

BALJAFFRAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 15 September 2025

Bearsden Academy Conference Room

Attendees (see below)

| Topic | Minutes |
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| Present: | Linden Fradet, Hazel Lauchlan, Gavin Ross, Sandeep Pandya, Emily Dewar, Craig Barratt, Fernanda McLintock, Mrs Paterson, Mrs Rodden. Apologies: Indrani Manoharan & Graeme Glen |
| Welcome and Introduction to new members | All members were welcomed to the Parent Council and apologies were noted above. Members who have stepped down this year were acknowledged and thanked for their contribution to the Parent Council meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New member Fernanda McLintock was welcomed to the Parent Council. Members introduced themselves and their children's year groups. |
| Role of parent council | Chair confirmed purpose of Parent Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Represent the views of parents and carers2. Support the school in its development and improvement plans3. Provide input into other school matters arising |
| Membership and Recruitment to Parent Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Despite outreach to P1 parents, membership numbers remain low.• Action: encourage parents to "bring a friend" to future meetings.• New access system being trialled: key-ring tags with links to Parent Council website and sign-up form.• Appointment of Office Bearers as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Linden Fradet Chair role re-affirmed (no new volunteers came forward). Proposed by Emily Dewar and seconded by Mrs Paterson)○ Hazel confirmed as Vice Chair <p>Discussion on constitution overlap with PTA roles. Treasurer role noted as unnecessary due to lack of Parent Council bank account. Thanks to Outgoing Members.</p> <p>Thanks recorded to members who have stepped down, including; Sharon Middleton, Florin Pintilie, Gary Granger, Sreenu Vattipally and Lynn Parker</p> <p>Current constitution considered outdated and inconsistent with PTA structure.</p> |

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| | <p>Proposal to review and align with PTA constitution see later discussion</p> <p>Parent Council previously covered expenses such as minutes-taking, but this is now largely redundant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action: PTA to cover small costs |
| <p>Connect Membership</p> | <p>LF reported that Baljaffray Parent Council has joined Connect, a national body offering events, resources, and training for councils and PTAs.</p> <p>Provides access to PVG checks and public liability insurance.</p> <p>Encouragement for all members and teachers to engage with Connect events, particularly useful for new members (e.g. Fernando). https://connect.scot/</p> |
| <p>School Update (Headteacher Report)</p> | <p>Highlights as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing: Angela Graham joining; Mrs Paterson returned; Miss Parker retired. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy for class teacher following a short-lived appointment. Recruitment ongoing. • Events: Fairtrade Fortnight, Dyslexia Awareness Week, Harvest Assembly (P2 leading, donations to foodbank). • Parents' Night: trial of one extended evening (3.30–9.00pm) with teacher break. Feedback to be reviewed. • Remembrance Assembly (P7). • Rock Star maths initiative and upcoming concert in October linked to bullying awareness. Tickets £6; PTA may subsidise. • Beehives (pupil committees) covering wellbeing, eco, charities, outdoor learning, and community links. Plans to involve local care homes and Men's Shed in activities. • Lunchtime clubs led by pupils: crochet, art, guitar, singing, etc. Adult supervision required; PVG checks for parent volunteers needed. • Outdoor learning: participation in Climate 180 training; push for greater integration of outdoor learning across curriculum. • Primary 7 captain and vice-captain elections highly successful. Decision to appoint one captain and two vice-captains due to high quality of speeches. • Parking: ongoing neighbour complaints about unsafe and inconsiderate parking. Options discussed: council enforcement, pupil campaigns, signage community parking officer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Issue with devices connecting to wifi is causing problems for teachers |

Council and Authority Updates

- East Dunbartonshire Council revising vision and values, with new logo representing critical thinking, compassion, learning, and growth. Presented to the Council for comment and awareness.
- Parent Council supportive of values.

STEM Nation Award:

- School currently holds four out of five elements.
- Missed “Equity” element due to lack of evidence of staff training in unconscious bias and gender equality.
- Plan: source training and resubmit application in October.

School Improvement Plan will cover following areas

- Focus on writing and seeking pupil views freely
- Circle framework and PC views on the introduction of a replacement for the universal support plan – decision on when to inform parents was discussed
- Climate 180 will focus on outdoor learning, encourages leadership and team building initial observations
- Police Scotland no longer able to support Baljaffray Primary for school visits (Academy only)

Action: All to provide input and any thoughts on EDI training to support school

Action: CB to help ahead of Math Weeks Scotland access to wifi IT security issue

PTA Update

Funds: approx. £6,000 in account.

Recent chippy hike event record attendance and profit.

Upcoming fundraising events:

October: Halloween Disco.

Christmas Fair (focus on stalls and shopping).

December: School magazine with adverts and updates.

January: Burns event (TBC).

February: Valentine’s Disco.

March: Movie Night.

April: Britain’s Got Talent show and Easter Egg Hunt.

May: Spring Fair.

Action:•Request for volunteers not only for events but also for planning and organisation.

PVG and Safeguarding

- Extensive discussion of new PVG requirements for PTA volunteers.
- Key points:
 - PVG required for “regulated roles” where children are supervised without parents present (e.g. discos, movie nights).
 - Volunteers in incidental roles (e.g. selling tickets, tuck shop) do not require PVG.
 - DJs and external entertainers must remain in incidental roles unless PVG checked.
 - Teachers may require PVG under PTA if events are branded as PTA-led.
 - Agreement to accelerate PTA registration to clarify liability and insurance.
 - Connect membership gives access to free PVGs and liability cover if roles and constitution are correctly aligned.

Parent Council Constitution

Constitution Review

- Parent Council constitution outdated; needs modernisation, see also PTA constitution
- Proposal: consolidate PTA as a formal subgroup of Parent Council with fundraising authority.
- **Action:** Emily to assess EDC advice and guidance before drafting revised constitution circulate for comment, and align with Connect requirements.

Nursery Representation on PC

- Discussion on whether nursery parents are included.
- **Agreement:** Parent Council and PTA remain open to nursery parents.

Insurance and Liability

- Uncertainty about current liability cover for PTA events.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: confirm whether Connect insurance applies and whether separate cover is required. |
| AOB | <p>Community Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion to invite local minister to participate in Parent Council. • Support for broader community engagement. <p>Facilities and Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE equipment condemned due to safety concerns. • Repairs quoted at high cost by sole inspection company and conflict of interest due to their role in procuring new equipment, concerns about monopoly raised. • Proposal to escalate via council or political representatives. <p>Maths Olympiad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Raised as a suggestion however TTRS and maths week activities provide little teaching time in school day to accommodate |
| Close | <p>Thanks to all attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement to move future meetings (Nov and Jan) changed all Tuesdays occurrences to Wednesdays and Mondays to accommodate availability. Future dates now as follows: • Wed Nov 26 202 @ 7pm – on line note changed from a Tues • Wed Jan 21 2026 @ 7pm – on line • Mon Mar 16 2026 @ 7pm • Mon May 18 2026 @ 7pm – note changed from a Tues <p>Meeting closed.</p> |

Membership

- Chairperson Linden Fradet
- Vice Chairperson Hazel Lauchlan
- Parent Member Craig Barratt
- Parent Member Emily Dewar
- Parent Member Graeme Glen
- Parent Member Sandeep Pandya

- Parent Member Gavin Ross
- Parent Member Fernanda McLintock

- Parent Member Indrani Manoharan
- Co-opted Member tbc
- Staff Member (Head Teacher) Lesley Rodden
- Staff Member (Depute Head Teacher) Elaine Paterson
- Staff Member (Principal Teacher) Jane Cowan