over until the next meeting.

KG thanked everyone for their patience. The Parent Council can help with generic issues. School management issues go to school directly (to avoid having to wait for 4-6 weeks between meetings for an answer).

Website

Thanks to Jay and Jenni for new website. Big step forward in communicating with the parent forum.

Update on St Oswalds – David Urch

CEC has given St Oswald's group permission to purchase the hall. Major milestone after 2 years' continuous effort.

Next step is for £200,000 to buy building plus £50,000 for legal costs and initial refurbishment. Funding proposal to be submitted on 31/8/20.

If successful, proposed purchase in January 2021 then 15 month period of refurbishment with building open in 2022. Material fundraising required (plus charity application for St Oswald's Group).

DU keen to broaden out membership of St Oswald's to help community engagement (small fee. Parents should volunteer if they want to get involved. Thanks to Parent Council for financial and moral support.

The meeting congratulated DU and the St Oswald's group on the progress made so far and were excited about the opportunities that St Oswald's could provide the school and the community.

Roads and Traffic

Montpelier and Bruntsfield Avenue now closed to traffic. There are some teething issues which school and PC are feeding back to the Council. KG has asked CEC road safety officer and community support officer to come and look at how the closure is working and how to improve it.

KG working with RC and subgroup to help with active travel. Road and travel group has emerged organically (not formal parent council initiative as such) - if more people want to get involved that would be great

RC outlined the aim is to create an informal group with objectives including:

- Safety for children.
- Keeping schools open.
- Keeping broader school community safe.

This is wider issue than stopping traffic. Responsibility for everyone to ensure covid-compliance.

Current issues identified to be tackled by the subgroup:

- Awareness of residents (who have been made to make a sacrifice).
- Queue management.
- Walking buses to reduce congestion.
- Avoiding double parking and driving issues in surrounding road.

CK update (via KG)

The return to school has been complex but it is getting better.

Homework – letting children settle in first but parents will be given updates on homework plans - likely to be via teams for P5-P7 initially, then P2—P4. P1 will be given key sounds videos/ tasks.

Bubble time is being used for mental health and well being and there is a building resilience programme to be delivered.

Clubs

Unlikely we can run any clubs this academic year. Some tutors running private lessons online but no income for PC.

PG and KG outlined that this was a great opportunity to redesign the Clubs and get them ready to launch when it was safe again.

Please come and help - great time to join as you get the chance to decide the direction for clubs. We have the chance to make sure we can make clubs successful, take off the pressure points and make them inclusive. Need a new team together in the next 4-6 weeks.

Events

KG and events team reviewing roles as communications and events can overlap.

The aim is make the communications role more focussed on community engagement with events becoming a more focused fundraising role.

Fundraising is going to be challenging but we want to retain the community element and all ideas welcome.

Standard Business

Minutes from June were approved.

NT and CR provided finance updates (see separate reports). A challenging time as there is no income for the PC but we have funds available (around £10,000) to support projects where good ideas come up.

AOB

There was a discussion on options for running outside clubs. However, CEC won't allow any organised use of their park spaces at the moment.

AGM

Next meeting is the AGM on 23 September. We need 25 parents to step up to form the parent council we then elect office bearers. We need more people who can give more time.

Close.