

Draft

Minute of Madras College Parents Council meeting held 4th November 2009 7pm South Street Library

Attendance – Ann Adamson, Phill Williams, Callum Macleod, Maxine Latinis, Mike Weir, Joanna Wright, Lynsey Seeley, Jackie Morrissey, Hugh Watson, Andy Primmer, Peter Brown, Marjory Finlay, Rebecca Brown, Jean Duncan, Emma Henderson, John Macanaw, Jayne Fraser, David Rickman, Jackie Himpson, Dotothea Morrison, Alex Slawin, John Barnett, Linda Hardie, Ian Jones and Henry Paul

John McLaughlin, NE Fife Education Officer was also in attendance.

Apologies – Heather Marriage, Jane Petegree, Eric Bowman, Bruce Sinclair, Vanessa Rengger, Ron Caird and Robin Waterston.

The meeting opened with Henry Paul, the previous Chairperson of the Council, explaining that the Chair (Zoe Smith) had had to step down temporarily due to personal problems and the deputy-chair (Phill Williams) had recently returned from Afghanistan and was only able to stay for 50 minutes. Mr Paul offered to continue as Chair for this meeting, this was unanimously accepted. The issue of appointing someone new to this position will be taken up at the January meeting.

1. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.
2. Rector's Report
3. **Staffing Issues** – Jim Callaghan from the Physics Department has taken up a new position at St Andrews High School. The post is being covered by a supply teacher and the post is already advertised.
4. **Depute Head teacher's post** – the interviews are continuing with second interviews Monday 9th November. There is representation from the Parent's Forum on these interview panels.
5. **Flood Damage** – there has been flood damage to the room G3 used for Graphic Communication. Furniture and computers have been lost. The classes are still being able to be taught.
6. Fife Council Area Education Officer, John McLaughlin offered to take up the issue of maintenance in this area of the school building to hopefully avoid this happening in the future, The cause of the flood had been from the roof of the classroom related to drains and guttering.
7. **Dry Rot repairs** scheduled to be completed 1st week in December.
8. **Anti Bullying Policy** – the completed leaflet was circulated to all members of the Parent Forum. The leaflet will be made available on the School website.
9. **Funding of projects** – Parent Forum had asked the school for ways the funding they had to distribute could benefit the school. The following have been put forward for consideration for the January Meeting.

- Pipe Band – would welcome any donation to help support the work it does
- The new Boards with the up to date list of those receiving title of Dux cost £ 115
- The rewards day cost £150
- The Recycle Bike Company recycles bikes as part of learning in the Dept of Additional Support

The rector indicated that the Rewards Day had a link already with the Parent Council having been supported financially by them in the past and he thought this was a good link to continue.

Henry Paul explained that the Bell Fund may also be able to support the Recycling Bikes work as it fitted in well with the criteria of the trust. He will be taking this forward.

10. 50-50 Club – Parent Forum Fundraising

It was agreed to continue with this fundraising effort even though numbers were currently very low – 54 registered so far.

A parent mail email is to be circulated again to encourage parent's to take part and a stall will be put on at the forth coming parent's nights and school concert' with the same aim.

Handover between the old and new treasurers after the AGM is still to happen.

The PC would also man a stall at S5/6 Parents' Evening on 19 November, at the S1 Parents' Evening on 2 December and at the Christmas Concert on 9 December.

11. New Madras Update

Update was given from Andy Primmer the Parent Forum rep on the working group

A new site was now being considered and is known as site Langlands B. It is next to where the current St Andrew's University Sports Centre sits. The University will be updating this facility and are offering a 10 million contribution to the co-location development with this funding going into shared sports facilities between the University and the school on the site. An extract of the local plan showing the site was circulated.

This plan will bring close collaboration between the University and the School .A service level agreement would be established between the two in shared use of facilities. Fife Council is now working on a business case for this option to be completed by March 2010.

The existing sports facilities at Station Park will be retained in this option.

There will not be a swimming pool in any of the options. Fife Council Community Services will be considering options for East Sands Swimming Pool in the town over the next ten years as that is the current life span of the facility. The needs of the school in regards to a pool will be looked at as part of this if the school moves from Kilrymont site.

It was noted that members of St Andrew's Community Council attended the working group meeting and voiced the opinion that there would be objections to any expansion on the Western side of St Andrews. This new site would be seen as an expansion in this area.

It was made clear at the meeting that there are two separate issues. One is the site for the school and the other is the local plan and the siting of the 1000 new houses planned for St Andrews.

The Local Plan is ending its consultation period in December and there are three public opportunities for people to give their opinions on it during November. People can also give their views via their local elected members.

It was pointed by Ian Jones that the planning process had changed and people had to register the fact that they were in favour of any plans as well as those who object registering their views.

The events are:

Friday 13th Fife Council is holding a presentation on the Local Plan in the St Andrews' Town Hall between 13:00-20:00

Tuesday 24th November Headon Developments are giving a presentation on their proposals for the St Andrews West. Invite only to this particular event however, there will be an open event, date to be confirmed.

St Andrews Community Council, Preservation Trust and Green Belt Forum are also holding a presentation on the Local Plan in the St Andrews Victory Memorial Hall on Saturday 28 November between 10:00-17:00 and Sunday 29 November 11:00-16:00.

These plans do show a school but the school development is not linked to any approval of housing. The land for the school is owned by the University. The school will be designed and built through Fife Council architects and procurement.

The record of the working group meeting is on the Madras Parent Council and worth reading. Also the local plan is available online .The direct link to the consultation portal is <http://lpconsult.fife.gov.uk/portal> . This is the same portal for all consultations across Fife, the top one is the one we are looking for. Clicking on it takes you to <http://lpconsult.fife.gov.uk/portal/fsaeflp09> which is the specific one for East Fife.

12. Madras Values Document

This was circulated and will be discussed at the January meeting.

13. AOCB

General point was made that anyone wanting to raise an item under AOCB should do so ideally a week before to allow the rector and staff time to give a full response.

History of the school

It was stressed that the school has a long and proud history and that the old building in South Street has great character and the quad was especially valued by pupils. Michael Weir

pupil representative on the forum asked that the history of the school be retained with the building of a new school. The school has many old artefacts that will transfer to a new building.

Maxine Latinis explained that she had been part of some of the work with the architects for the new schools in Fife and she had put forward the idea of retaining a quad.

Sexual Health Workshops

For parents of S1 – S3 will be held in partnership with HNS Fife and Guidance staff on the 25th November.

Date of Next meeting 13th January 7pm Kilrymont Building