

Kirkcudbright Academy Parent Council
Minutes of the AGM held on 21st June 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom

Present: Liz Kettle (Chair), Alex MacMillan (Secretary), Sam Priest (Treasurer), Andy Courtnadge (Rotary), Deborah Trotter, Laura Moodie, Jacqueline White, Nanette Hall, David Hall, Shameen Syed, Susan Hall, Elizabeth Parsons, Kathryn King

1. Apologies

Paul Tebay (Rotary Rep), Councillors Jane Maitland, Dougie Campbell, Pauline Drysdale

2. Approval of Last Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes of 5th June 2019 were proposed by DT, seconded by AM.
AM made a special request that the Minutes of our last ordinary meeting on 24th May 2021 were also approved at her last meeting as Secretary: proposed by DT, seconded S Hall.

3. Chair's Report

Chair welcomed everyone and, drawing a line over the Covid year, outlined developments stemming from the last AGM of 2019, not necessarily for discussion now but for consideration over the summer to come up with a strategy to address those issues by the time the new term starts.

Memorial Garden,

2019 saw no rural skills on the curriculum, but there is now a group of 20 students doing the subject with Ms McClure, and the group is committed to continuing work in the garden, vegetable and fruit patches near the MUGA, and raised beds.

Action: Continue repairing pathways and making the area accessible.

Devise a maintenance plan for long term upkeep.

Install a watering system to ensure survival of plants over the summer months.

Install more bins (increased use by pupils = increase in litter).

The Hannah-Rose memorial roses are thriving, and we are pleased to report that a plaque in her memory is now installed.

Mrs. Smith from the school office will be holding her retiral party in the Garden this week. LK will arrange a small gift and thank you card on behalf of parent councils past and present.

LK was approached by the *Arts and Crafts Trail* for open garden this year - declined but will register for 2022 with school's permission..

School Meals

Declining numbers in 2019 resulted in letters going out to families to encourage uptake, but numbers have not improved. Only 18 out of 45 pupils entitled to free school meals are taking them. Catering manager described situation as 'dire'. Council decision to only include red meat twice a week may be the reason she said. LK would like to see a campaign come Autumn to get more pupils to take school lunches (only £2 for a two courses) and welcomed any ideas. Link to environmental campaigns? Combat climate change?

6 picnic benches provided by parent council for students to sit to eat their school meals, as the inside dining hall cannot accommodate everyone, but this has made no difference. LK wondered what had happened to ideas of putting a permanent gazebo outside the windows of canteen?

Outreach Meetings

Will resume in Autumn. Instigated by LK, bi-monthly informal and unminuted meetings, alternating between Auchencairn and Gatehouse were found to be a valuable addition to our formal meetings in Kirkcudbright and had been quite well attended.

Fundraising

Only income in the past year has been the monthly draw, and £500 from Drax. No Kirkcudbright Academy Half Marathon (KAHM 2020 or 2021) or Candlemas Ball 2021.

KAHM profits used to go to Activities Week.

In 2019 we were asked by school to help fund Home Economics lessons (food ingredients) and Design and Technical lessons (materials such as wood) after D&G Council stopped paying for this, Now D and G Council have ended all funding for these subjects Mr Tuffery has formally asked Parent Council to consider finding funds for HE (£4000 annually) and Technical (£2000 annually), in a sense underwriting both subjects.

These figures will obviously increase over future years. Academy has enough for 2021/22 academic year but beyond that the worst-case scenario is that these subjects will be removed from the curriculum. LK feels that provision of money for curriculum subjects should be met by statutory funding from the D&G Council and not from parent council fundraising, but realises the current post Covid climate might make this difficult;

We have a year to come up with a funding solution and there will have to be a serious escalation in the Parent Council Fundraising efforts. Whatever happens, the PC will have to play an ever greater supporting role, keep circulating ideas, ask Rector to set out at first meeting in September the situation with supporting budgets for us to examine.

Building Programme

Council has given go-ahead for renovation of the MUGA (multi use games area), work will take 6 weeks, due to start end August 2021.

New heating system also installed after the fire, and more recently, the accompanying fire alarms.

Prefects

Whilst in the past year, there has been little contact with Head Boy and Girl, LK attended the hustings for the new Heads recently and confirms they are Hugh Hodson and Maisie Anderson. Isaac Goodare is the new 'go to' contact for the parent council. The new S6 prefects seem a dynamic group and are intent on hitting the ground running in August.

New Teacher Rep

Our grateful thanks to Richard Boyce, resigning as the teacher representative after 5 years, and welcome to his successor Shameen Syed.

LK has continued to attend DGPCF meetings and shared up to date, accurate, information from them and from school, throughout the lockdown with parent forum. Enquiries have been dealt with swiftly and feedback from parent forum has been positive.

To bridge the Covid gap, see in another KAHM, and work at leaving a strong parent council team LK had asked to stand for another year. This was endorsed by AT and school and P Council.

4. Treasurer's Report

Figures for year ending March 2021 are attached separately.

Basic breakdown is: opening balance	£5632.83 @ 1.4.20
Income.	£1251.00
Outgoings.	£2204.20
Closing balance	£4679.63 @ 31.3.21

As at 20.6.21 there has been further income of £84 and expenditure of £30, leaving the balance as at 20.6.21 = £4733.63.

5. Resignations and Election of Officers and Members

5a. Alex MacMillan resigned and David Hall was voted on as Secretary.

Proposed by NH, seconded by JW.

LK extended thanks on behalf of Parent Council to AM for all her work and support over the last four years. LK had sent flowers on behalf of Council.

5b. Shameen Syed was voted on as teacher representative.

Proposed by AM, seconded by LK.

5c. Existing members Kathryn King and Deborah Trotter confirmed they are willing to stand again.

New Parent Members were voted on – Laura Moodie, Nanette Hall, Jacqueline White, Elizabeth Parsons.

All proposed by AM, seconded by Kathryn King.

5d. Re-Voting on (as per Constitution) of Paul Tebay as Rotary Rep, and Lesley Garbutt, both Co-opted Members.

Proposed by SH, seconded by LK.

6. AOB

DT: Following on from our May meeting, is there an update on the purpose of UPS classes? SS: some classes are Juniors and some are Seniors. Juniors have a more structured class with more guidance, and at some times in the year there is prescribed work, but teachers would agree that revision is needed for UPS. DT pointed out that this is really important for P7s coming in.

LK informed that the new school session will start with UPS being addressed, so we await further news on this at our September meeting.

SH: Where can we buy the KAM magazine? AM said the school office will know. SS offered to find out. There isn't much time left to buy!

7. Next meeting

Next AGM is Tuesday 14th June 2022 at 7 pm.

Next ordinary meeting is Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 7 pm, in the School Library.

Meeting closed at 20.15pm.