

Comann nam Pàrant (Dùn Èideann & Lodainn)
Annual General Meeting

Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce Parent Council
Meeting

7.15pm, 4 March 2013
Tollcross Community Centre

Summary of Action Points from meeting:

Action point	Responsible	Timescale
1. CnamP committee to finalise committee positions	CnamP committee	Next meeting
2. Wraparound working group to add child tax credits to remit	Wraparound group	Next WG meeting
3. PC to get in touch with new volunteers and ensure they have contact details for the rest of their working group members	PC office bearers	15 March
4. Working groups to prepare updates for next open meeting	TnaP working groups	Next meeting
5. To send out specific email through CnamP list encouraging parents to sign up to PC email list	Dana Givan	15 March
6. PC to advertise for class reps at parents' evening	PC office bearers	15 March

Minutes of meeting:

1. Welcome and Apologies

If anyone wishes to have a note of attendance or apologies, please email the parent council, with required reason of your request.

The meeting opened with welcome and comment on the very good turnout.

Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce (TnaP) will open this year. Parents have many questions and lots of enthusiasm. Warm welcome to Anne MacPhail, newly appointed Head teacher of TnaP. Very good that we have a Head teacher, not every school so lucky. Also fortunate because we know Anne and she knows us well also – and our children.

Also to note that we have a new Parent Council for TnaP. Introduction of the office bearers: co-chairs Abigail Burnyeat and Ailsa Macintosh, co-secretaries Dana Givan

and Claire Gillespie, treasurer Andrew Cameron. The Parent Council will give parents lots of opportunities to get involved through its working groups.

Comann nam Pàrant is the parents' organisation which has been around for a long time, representing parents' with children at all stages of GME. Has been involved in a lot of activities during the year, including such things as the parent survey and social activities like the Summer barbeque and the Christmas parties.

Comann nam Pàrant also proposed the set-up of the Parent Council – the only one of its kind to exist without a school.

This is a joint meeting – there is much to be done before the school opens and important that all parents work together. Both organisations represent parents at the school and therefore makes sense to work at completing tasks together.

We are all looking forward with hope and optimism.

2. Anne MacPhail, Taobh na Pàirce Ceannard

Anne MacPhail opened by saying she is thrilled and honoured to be appointed as Ceannard, and is looking forward to the challenges ahead. Thanks to everyone for all the good wishes at her appointment.

GME in Edinburgh is a very positive story at the moment. Cròileagan groups are bursting at the seams, the nursery is full at 40/40 [morning and afternoon places], and there are 50 children registered for Clas 1 in 2013. The provision of Gaelic-medium subjects at secondary level is increasing steadily. Overall a very healthy picture.

TnaP will open in August – there is much to do in the 4 months before that date.

TnaP building – the works are going well and running to time. There is a plan for a parents' base in the school, although specific room not yet identified. The current plan is that the school will be handed over to the Council on 3 July, however it will certainly be ready before that so in negotiation to have it handed over by the start of June. It would be great to have the opportunity to get the children down to the school in June.

A key group is the new Primary 1s. New policy by the Council to have a shorter phase-in period at the start of term, so all children will be in school for full days by week 3 (26 August).

Various tasks in progress or planned for the period before the school opens:

- i. New school handbook to be written. To work with some of the content from the Tollcross handbook.

- ii. Playground / garden – parents have already achieved some funding to buy trees for the playground. Nursery teachers have been making a water feature for the nursery garden.
- iii. Have now been given the go-ahead to begin advertising for various key positions at TnaP – so will be starting process to recruit 4 teachers, additional nursery staff, a business manager, various admin staff. There will be parental involvement in the recruitment process.
- iv. Key task is to appoint wraparound care provider. Will be working with parents on that task.
- v. Transport – bus routes are not likely to be finalised until school summer holidays. Generally happens at the last minute but evidence from experience is that it will be done on time.
- vi. Uniform is being looked at by the pupil steering group. They have agreed upon a navy sweatshirt for clas 1-6 with a brighter blue for clas 7. There will also be the option of a kilt / tartan tie (in the choir Holyrood tartan). The proposed school badge was also shown – a sheild with a tree, the Scott Monument and *Taobh na Pàirce* written on it. The colours are from the choir kilt – green, blue and gold.

<http://bunsgoiltaobhnapairce.wordpress.com/aodach-sgoile-uniform/>

Need to work with parents to develop shared vision for the school – set aims and priorities, and submit a development plan to Edinburgh Council.

Anne will plan to do much listening, discussing, and considering over the next few months. This will be a big change – we should not try to do too much at once, but move slowly and safely together to our new school home.

3. Comann nam Pàrant AGM

The meeting moved on to the Comann nam Pàrant AGM.

- i. The minutes from the previous AGM had been reviewed in advance by the committee. Agreed as accurate (proposed by Donald Carmichael and seconded by Sarah Scott).
- ii. The Annual Review was presented by Marion Thompson. The review document is attached to these minutes and includes a full review of activities during the year. The following points were highlighted:

- The growing success of Cròileagan with up to 150 children attending the sessions on a weekly basis. Thanks to all the Cròileagan committees and playleaders.
- The CnamP attendance at the Edinburgh Council working groups, and in particular the success of the negotiation to have the post of Ceannard advertised as Gaelic essential. Many thanks to Jennifer Wright for all her work at these meetings.
- The set-up of the new Parent Council.
- The continuing development of GME at secondary, and continued support from CnamP for Gràisg, the secondary music social group.
- Events during the year such as Christmas parties and family information morning – help from lots of people has been invaluable.
- Hope to set up Sràdagan with the extra space available at TnaP.
- Communication and the blog – thanks to Gail Mullard who has managed the communications for another year.

Particularly important to note that all activities carried out by parents on a completely voluntary basis.

Sarah Scott noted many thanks to Marion Thompson.

- iii. Màiri Rogers gave a brief update on the finances. The detail is included in the annual review document.

CnamP is funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, and by funds raised by parents. BnaG generally does respond favourably to any ideas in grant applications. This year we paid for the Fèisean nan Gàidheal pantomime to come to school at Christmas – the children loved it. We also supported the Gràisg secondary music group, the Christmas service at Greyfriars' Kirk, and bought dictionaries for the clas 7 leavers.

The balance remains at £7,000, although there are a number of projects with funds committed – eg the website and Sràdagan. Most of the money is ring-fenced for certain activities.

Ideas welcome going forward for projects, but what we really need is people who are willing to follow through and commit to running projects.

4. Comann nam Pàrant Committee

It was explained that the committee stands down at every AGM and a new committee is elected by nomination.

Abigail Burnyeat noted many thanks to the retiring committee for all the very hard work over the previous year.

[Retiring committee: Jennifer Wright, Wilma Laird, Màiri Rogers, Marion Thompson, Bob McGowan, Alasdair Cameron, Ian Macdonald, Fiona Mackintosh, Marion Buchanan, Sarah Scott, Abigail Burnyeat, Donald Carmichael.]

The new CnamP committee was agreed as follows:

Member:	Nominated by:	Seconded by:
Bob McGowan (Naiseanta rep)	Marion Thompson	Wilma Laird
Màiri Rogers (Treasurer)	Wilma Laird	Abigail Burnyeat
Sarah Scott	Jennifer Wright	Màiri Rogers
Jennifer Wright	Marion Thompson	Wilma Laird
Alison Preston	Wilma Laird	Abigail Burnyeat
Donald Carmichael	Sarah Scott	Jennifer Wright
Alasdair Cameron	Marion Thompson	Gail Mullard
Marion Thompson	Jennifer Wright	Màiri Rogers
Brian Thunder	Wilma Laird	Jenny O'Hara
Fiona Stephen (Co-Convenor)	Marion Thompson	Wilma Laird
Wilma Laird	Màiri Rogers	Abigail Burnyeat
Kathleen Macleod (Co-Secretary)	Marion Thompson	Wilma Laird
Jacqui Ritchie (Co-Secretary)	Marion Thompson	Wilma Laird
Fiona Mackintosh	Marion Thompson	Wilma Laird
Joy Langan	Alasdair Cameron	Marion Thompson
Ian Macdonald	Marion Thompson	Wilma Laird

As some nominations were made in absentia, and as there are a number of new members, it was agreed that the committee would finalise decisions at a later date about who will fill each office-bearing role. Agreed that it was wise to job-share roles of convenor and secretary.

Action: CnamP committee to finalise committee positions by next meeting.

5. Taobh na Pàirce Parent Council Update

Abigail Burnyeat (co-chair) gave update from Parent Council.

Noted that the Parent Council now exists – unusual situation in that it is allowed to exist before the school has opened.

School Councils can do many things, and also have some formal responsibilities. There were a number of tasks that could not be dealt with until the PC was established. Fortunately there is still time before the school opens to deal with these issues.

Two key responsibilities:

- Appoint a wraparound care provider
- Take part in staff recruitment

6. Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce Working Groups

Wraparound:

Wraparound care is priority task right now. The PC is responsible for set-up, and for managing the contract. Need to ensure there is a clear and transparent process which results in a good decision. Procedure is that the PC wraparound working group will work with advisory members to appoint a provider. Will clearly work within the specific requirements of the Care Commission.

Additional advice will be taken from Edinburgh Council officials. Will also take into account the results from the parent survey which highlighted parents' needs and priorities – comprehensive cover, cost, and if possible a Gaelic-medium service.

Noted that what is currently on offer at Tollcross is a far more comprehensive service than in most schools.

Parents' correspondence to the Parent Council indicates that certainty is the most important factor for many. At this stage it is possible to say with a fair degree of certainty that there will be a provider in place in August.

As the timescale is short, the wraparound working group will be settling on specific provider(s) within 3-4 weeks. The Care Inspectorate process may take some time to complete [and should note that this is in part due to it not being possible to register any provider without the premises being complete and open for inspection].

Wraparound working group would benefit from input from parents with children further up the school.

Providers – a number have been approached. One provider has approached the PC. One is a Gaelic-medium provider. There is a strong lead from the parent survey that Gaelic is a priority.

May be that this is not possible to implement fully from day one but remains a longer term goal. In working towards this, could take up Gingerbread offer to bus some children back to Tollcross.

Common to have an annual review of contract – decisions now are not set in stone forever.

Questions were taken from the meeting:

- i. Would providers be registered for child tax credits? Agreed to add this to remit.
Action: Wraparound working group to add child tax credits to remit.
- ii. Who will finalise the remit? Agreed that the full PC would sign off on any major decisions about wraparound.
- iii. Who currently manages the service contract at Tollcross? The service is managed by the Community Centre, not the Parent Council.
- iv. Would a transitional period mean that parents would be balloted for places? No. It would mean that perhaps more than one provider might be used until a provider was fully established at TnaP.

Other TnaP Working Groups:

Our new school – this is a great opportunity to be there at the start, and to develop new areas, support the school, support the Head teacher.

Everyone is welcome to give their input. We hope that we have made it easy for everyone to offer some time. Looking for lots of ideas and enthusiasm.

[List of working groups available in the separate document 4 March working groups. This can be viewed on the blog: www.gaelic-education.org.]

Discussed working groups as presented in the working groups handout. Note thanks to the many new volunteers.

Action: PC to get in touch with new volunteers and ensure they have contact details for the rest of their working group members.

Working groups to be free to meet and discuss issues independently, to report back to PC office bearers regularly. PC office bearers will filter any queries through to Anne MacPhail.

Working groups to update all parents on progress at open meetings.

Action: Working groups to prepare updates for next open meeting.

There was some discussion of the PC mailing list. Confirmed that as a separate organisation and in line with data protection rules, PC cannot be given access to parent email addresses by CnamP. Parents need to sign up to new email list. [They can do this by sending an email to parentcouncil@gaelic-education.org.]

Agreed that this point should be made more clear to the parent group.

In the meantime, information will go out through CnamP list and on Facebook / Twitter.

Action: to send out specific email through CnamP list encouraging parents to sign up to PC email list.

Questions were taken from the meeting:

- i. How have we been engaging with Leith community? We have been working with Leith Central Community Council for some time [great support for the Gaelic school campaign from LCCC]. Cròileagan has had stalls at the Leith

Festival for a number of years. Local people and groups have been in touch and Anne MacPhail is engaging with them.

- ii. Should we have class reps as well as working groups? Idea discussed and agreed to advertise for reps at parents' evening.
Action: PC to advertise for class reps at parents' evening.
- iii. How many children are signed up for Clas 1 2013 who have not attended Sgoil Àraich? 8 children. Anne MacPhail has been in touch with their families to offer the children some sessions in the nursery next term to assist the transition. There has been some take-up of this offer.

7. Review of Proposed Diary Dates for the Year

Diary briefly reviewed by Marion Thompson. Proposed diary dates in attached appendix.

The meeting agreed that the next two open parent meetings are to be joint meetings between CnamP and the TnaP PC. The same issues will be important to all parents in the period until the school opens and it makes sense to work together.

Meeting closed with thanks to all for attending.

Appendix:

**Pàrantan Gàidhlig Dùn Èideann
2013 Diary**

March	Friday 22 March: Easter holidays
April	Monday 8 April: school resumes Saturday 13 April: Edinburgh Local Mod, Liberton High School Monday 15 April: Spring Holiday w/c 22 April: CnamP & Taobh na Pàirce Parent Council Meeting
May	6, 20, 21 May: May holidays Proposed fundraising event
June	Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 June: Meadows Festival Saturday 8 June: Leith Festival gala day w/c 10 June: CnamP & Taobh na Pàirce Parent Council Meeting Friday 28 June: end of term
July	Monday 1 July: Family Week, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye Campa Sradagan: ISLAY, Port Charlotte - 1 to 5 July 2013 HARRIS, Scaladale Centre - 8 to 12 July 2013
August	Wednesday 14 August: start of term Saturday 17 August: Summer picnic w/c 26 August: Taobh na Pàirce Parent Council meeting
September	w/c 9 September: Comann nam Pàrant meeting Proposed ceilidh / celebration for new school opening Monday 16 September: Autumn Holiday Saturday 21 September: information morning for families (daytime meeting)
October	13-21 October: School October holiday 11-19 October: National Mod, Paisley Halloween Party w/c 28 October: Taobh na Pàirce Parent Council meeting
November	w/c 11 November: Comann nam Pàrant meeting Saturday 30 November: Gaelic Community Open Day at Taobh na Pàirce
December	Saturday 14 December: Christmas parties Thursday 19 December: Term ends