



## CHARLESTON ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

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### Minutes of Parent Council Meeting held on

**Present:** Kate Morris (Chair), Rona MacPherson, Gillian Clark, Lyndie Cameron, Andrea Paterson, Andrew Barrie, Marie Bisset, Anne Ashton, Helen Hunter, Gordon Stewart, Fiona Malcolm, Julie Riddle, Fiona Alexander, Lindsey Stout, Nicky MacLennan.

**In Attendance:** Chris O'Neill (Rector), Maureen Gallie (Clerk).

**Apologies:** ; Urszula Kozak, Linda McLean.

1.	<p><b><u>Welcome</u></b></p> <p>Kate Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and all those present introduced themselves.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Approval Of Minutes</u></b></p> <p>The minute of the meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015 was approved.</p> <p>Proposed: Lindsey Stout Seconded: Andrea Paterson</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p>Kate advised the meeting that there were no matters arising from the 2014 AGM.</p>
4.	<p><b><u>Finance Report</u></b></p> <p>In the absence of the Treasurer, Urszula Kozak, Kate advised that the balance as at 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014 was £3405.59. This amount included the incoming payment from Highland Council of £578.43</p>
5.	<p><b><u>Parent Council Annual Report</u></b></p> <p>The S1 Art Exhibition was once again a resounding success. It is organised by a team from the Parent Council in conjunction with school staff. The main aim of the exhibition is to showcase the artwork of S1 and to welcome new parents to the school. The exhibition was attended by the three local councillors who awarded the prizes. The standard was once again excellent.</p> <p>The organisation of this year's exhibition is now underway and if anyone would like to volunteer to help out with this they should get in touch with Kate. Once again there will be various art and craft stalls at the event and anyone who would like a table should contact either Kate or Sue Fraser. This is a superb event and all funds raised go back to the school.</p> <p>A Staff Appreciation Lunch was once again held in June. This is a great way to thank all the staff at Charleston for the all the work they do outwith their contracted work. The catering this year was by Rona, Forest Kitchen, and was outstanding. All school staff were included – office staff and janitors were invited and cupcakes were left for the cleaners etc. who were not in school on the day of the lunch.</p>



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Jill Kent organised the use of the Rotary Charity Shop in the town centre last year and an amazing £1734 was raised. Unfortunately this shop is no longer available so if anyone has any fundraising ideas please see Kate.

### Budget Cuts

Major focus last Autumn was the proposed budget cuts to the school which amounted to an 8% reduction in teaching staff at Charleston. The Parent Council were very pro-active and organised a campaign to contact local councillors and this proved effective as the cuts are now going to be made over 2 years which makes it much more manageable.

Mr O'Neill stated that the councillors had been very impressed with the efforts made by the Parent Council and the manner of their approach. Chris commended the Parent Council for their actions.

Funding – the bus monitors do a fantastic job – especially during the winter and the Parent Council were delighted to have provided them with hot drinks and bacon rolls as a thank you for all their hard work.

£300 was given to the Higher Photography Course for the purchase of new equipment

£222 for the purchase of new Christmas lights for the school hall

£600 towards the purchase of safety helmets for the shinty club

£300 was sought for a cross-curricular experience to research, design, build and launch a weather balloon into near space.

£250 to support the newly established Chinese Club

Toni Clerk of ROWAN ran a 3 week cookery course on how to avoid waste. The course was well received with imaginative demonstrations of the use of leftovers.

Discussions have also been held around support lessons, the results of parental questionnaires, the exam results, and parents were involved in meeting the Quality Improvement Officers in June.

### 6. Rector's Report

Mr O'Neill began by commending Kate and the Parent Council for their outstanding work over the past year which has been a difficult one due to financial constraints. Having such a pro-active Parent Council makes a huge difference to the Senior Management Team.

A very successful Albert Roux was held this year and this will be held every 2 years. This year's event catered for 40 guests and as the school is no longer fundraising for the kitchen all proceeds will go to charity. As the staff are having a fundraising day for MacMillan Cancer on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October it was agreed with Albert Roux that the proceeds should go to Maggie's Cancer Care in Inverness.

In June the school science club won the Scottish Science Club of the year award. The club is run for S1 pupils by the science technician and prefects. The award ceremony took place at the SECC in June and the team were presented with the actual award at the Drumossie Hotel by John Swinney.



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	<p>2 In Service days in September were used by staff for training with one day for subject training and the second day being used for i-pad training following the purchase of 100 i-pad's by the school.</p> <p>To ensure that pupils achievements are recognised timeously new forms are to be introduced after the October break which will allow staff to give Commendation Merits – which will also be fed into the computer system and also Achievement Merits for extra-curricular activities. Both merits will continue to be utilised for the annual award ceremonies but the use of the certificates during the school year will ensure that pupils successes are celebrated throughout the year as well. Certificates will be given out during assemblies.</p> <p>Mr O'Neill attended the Scottish Learning Festival. The new booklet ' How Good is Our School version 4' was rolled out at the festival and Mr O'Neill encourages parents to read this as it gives details of what schools are expected to achieve and aspire to. The school is due a “generational-cycle” inspection by 2016. There is also the possibility of a snapshot inspection where the school is given 2 days notice of a 2 day inspection. The last inspection took place in 2010.</p> <p>Mr O'Neill reported that the SQA had advised that Charleston pupil Arianne Ross achieved the highest mark in Scotland for Higher Geography. She is to be presented with an award in recognition of this in Perth from cyclist Mark Beaumont at the annual conference of the Scottish Association of Geography Teachers.</p>
7.	<p><b><u>New Parent Council Members and appointment of Office Bearers</u></b></p> <p>Appointments of office bearers were made as follows; Chair; Kate Morris Proposed; Fiona Alexander Seconded; Julie Riddle</p> <p>Vice Chair; Fiona Alexander Proposed; Kate Morris Seconded; Andrea Paterson</p> <p>Treasurer; Urszula Kozak</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Date of Future Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7pm</p>
9.	<p><b><u>Talk by Nicky MacLennan – 16+ Lead Officer, Highland Council</u></b></p> <p>The talk focussed on the work being done in Highland Region following the Wood Report and its implications for schools. Nicky explained her role within the Highland Council and said that she will be visiting every school in the region to work with them to improve young people's transition in to</p>



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	<p>employment. She spoke about the need to liaise with local business to ensure that the pupils are aware of the various avenues available to them when they leave school. Nicky included Gillian Clark– the school’s careers adviser in her talk and Gillian spoke of her role within the school and that she was now in school 3 days a week. Gillian spoke of the UCAS Convention taking place at the UHI and Rona MacPherson advised that a great many of the S5 and S6 pupils were going to attend this event.</p> <p>Mr O’Neill thanked Nicky for her informative talk and advised that part of the ‘How Good is Our School’ initiative is about Creativity and Employability and this is something that the school needs to focus on. While 30% of pupils who leave Charleston go onto higher education 70% enter the workplace and there are big challenges ahead to ensure that all pupils have the skills necessary to ensure their transition to the next phase of their life is as successful as it can be.</p>
10.	<p><b><u>Date of Future Meeting</u></b> The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7pm</p>
	<p>Kate thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended at 8.10pm</p>