

Williamston Primary School Parent Council AGM

Date	12th September 2016 AGM
Time	7 pm – 8:30 pm
Location	Williamston Primary School, staff room
Present	<p>Alan Livie (Chair) AL Gillian de Felice GF Craig Hunter GH Diyana Swingler (Secretary) DS Claire Duff CD Grant Christie GC Gemma Blamire GB Simi Appabausmy SA Angela Murtagh AM Alison Elliot AE Tynah M TM Lesley Dunlop LD</p> <p>Mrs F Hollands (HT) Mrs H Miss T Noble (Acting DT) Miss N Mrs R Thompson (Acting PT) Mrs T Miss L Gardiner (Acting PT) Miss G Councillor L Fitzpatrick Cllr F PC E Jones (Police Scotland)</p>
Apologies	<p>Wendy Hay Dawn Davis Susan Cooke</p>
1	Welcome to Parent Council
	<p>Mrs H welcomed everyone to the AGM of the Parent Council (PC).</p> <p>Particularly a warm welcome was given to the newly elected Head Boy and Girl and the Deputy Head Boy and Girl that would represent WPS for the school year 2016/2017. Mrs H introduced our pupil leadership team and explained the change of the format for this year election. In the process of electing the new team the staff were involved as well as 2 parents representing the PC and 1 representing the PSA (Parent Staff Association). Then, the panel listened to the presentations of each of the 11 pupils, followed by questions. The responsibilities of the pupil leadership team is to come along to the PC meeting and inform the PC about school life. They go along the PSA at least once in the school year.</p> <p>The new leadership team are Shay Hamilton, Grace Guest, Ross Fairley and Isobel Drago Ferrante.</p> <p>Mrs H had invited the newly elected Head Boy and Girl and the Deputy Head Boy and Girl to give their winning presentations before the PC.</p> <p>We heard Grace, Isobel, Shay and Ross read and say their speeches. Everyone was impressed by the high standard of presentations given from the children!</p>
2	Apologies
	<p>Apologies had been received from Wendy Hay, Dawn Davis and Susan Cooke. Morag Nicolson would step down from the group but hope to re-join in the future.</p> <p>AL, who had been the Chair of the PC for the last 3 years, expressed his desire to step down from this position, but would continue to attend the meetings. His argument was that the PC would benefit from a fresh perspective and asked if anyone would volunteer</p>

	<p>for the Chair's role.</p> <p>Mrs H thanked AL for his commitment over the years!</p> <p>AL gave a brief outline of a usual PC meeting for those of the parent who attended the PC for the very first time. He said that the meeting starts with pupil leadership team giving an update of the school life. Sometimes the pupils will ask for help, which from our point of view, as a PC is not much, but from the pupils' point of view it is important as they feel supported. Then, we hear the headteacher's update and questions are asked if there are any. At some of the meeting there would be guests who represent various charities, for example, with focus on sport, music etc. who will want some involvement with the school. Then, we have Cllr F who gives us information and insight into the local activities and highlights WLC policies and projects that affect the school life. We usually finish the meetings with AOB (Any Other Business). AL suggested that the best practice is to try and stay away from personal concerns that one has with their own child and the school. The principle is that we represent the parents' view and we can discuss issues that are raised by parents who have approached us or our own concerns which affect the school life in general. AL reminded us that there is a PC constitution that can be downloaded from the web site of the PC which regulates these practises. We use the website for uploading the minutes of the PC meetings, too. AL mentioned that the person who maintains the website no longer comes to the PC, so there was a need for someone to do that job.</p> <p>Gillian clarified that at the last PC meeting in June 2016 we discussed the issue of maintenance of the PC web site and Christine Burns was happy to continue doing this job for us, despite the fact she would not come to the PC meetings.</p>
3	Minute of the Parent Council meeting held on 13th June 2016
	There were no matters arising.
4	Councillor L Fitzpatrick update
	<p>Cllr F highlighted the fantastic exam results of the schools in our area and particularly the results of James Young High School. The JYHS is improving and many pupils are getting unconditional offers for University places, which is fantastic!</p> <p>Another important piece of information was concerning Planning and the 3 big planning applications for new houses that WLC had considered, which would affect the catchment area. Fortunately, these applications were turned down.</p> <p>Cllr F mentioned that the WLC had introduced the Quality Assurance in education, which now is in the open and in use. For example, WPS as part of this initiative would give themselves a self-assessment mark. This mark would be evaluated by other head teachers and professionals working for the WCL and used for external or internal assessments. The aim of the practice is continues improvement of the learning and teaching across the schools. Looking ahead the WLC would be focusing on raising attainment in education as a main priority.</p>
5	PC E Jones (Police Scotland)
	<p>Mrs H introduced PC E Jones who explained the proposal, Police Scotland have, on road safety at pick up and drop off time at WPS and their reasoning behind it.</p> <p>PC Jones explained that she was part of a team located in Broxburn who have a specific focus on road safety. They had been looking at traffic footfall at peak times around schools and surrounding areas. They had been involved with the motorists as well as their focus had been on education and involvement of young children, in order to make the Police more approachable on these safety issues.</p>

A major concern that PC Jones had was the very narrow entrance of the WPS car park, where big buses have difficulties coming in. One of the issues was the great footfall of the children walking with their parents to school and at the same time the heavy vehicle traffic using the same road. PC Jones expressed their concern of the children, on the way to school, not looking when crossing while parents being distracted, therefore, the Police believe that action should be taken so that no injuries or fatalities take place. With road safety in mind, PC Jones said that they were keen on exploring an alternative for separating the footfall from the vehicle traffic at peak time and they had looked at one of the close-by car parks to be used for this purpose. There is a car park that is 400m away from the school, linked by a foot path to the school (Bankton Mains Car Park). PC Jones and a colleague walked from the car park to the school and it took them a bit more than 5 minutes at a slow pace. Their suggestion was to see if that car park could be an alternative location where parents can leave their cars and walk to school the last 400 m. This way there would not be any interference between cars and people.

AL said that it was a great idea from a safety point of view. There always would be parents who would not like the idea of parking and walking to school as there are numeral circumstances that we would not be able to account and provide for.

PC Jones agreed with this and said that it was always a case, however, the neighbours need to be considered.

Cllr F added that there had been many complains from neighbouring streets about the school traffic. He said that the white lines had to be renewed and some yellow boxes probably added. One morning from 8 a.m. till 10 a.m. he was there counting the number of cars going to the school, there were 138 vehicles. He added that this was the only school that has such a loop car par system in the WLC.

AE suggested that there could be a cut off at 8 a.m. when the Breakfast Club starts and when the gates of the car park were closed thereafter.

PC Jones said that from their point of view, they do not want to wait for an accident to take place. They would like to see the traffic redirected to a safer place, in an easy walking distance.

AL said that we would need to make a dramatic change as the point had been discussed regularly over a number of years. We would not wish something (I.e. an accident) to happen before addressing it.

CD highlighted that there never had been an incident so perhaps making a dramatic change was not required.

Mrs H confirmed that there had been a few near misses and parents were written and warned in those particular cases.

GB added that 25 years ago, when she was at WPS, the matter was discussed then.

Mrs H clarified that the number of cars had increased and for the year she had been at the school she had dealt with lots of parking incidents. Mrs H said that she was not able to enforce a restricted access to the car park. So, she felt positive about the fact that the Police wanted to support this and, of course, the other advantage was promoting healthier life style.

CD was concerned that there had to be a balance as some people had to use their cars. She suggested that it would be a good idea if parents were asked why they need to use the

	<p>car to come to school, what were the reasons for that.</p> <p>Cllr F explained that a risk assessment has to be carried out of the proposed car park, the path has to be gritted as the WLC has a duty of care to everyone. And, probably the number of cars parked in the close-by streets such as Bankton Green and Bankton Drive would increase.</p> <p>GC asked who would take the idea forward. Was it the one who owned the idea?</p> <p>AL said that we represent the parents and that anyone can come to the meeting of the PC and voice their opinion or they can talk to us.</p> <p>Cllr F Elaine Cook from the WLC was the person to approach and she would instruct engineers to carry out assessment etc.</p> <p>AL said that as PC we could instruct Mrs H to initiate this being looked into.</p> <p>PC Jones speculated that the area where the car park is belongs to the WLC.</p> <p>CH added that years ago the school children used a Walking Bus initiative where a few parents wait for children from the neighbouring streets at a gathering place and then walk them to school. There are some other options that lots of parents use – cycling, the school bus.</p> <p>GF was very happy with the proposal of the Police, she was urging us to go ahead with it.</p> <p>PC Jones said that road safety was a responsibility of everyone, road users had to be aware of their responsibilities. And in this situation, the WLC, they had to undertake their assessments and if all is well, then the Police would help enforcing it.</p> <p>AL summed up that the next step would be that Mrs H writes to WLC on this matter by request of the PC. Then AL confirmed that PC Jones would be happy to come to one of the PC meeting again to discuss this matter.</p> <p>Mrs H asked everyone if the attending parents were in favour of her writing to the WLC about this proposal.</p> <p>All agreed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Action for the next meeting: Mrs H writes to the WLC on this matter.</u></p>
6	Headteacher's report
	There will be a link to the Headteacher's report.
7	AOB
	<p>DS took the opportunity to ask about the jotters that were used last school year for the children (P5 to P7) to write in what they had studied that week in the Maths lessons. DS said that it was a very useful information to the parents. She would like to see such a jotter being introduced this school year again.</p> <p>Mrs T answered that she was given the responsibility to look at the number of jotters the children had and how the jotters had been used. So, this had been actioned and after the revision a decision would be made.</p> <p>AL asked again if anyone would like to take over the role of the Chair of the PC. AL gave</p>

	<p>more details about the responsibilities of the Chair who sometimes is invited to go to the centralised Parent Councils' meeting. This meeting is not a compulsory one, but it is a good forum to see what was going on in other schools.</p> <p>GC agreed to take over from AL as the Chair of the PC.</p> <p>AL asked if anyone would be happy to be the Secretary (taking the minutes).</p> <p>DS agreed to do this for this school year.</p>
8	Dates for next meetings for 2016/2017
	<p>Monday 14th November 2016 Monday 16th January 2017 Monday 24th April 2017 (PSA meeting also on this day) Monday 13th June 2017</p>