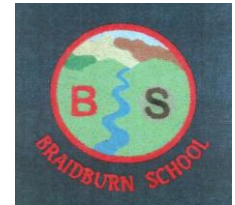


# Braidburn Parent Council



## Office Bearers:

**Chairman:** Leigh Ferrand  
**Vice Chair:** Gail Morris

**Secretary:** Lesley Munro  
**Treasurer:** Kirsty Watt

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## **Minutes of Braidburn Parent Council**

**Date of Meeting 31 August 2020**

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

Apologies were received from JS, EF, LMcD and RB.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting**

The minutes were approved pending a few typographical errors.

### **3. Parents' and carers' questions regarding return to school**

Questions were collated from the Parents' and Carers' Facebook page. CW provided answers to the questions raised. KW requested that photographs of staff and learners in the bubbles be shared. CW confirmed that photos of the learners in each class have been shared, but not the bubble. (Bubbles relate to learners and staff who share outside space rather than joint classes inside the school). GM pointed out that having photographs of children and staff in the 'bubble' would facilitate conversations between parents and carers and learners when they are discussing the school day and speaking about who they have been playing with in the playground in their bubble.

### **Action CW**

AN asked for confirmation that all specialist subjects can still be accessed by learners. CW confirmed that learners can still access all aspects of the curriculum from their class rather than move to another class in the school. The exception being Home Economics classes that would involve the touching of food and the use of The Flat. Primary classes can still use the Hub, although library books are quarantined for 72 hours after use. PE classes are being held outside only, and the gym hall is being used for some class activities.

LF asked when the hydrotherapy pool could be used again. CW confirmed that the Council have not issued their guidance on this yet.

KW asked if an out of hours mobile number could be made available in case parents need to speak to school staff urgently e.g. when medication has been left in school after school on a Friday. CW confirmed that an out of hours phone number is not available, however, emails are checked regularly until late Friday afternoon. LF suggested that NHS staff on site could make sure that learners have correct medication when leaving school for the weekend for home or respite provision. CW and KW will discuss this issue further outside of the meeting.

SC and AB raised the issue about not all school transport staff wearing protective gloves, masks, visors or effective face coverings. They referred to research that has shown that hand gel is only

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60% effective and buffs and bandanas being used as a mask provide little protection. This is a concern as school transport may transport other users of different services between school runs. CM confirmed that the hand gel used by the council is hospital grade with 70% alcohol content. CW will ask the Transport Department to confirm the policy as regards transport staff wearing masks.

**Action CW**

The issue can also be raised at the next Special Schools meeting and/or CCwP (when future meeting dates are confirmed). AN suggested raising the issue at the National Parent Forum online meeting with John Swinney in an attempt to get the guidance clarified. LF pointed out that for some learners any face covering is not beneficial as they are not able to see the individual's face for lip reading.

CW confirmed that school guidance stated that staff do not need to wear a mask unless they are administering personal care, handling a learner or in close contact for more than 15 mins. If a learner is likely to cough then a visor can be worn in addition to the fluid resistant surgical mask. If staff do choose to wear a mask or face covering at other times, then they are able to do so. The school has acquired face masks with a clear panel so learners and staff can lip read, as these masks are not PPE grade they cannot be used in all situations.

KW asked about learning journals. LL informed the meeting that these were being looked at in the next few weeks as current focus is on health and wellbeing. It was decided that a working group of parents and carers would be formed to create a parent and carer survey that would be issued and reported on by the end of October. The working group will comprise of GM, CA, AN, KW and LF. CW suggested that the council consultation hub could be used to collect views.

KW asked what the protocol would be if a learner tested positive for COVID. CW informed the meeting that Health Protection will take the lead and advise on what should happen, school don't take the decisions.

KW then asked if staff were staying in bubbles throughout the school day. CW informed the meeting that staff are assigned to bubbles. Health Partners are not part of the bubble. Staff within the bubble can provide cover to the other class in the bubble. They may have to provide support to another bubble if required. Staff can access the staff room, but they must socially distance themselves and bring in their own mugs. The dishwasher is not in use and the fridge can only be used for milk. CM and CW attend a weekly briefing on COVID precautions and then disseminate the information to staff on a Friday. Supply staff are briefed as part of their induction. They are not allowed to undertake any more than 3 placements at different venues.

## **4. Update on review of constitution and job descriptions**

LM had circulated the constitution for comment along with the job descriptions. KW suggested we update the constitution using the sample constitution provided by CONNECT and Prospect Bank's constitution.

**Action KW/LM**

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## **5. Confirmation of dates of meetings and AGM in 2020**

The AGM will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October using Microsoft Teams. The positions of Chair and Treasurer will become vacant. LM will circulate job descriptions when the meeting is advertised.

Action LM

## **6. Braidburn Parent Council Matters**

### **6.1 Edinburgh Parent Council Network**

At the recent meeting there was much discussion about out of catchment mainstream school placements. Issues were raised with Microsoft Teams being used for online meetings as this platform does not support large schools effectively where many parents want to attend Parent Council meetings.

### **6.2 Special Schools City Wide Locality Meetings**

KW will ask for dates of future meetings so we can plan the dates of our future meetings.

### **6.3 CCwP**

AN will circulate copies of the Return to School Plans that were discussed at this meeting.

### **6.4 Finance Update**

Bank balance is unchanged from before. The cheque for flowers sent earlier this year on behalf of the Parent Council is expected to clear shortly. Story bags still have £380 to be spent out of their £500 allocation.

## **7. Headteacher and Friends of Braidburn update**

A copy of this report is attached. Our Play Therapist will be becoming back into the school in October, they are currently supporting learners remotely. George Watson will review their provision of music therapy in October. Jo Colman from Active Schools will provide Physical Therapy when guidelines allow.

Friends of Braidburn have offered to fund some outdoor equipment for the whole school to use in their bubbles.

## **8. AOB**

Rosemary has resigned from her position of co-opted member after many years. LF suggested that we send her a card and flowers to thank her for her participation in the Parent Council.

KW suggested that we ask Mrs Borthwick to consider joining as our co-opted member. CW will ask her on our behalf.

Action CW