



 Bathgate Early Years Centre

Balbardie Primary School

Parent Council Meeting AGM

28th October 2021 Zoom

CHAIRED BY CLAIRE SWAN

Minutes by Mark McCallum

Apologies: Leigh Maybury, Marion McCallum, Claire Bett, Samantha Wilkins, Lauren Reid, Lisa Robertson, Gillian Greenwell, Aimee Clark, Marion Courtney

Attendees: Margaret Johns, Claire Swan, Mark McCallum, Katy Leamy, Claire Dignall, Vikki Samuel,

Kirsteen Sullivan, Alison Currie, Fiona Cameron, Jennifer Strang, Janice Earl-Summers, Laura

Marshall, Ros Milligan, Vikki G, Harry Cartmill.

Agenda summarised by Claire

**Mrs Johns HT summary:**

Still some COVID tweeks to school operation. MJ summarised major changes. After-school clubs

rules changes. Staff pressure with absences and self-isolation and other reasons.

No parent volunteers for garden improvement this week, perhaps due to weather. Awaiting third

quote for tender to resurface, fencing and garden fencing, rubber material in front playground.

Some classroom carpet reflooring scheduled before Christmas.

Remaining SMART board replaced by Promethian boards. Old SMART boards to be donated to poor

countries and some staff laptops to be replaced. Bathgate West nursery to get poly tunnel and

possibly Bathgate Early Years too. Mr Weir, new deputy to take up post on Monday. Head teacher

surgery tomorrow. Harvest collection.

BPS signed up to help decorate Tesco window. Looking for parents to help create something by 29th

November. First prize £150. Theme is the Balbardie Polar Express.

Response to queries:

**Residential activities for Children**: P5 and P7 residential is normal. P7 only is booked for a week in

Dalguise in March, with some caveats. Response from P7 has been poor from pupils, but

communication will be repeated. MM made request that invite be extended to P6 (who missed

residential last year) if more numbers were needed.

**Christmas lunch**: people to choose where to sit this year.

Claire discussed in more depth the playground improvement on Christmas holiday.

Pencil Garden progress: to build planters within the fenced area, one for each class to grow plants.

Reseed with tougher grass. Tall grasses added. Design seen by PC members. Could be started on

30th November (2 week estimate from Claire Swan). Existing Garden was completed by challenge

Anneka TV show? Discussion between PC members on this. Vote to “Go Ahead” with this at quoted

cost.

**Fundraising**

Completion of Tesco ‘blue coin’ application. Tesco do prioritise child-focussed application but could

take 18 months. Overwhelming support from shoppers to Bathgate schools. Guaranteed minimum

of £500 to maximum £1500

**The Great Big Balbardie Santa Dash**. In park on 30th November. Launched at assembly next week.

May need parent helpers. PVG application costs for parent helpers are not met from council.

Looking for volunteers.

Replenishment of play items in playground for £300. Autism resource not funded in last round of

funding, request made of £390 for musical play item. Fund allocated and agreed.

Discussion on whether to build on Santa Brochure from 2020, and whether to repeat it this year.

Some ideas floated on QR-code scavenger hunt activity and other recycling ideas. Launch date 27 th

November. CS optimistic of meeting this release date.

**PEG**

Marion Courtney will provide will provide an update next week

**Float Update**

Bathgate Procession and John Newland Festival to go ahead in 2022. Float to go ahead. Access issue

with normal trailer storage barn. Farmer rented space around the trailer location. Theme will be

Wallace and Gromit 50+2 years.

**AOB**

KS: Halloween dress-up. Kids who don’t want to wear costumes are allowed to dress down.

KS: COP26 event - Are children linking in with this? MJ: full year learning focus has been discretely

on COP26 and supporting global goals. Recycling of litter and numerous other activities.

VS: Question from P1/P2 parents on drop-off at Atholl Terrace. To be discussed at future meeting.

Remains an issue of concern for BPS.

JES: Could funding be diverted to help with staff absence? Bullied child settling in well at Balbardie

due to support from staff.

Next Meeting – 13th January 2022