**FRIENDS OF CULTERCULLEN SCHOOL**

**Staff Room, Cultercullen School**

**Wednesday 1st February 2017**

**18:30-19:30**

**Present:** Susan Watt (Chairperson), Jane Brebner (Secretary), Fiona Massie (Treasurer), Kirsty Kemp, Nicky Strachan, Cath Smart, Cllr Jim Gifford, Cllr Paul Johnston, Cllr Cryle Shand, Mike Whyment, Shona Gray,Mae Campbell, Lynsey MacAllister, Jenny Fyall, Jane Austin (Acting Head Teacher), Gayle McCombie, Marie Gilpin, Elaine Reid & Lindsay McKenzie.

**Apologies:** Cllr Allan Hendry, Rhonda Robson, Helen McPherson, Mandy Watson, Alison Gibson, Jude Robertson, Dawn Anderson & Donna Anderson.

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Mrs. Watt welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received.

1. **Minutes of Meeting on 24th October 2016**

Minutes were approved.

1. **Matters Arising**

**Susan Watt** gave an update of the plan for Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheatre. Full funding of £1200 was awarded from Hill of Fiddes Community Fund, with money now transferred to the Community Park, PTM contacted and work will be carried out in February, weather permitted.

**Library Shelving** - **Nicky Strachan** has costed up new shelving for the Library and to apply for funds from the Wind Turbines. **Jane Brebner** has organised her Colleague, Marion Wands from Aberdeenshire Libraries making a visit to the School on Thursday 2nd February to advise on stock/weeding and layout of Library. **Susan Watt** confirmed that following Marion Wands visit, if educational additional books were required by the school, this would be considered by Friends of Cultercullen School.

1. **Chair Report**

**Susan Watt** confirmed the following:

* Parent Involvement Act 2006 - this was emailed to parents and completed by the Parent Council in November. Currently waiting for an update on the results, will issue to parents when that is received.
* Governance Review - Thank you to all who attend the meeting and also provided information via email. A response was emailed prior to Christmas, which is very similar to the NFPS response (copy sent with agenda), highlighting no further additional financial responsibility for head teachers, as this would result in less time in the class room, coupled with the current issue of staff shortages. This would also result in head teachers being held financially accountable rather than the Council, along with providing more education services at school level. No additional duties for parents, highlighting this would result in further difficulty in finding parents to join Parent Councils. The need to close the attainment gap required more than just additional funding, highlighting the importance of working with cluster group and parents. The outcome of the review would be issued once it has been received.

Cllr Gifford queried whether the attainment gap can ever be closed through additional funding, which would only shift it higher or lower.

* Huge thank you to parents for organising and participating in the Xmas Fayre. £2150 was raised. Parents were asked for feedback, nothing came back, Need to look at lucky dip for this year. Stall holders were happy and some asked to come back this year. Thanks to Mark Kemp for designing the Posters and Banner.
* Education City - agreed to the £528, which is up £10 on last financial year this is now paid up to February 2018
* Bags-to-school - raised £72 and the next one is Thursday 25th May.
* Thank you to Lynsey MacAllistair for the P1-3 presents and also to Lindsay McKenzie for ordering more uniforms.
* Thank you to Magnus and Fiona Sinclair for the Xmas tree, they were given a bottle of wine and card from the school and parents.

1. **Treasurer Report**

**Fiona Massie** confirmed the balances of the following accounts:

FOC Opening Balance £4,979.08

Expenses -£2,200.78

Income +2,738.78

Closing Balance **£5,517.08**

Friends of Cultercullen School account £276.30

Possible proposed funding this financial year was the school outing to HMT in June to see Gangsta Granny and Sports Day at Aberdeen Sports Village.

**Action:** Ms Austin to confirm the location of the Sports Day.

**Marie Gilpin** confirmed the balance of the following account:

Cultercullen Football Team £572.16

1. **Head Teacher Report (Ms Jane Austin - Acting Head Teacher):**

* **Child Protection Policy (Draft)** – Copy of draft had been sent with Meeting Agenda. Any Questions about it? Fairly straightforward, going to be amended.
* **Staff Situation** - Ms Austin spoke about the current situation and confirmed that Mrs. Newlands has now put in her resignation. Visiting Specialist is currently off sick and no replacement currently.
* **P1-3 Staffing from 17th February 2017** – Mrs. Gagne - Monday, Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays. Mrs. Delahunty (previously SfL Teacher) - Thursday & Friday.
* **P4-7 Staffing** - Mrs Gracey (Supply Teacher) – Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday**.** Ms Austin – Thursday & Friday
* **SfL and alternate Wednesdays** - Mrs Dixon
* A full time vacancy will be advertised as soon as it can.

Following on from what Ms Austin spoke about there was extensive discussions about the problems that Cultercullen School are facing currently and lots of questions raised regarding the way the whole situation has been handled following the departure of Mr Anderson to Barthol Chapel School combined with the difficulties experienced with covering teaching hours with temporary staff at very short notice.

Councillors present confirmed that they were unaware of the current situation and would raise this with Education officials.

**ACTION: Susan Watt** to put in writing to the Council authorities about how unhappy the Parents are in regards to the staffing situation at Cultercullen School and to request a formal response from the Council behind the limited notice given to the Teachers, Parents and Pupils of Mr. Anderson departure.

1. **Fundraising:**

**Susan Watt** had earlier spoken about the Christmas Fayre.

* Other Events - Any suggestions gratefully received. Sponsored Walk?
* Shona Gray suggested a School Disco and was agreed a good idea. To be planned after Mid-Term Break and before Easter.

**8. AOB**

* Fairtrade Fortnight - Cllr Johnson would be circulating some information about the Fortnight. Asking Schools and Organisations about the possibility of purchasing Fairtrade goods such as School Uniforms, Footballs, etc.

**9. Next Meeting: Monday 24th April 2017 at 18:30 (Staff Room, Cultercullen School).**