**FRIENDS OF CULTERCULLEN SCHOOL**

**Staff Room, Cultercullen School**

**Monday 24th April**

**18:30-19:30**

**Present:** Susan Watt (Chairperson), Jane Brebner (Secretary), Fiona Massie (Treasurer), Kirsty Kemp, Nicky Strachan, Cath Smart, Cllr Paul Johnston, Mike Whyment, Shona Gray,Mae Campbell, Lynsey MacAllister, Jenny Fyall, Jane Austin (Acting Head Teacher), Marie Gilpin, Elaine Reid, Lindsay McKenzie, Vikki Jannetta, Joy Davies, Helen McPherson, Mandy Watson & Jude Robertson.

**Apologies:** Cllr Allan Hendry, Cllr Cryle Shand, Cllr Jim Gifford, Rhonda Robson, Gayle McCombie, Dawn Anderson & Donna Anderson.

1. **Welcome and apologies**

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

1. **Minutes of Meeting on 1st February 2017**

Minutes were approved.

1. **Matters Arising**

**Susan Watt** gave an update on the Outdoor Classroom/Amphitheatre. Work has now been carried out and it is complete. Grass to be sown in May time.

**Library Shelving** - **Nicky Strachan** is re-submitting application for Shelving and new Books for the Library. Shelving to be on castors for flexible use of area. Applications due by the 1st May and meeting for decision on the 17th May. FOC to match fund of £300 which will be added to application. Mrs Austin confirmed that she would investigate purchasing new books for the P1-7

1. **Chair Report**

 **Susan Watt** confirmed the following:

* E-mail now set up for Friends of Cultercullen School Committee - **cultercullenparentcouncil@yahoo.com**.
* Cultercullen Football Team Coaches – Drew Strachan & George Gray went along to the Sport Awards. Sadly they weren’t successful but good experience.
* Football Team won the Strathythan League B. Congratulations to the Team.
* Alison Gibson has now left the Committee due to Children going to Udny Green School now.
* **Update of Staffing Issue and Peter Wood Response** – There was a general discussion about the Staffing problems that have occurred since January 2017. Mr. Wood had responded to the whole situation. There are still some questions unanswered.

Mike Whyment spoke about Mrs. Gagne doing extra hours up to the Mid-Term Break in February, and we should formally thank her and her husband, who had taken time off his work to look after their child, whilst Mrs. Gagne worked extra hours. Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Austin for her work undertaken with taking over the role of Acting Head Teacher.

* QIO’s Kay McDonald and Gaye Davidson are coming to the School on Monday 8th May to answer any questions Parents wish to raise about the past or current staffing situation, including any Education queries relating to the school. They will be in the Staff Room from 6:30pm that evening. It will also be attended by Mrs. Austin and all parents are welcome to come along.
* Susan Watt has also gone back to Mr. Wood as some points still need clarification. She also encouraged questions to be submitted to herself, which would be issued to the QIOs before the meeting on the 8th May. This would insure that crucial questions are answered there and then.
* Shona Gray spoke again about the lack of Specialist Teachers, this still needs to be addressed too.

**ACTION:** Jane Brebner to put out a REMINDER before meeting on the 8th May.

1. **Treasurer Report**

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

 FOC Opening Balance £4,979.08

 Income +£2,738.78

 Expenditure -£2,646.28

 Closing Balance **£5,071.58**

Friends of Cultercullen School Balance £899.47

School outing to HMT in June to see Gangsta Granny and Sports Day at Aberdeen Sports Village still to be paid for. Income from Bags 2 School happening on Thursday 25th May so there will hopefully be income from that, probably looking at around £80.

Mrs. Gagne has asked about funding for a possible trip to Alford Transport Museum, details to be confirmed. Mrs. Smart has asked if the Committee would fund Batteries for the Goblin Car in order for the P5-7 science class to participate in the Greenpower Challenge for School on 18 June 2017 at Alford, looking at £50 each, details again to be confirmed.

Following the meeting, it was agreed for FOCS to fund the P1-7 trip at a cost of around £300 and the purchase of 2 Goblin Car batteries at a total cost of £166.

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

Cultercullen Football Team £179.85

1. **Head Teacher Report (Ms Jane Austin - Acting Head Teacher):**
* **New Teacher** - Mrs. Alison Dow has been confirmed as the new P1-3 Teacher. She will start on the 22nd May, but will be coming in before then to say Hello and have a handover with Mrs. Gagne.
* Mrs. Gagne will be working upstairs along with Ms Austin in the P4-7 class from the 22nd May. Mrs. Delahunty will go back to being SfL and work on a Friday morning.
* There is currently no news about when Mrs. MacArthur is coming back, but aware that she will have accrued Holidays to. HR to still confirm return dates.
* **School Improvement Plan** – This was originally circulated in September 2016. Unfortunately due to the staffing issues not many of the points have been addressed, apart from the Child Protection Policy, as outlined in previous minutes, celebrating achievement by the Pupils with a wall of photos in corridor and Pupils learning from their own experience of working in Class.

1. **Fundraising:**

**Susan Watt** spoke about the plans for another fundraising event before the end of the School Year:

* **May Event** - Gayle McCombie had previously spoken about a Danceathon.

**ACTION:** Susan Watt to get in contact with Gayle about whether she can do something May.

**8. AOB**

* Problems with School Transport - Arriving late and asking the Children for money towards Charity collection. Susan Watt confirmed that under no circumstances should the operator or driver ask for money and this would be investigated by the Public Transport Unit, with an update provided. She asked that parents contact the School and then the Council, on the day or the following day of any issues. New Telephone Number - 01467 533335 (Client Transport, PTU).
* Udny Station roads to be closed from the 1st to 2nd May. Road will be open to School Bus coming through.

**9. Next Meeting: AGM - Monday 12th June at 18:30 (Staff Room, Cultercullen School).**