LHS Parent Council Meeting

3rd June 2025

Present: Scott Steele (SS – Headteacher), Ali Berardelli (AB - Chair), Jane Halewood (JH- Treasurer), Bruno Berardelli, Rachel Tonks, Julie French, Dee Collins (outgoing treasurer), Jess Roberts, Cameron Sprague, Laura Kingswood

Apologies: Lisa Wharton, Becky McCook

Welcome: The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Previous Minutes:

Approved by AB and RT – to be uploaded to LHS website.

Draft Mobile Phone Policy

Staff are in overwhelmingly in favour. Might build in some exemptions for use in lessons as a learning tool.

SS talked PC through draft policy. Health and wellbeing rationale for the policy. Aims– Enhance learning, increase concentration, prioritise social interaction and promote safety and well being.

Alongside the policy, the school will encourage extra-curriculum activities.

The policy will cover all ages of pupils and apply to all smart devices, including smart watches and earbuds.

Phones will be on silent and in bags for whole school day and during breaks but allowing travel arrangements before and after school.

The policy has been adjusted based on feedback from parents. All primary schools in the Associated School Groups are involved and will support. Office staff will be responsible for contacting parents / passing messages to pupils when required.

There will be education about the policy at assemblies and in pupil support groups to get buy-in from the pupils.

There will be special exceptions for pupils who need their phone for health monitoring, such as diabetes.

Photography and filming for special projects will be allowed.

Points raised by parents at committee:

- Pupils with anxiety
- Parents may be anxious about contacting children

Timescale?

Aim is to start after summer holidays. The policy will be monitored, evaluated and adapted accordingly.

PC is very supportive of the policy.

Treasurer's Report – Jane Halewood

Existing balance = £3000.26
£154.11 total received from GoFundMe letters to businesses.

Anne Davies audits the accounts – 03/06/25 audited for the last two years, Dee thinks she'd be happy to continue and will pass on her details to Jane. Other option would be to use Voluntary Action Lochaber but would have to be a registered charity.

Mandate for bank account – signatory changes
Dee Collins advised that it is helpful to have three signatories on bank account.

Lisa Wharton (secretary) and Jane Halewood (treasurer) to be added as new signatories. Ali Berardelli (chair) is already a signatory.

The Parent Council hereby gives authority to this mandate request, and authorises the Authorised Signatories - Lisa Wharton (secretary) and Jane Halewood (treasurer) - to sign the mandate request for the bank account.

A.O.B

P7 Transitions and Induction Week – Takes place from Monday 23 June with the P7 Parents' Evening taking place on Thursday 26 June.

Dee Collins is stepping down as treasurer, and Ali Berardelli thanked her for her expertise and service to the parent council over the years.

Lochaber High School Highland Games - Scheduled for week beginning Monday 30 June 2025.

Trips
DofE Gold Award Expedition to Pyrenees: 7 – 14 June.
PGL Summer water sports trip runs from 14-21st June for S1-S3 pupils.

A.O.B

- Shona Fleming thanked the school for the 10-pin bowling outing.
- AB thanked Shona Fleming on behalf of the parent council for her chairing of the group.
- AB thanked Dee Collins for her role as treasurer of the group.

Dates of PC meetings:

Meetings are now twice a term. Room bookings have to go through Inverness Highlife –AB.

- Tues 2 Sept
- Wed 8 Oct
- Mon 10 Nov
- Tue 16 Dec

Other events

Thursday 26th June, parents evening for p7s coming up, 7pm

Mon 30 June – Highland Games

Wed 25th June – Beetledrive TBC by Dee