ST. PATRICK’S PRIMARY
PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING – 3 FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Dow</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Durkin</td>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tess Hutchinson</td>
<td>Parent representative</td>
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<td>Michael Doris</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
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<td>Sarah Shields</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
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<td>Elaine McGunnigal</td>
<td>Parent Representative</td>
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<td>Esther O’Neil</td>
<td>Church Representative</td>
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<td>Ian Thomson</td>
<td>Community Representative</td>
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<td>Rosalind Gibson</td>
<td>Staff Representative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iain McGuire</td>
<td>Head Teacher/Professional</td>
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<td>Advisor</td>
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<td>Invited Guests:</td>
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<td>Councillor Cooper</td>
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<td>Councillor Holman</td>
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<td>Councillor Campbell</td>
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APOLOGIES:

John Durkin; Ian Thomson; Tess Hutchinson

AGENDA ITEM | COMMENTS
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1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS. | Mr. Dow welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the three councillors present, Councillors; Campbell, Cooper and Holman. He introduced Mr. Vance Sinclair, Partnership Development Manager for South Lanarkshire Council and gave a brief resume of his role in the South Lanarkshire Schools Modernisation Programme.

ACTION

2. MATTERS ARISING | Mr Dow introduced Mr Sinclair before Councillor Cooper asked to speak. Cllr. Cooper referred to the request at the previous Parent Council meeting for information relating to the start date for building the new school. She informed council members that the date had been set, and a proposal was going to the full council meeting on 13th March 2014. She added that a request for a budget of 2.3 million pounds to fund the addition of an integrated community wing along with St. Patrick’s Primary School would go before the finance committee on of February 2014 for approval. Cllr. Cooper referred to an article in the Hamilton Advertiser which reported on the fact that the building which housed the John Hastie Museum was being sold by the council. She said that she was disappointed with that decision but no acceptable bid had been offered by the community. Four bids to buy the building as a private house had been received and the council had recommended acceptance of one of these bids. The proposal would be put in front of the housing committee this week.
Cllr. Cooper added that she felt it important to let people know what happens to the money because capital raised can be used anywhere in South Lanarkshire. She said that the Community Council were concerned that the revenue from the sale of the property be reinvested in the local community. She agreed that it should be reinvested within the Strathaven community. Cllr. Cooper reported that the Community Council were concerned by the state of the Ballgreen Hall. The building required extensive repairs. Colin McDowall (Executive Director of Community Resources), had estimated that the repairs could cost up to £600,000. Cllr. Cooper had put a proposal in front of the council that the repair costs be added to the revenue from the sale of the John Hastie Museum and added to the cost of building the new school. She stated that a package of 2.3 million pounds would
finance the addition of a community facility as part of the new build of St. Patrick’s Primary, chosen because it held a central location in the town. The proposal would go before the finance committee for the budget to be approved and would then go before a full meeting of the council in March.

**ACTION**

3. PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL BUILD
MR. SINCLAIR (PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL)

Mr. Sinclair thanked the Parent Council for their invitation to attend the meeting. He explained his role in the Schools Modernisation Programme and stated that he was now looking at the new St. Patrick’s Primary School with a view to work commencing in the summer of 2015, although the actual start date may depend on the design. He said that the design work was about to start and a feasibility programme would be carried out, so this was an ideal time to look at the addition of an integrated facility. Initially he had envisioned the new build as a six classroom establishment but planning activities had increased recently and a seven classroom school is now proposed to accommodate the additional housing being planned for the area.

Originally the design would have included one hall which would have been used as a gym and dining hall, but the amended design of seven classes would provide a separate gym and dining hall. The increase in nursery provision had also been considered and the design would include a 40/40 nursery or even a 50/50 nursery to respond to growth and adhere to the proposed legislation which will increase nursery hours to 600 and offer provision for two year olds. In addition to these changes in design, the team have been asked to consider the introduction of an integrated community facility. He said that eight or nine have now been built by South Lanarkshire Council. The nearest location is Blackwood Primary School and he had brought a copy of the design plan for council members to see. He then explained the layout and described how it worked. He advised that the school hall would be available to the community at the end of the day, but segregated during the school day. It would, however, be linked in the evening. He said that he recognised that there are challenges to be considered. They would ensure that the area is sufficient for the playground, building and car parking. He said that in this case the main problem is accessing the site and he knew that would be difficult. He stated that the design and building would be carried out by an internal team which are now very experienced in building schools. They are designing Kirklandpark Primary School at present and have completed a number of other schools. He did say however, that vehicular access to the site of St. Patrick’s Primary had to be considered. An early meeting was called because it is so early in the planning and there would be consultation facilitated throughout the planning process. He added that other community groups and interested people would also be consulted regarding the addition of the community facility.

Mr. Dow opened the floor for questions but asked if he could ask his questions first and then open it to others in attendance.

Mr. Dow asked if the proposed upgrade from six to seven classes plus a separate dining hall was dependant on the new school being co-joined to a community facility. Mr. Sinclair said that was not the case – it was in response to planning being granted for the building of additional houses in order to accommodate growing numbers of school age children.

Mr. Dow asked what the plans for decanting the pupils would be.

Mr. Sinclair replied that this had been looked at a year ago when the thinking was that the school would be a six class building. At that point it was considered that a tandem build would be possible because there is sufficient room, but with the increased size of the school, it will be more difficult although this would be part of the first phase of the feasibility study. He outlined the options – a tandem build; decanting to Wester Overton Primary campus – at present too small but could possibly be enlarged; decanting to Kirklandpark Primary campus which would by that time be finished but still presented major problems relating to access or even decanting outwith Strathaven. He said that the pros and cons would be looked at over the next few months but the first choice would be a tandem build.

Mr. Dow asked if the addition of the facility would make a tandem build less likely.
Mr. Sinclair said it would depend on the budget available for the community facility. Cllr. Cooper said that the 2015-2016 capital funding would be for both the school and the community facility. The recommendation going before the council will be that the Ballgreen Hall will close and be disposed off.

Mr. Sinclair added that there are various ways of managing the build. It could be built in a single phase which would be difficult to tandem build, or two phases where the school would be built first and then the facility would be built after it. He said this had happened before but it lengthens the time of the build.

Mr. Dow asked Cllr. Cooper to clarify the two council meetings she had referred to – the first in February and the next in March.

Cllr. Cooper said that a paper is put before a meeting of the full council to create the capital budget strategy for the next few years. The council will look at savings which could be made and will decide on a three year capital programme. She said that there would be a meeting of the Housing Department to deal with the sale of the John Hastie Museum building. She said that the budget would be agreed first and the other proposals decided at the full meeting on March 13th. Cllr. Holman said that this would be something new thrown into the pot and may cause concern. He said that Strathaven is not short of community provision. In Stonehouse, three halls were replaced by one but Strathaven still has other facilities including the swimming pool, sports hall etc. which provide other community facilities. He said whatever happened here is only a bit of a town-wide facility and asked if we need to replace the Ballgreen Hall with a big hall including a stage etc. He said it was not some big grandiose large building which would be built. He said everything has to be looked at within the network of facilities, so this may work very well.

Mr. Mullen asked if the council would have money from selling the John Hastie Museum and the Ballgreen Hall she doesn’t understand the advantage of creating a community wing in a school. It won’t replace the Ballgreen Hall and probably isn’t needed. She said she is confused as to why it would be built here and referred to the fact that in the evening the school facilities would be used. She asked why an integrated facility should be added to the school.

Cllr. Cooper said that she was Chair of the Strathaven Town Centre Steering Group and there had been lots of discussion about the various facilities. They were concerned that the Ballgreen Hall was in a poor state of repair and said that residents were upset because the necessary repairs hadn’t been carried out. In Stonehouse three old buildings required a huge financial outlay to repair so it was decided to dispose of older assets and build a new community facility suitable for the 20th century, taking into account access for the disabled etc. She said the integrated community facility would replace the Ballgreen Hall but would not be a like-to-like replacement. Mr. Sinclair said that there would be no scope to merge two libraries within the facility, but a library would be a central part of the school. There would be meeting rooms but no details are at present available. He said the aim was to maximise the use of resources and consider the best way to manage things. The school would have a stage and gym hall.

Mrs. Mullen asked if it were not the case that all new schools had a stage and gym hall.

Mr. Sinclair replied that in the evening the Ballgreen Hall facility and St. Patrick’s Primary would merge into one.

Mrs. Mullen asked why the council would invest so heavily in something that isn’t really needed.

Cllr. Cooper said that the feedback she had across the community (and she was in touch with most groups – most of them are represented on the Town Group) had all complained bitterly about the Ballgreen Hall. They had seen Stonehouse Lifestyles and wanted the same. They also wanted the facility to be kept close to the centre of the town and St. Patrick’s site is central

Mrs. O’Neil said that the Ballgreen Hall was used every morning and afternoon and asked what would happen during the day when the children were in the building.

Mr. Sinclair said that the design was not yet completed.
Cllr. Campbell said that Community and Leisure will look at the lets and that will be factored in to the design so that it meets the demands. This will be included in the feasibility study.

Mr. Dow said that Strathaven Academy was a huge facility and asked why St. Patrick’s had been chosen for this and not another school like the Academy.

Cllr. Campbell said that it is not owned by the council because of P.P.R.

Mrs. Mullen said that Wester Overton had a big hall which was rarely used and asked why St. Patrick’s had been chosen for this and not another school like the Academy.

Cllr. Cooper said that an investment of 8 million pounds had been made in Stonehouse to build Liftestyles.

Mrs. Mullen said that other schools such as Blackwood Primary did not have the access problems that St. Patrick’s did.

Cllr. Campbell and Mr. Sinclair said they both agreed with this and Mr. Sinclair said that would be the first challenge for them.

Mrs. Mullen asked how people thought the community would feel about using St. Patrick’s as a community centre.

Mr. Dow added that there was a whole host of reasons for parents not to want the added facility; decanting, access, disruption, cost of damage in a shared facility etc.

Mr. Fogarty said that he accepts a facility is needed, but this model could not give cast iron guarantees about security. He asked if this was a ‘take it or leave it’ situation – do we get one only if we accept the other.

Cllr. Campbell said that there would be public consultation as well as consultation with parents.

Cllr. Cooper added that she thinks there will be a public consultation.

Mr. Fogarty said that can mean that decisions are made by the council which do not necessarily suit parents.

Mr. Sinclair said that the Schools Modernisation Programme is funded by separate funding. The schools programme funding is totally different from Ballgreen Hall approved budget as they were two separate things and one won’t impact on other. If feasibility study proves that it can’t be done then it won’t be done but the school will still be built.

Mr. Fogarty thanked Mr. Sinclair for being candid and said the parents would rather not have a school with a facility. He asked if there would be further consultation with parents and Mr. Sinclair said ‘Yes.’

Mr. Dow asked if there would be a possibility of having the school built first and the integrated facility built at a later stage.

Mr. Sinclair said he did not know at this stage.

Mr. Dow asked about the difficulty in funding the community wing if the Ballgreen Hall funds are not available.

Cllr. Campbell said that it would not be necessary to wait until the Ballgreen Hall is sold and funds raised to finance the new build – it will be available from the budget of 2015-2016 and the money will be replaced when the Ballgreen Hall is eventually sold.

Mr. McGunnigal said that the sites at present are not adjoined and he felt that the school would lose land - car parking; playgrounds, sports field etc. if the two establishments are built on the one site.

Cllr. Holman said that there are standards to be met in terms of access, parking etc. and those will be adhered to.
Mr. Sinclair said that the initial impression is that there is room for the build but they would adhere to guidance and ensure that the standards required are met. He added that they would not be seeking any reduction on what you would get for the school on its own.

Mr. Dow said that space is a major issue and asked about playground facilities, playing fields etc.

Mr. Sinclair said that they would adhere to the standards met in other schools – 7 square metres per child.

Mr. Dow asked about an Astroturf playing area.

Mr. Sinclair said that an enclosed play area would be included like every other new build.

Mr. Fogarty asked what is the 7 square metres is based on.

Mr. Sinclair said on realistic projections as to what the pupil numbers will be - projections based on historical pupil role and also new development. 30 pupils per year group, then 75/25 per cent denominational demand.

Mr. Doris asked about the new Library – how would it be shared and if it would be closed to the public during the day.

Cllr. Cooper said that there would be a central library hub in the school. The community wing would be shut off during the day so the children cannot stray into the community wing and the community cannot wander into the school.

Mr. McGuire confirmed that the library would be accessed throughout the school and said that at present pupils go along to the library to work on tasks and he imagined this would continue.

Mr. Sinclair highlighted that the library doesn’t understand how schools work. He said schools are changing now due to Curriculum for Excellence and small groups working on their own in a supervised area were becoming the norm. You have classrooms and then an allocated I.C.T. area and library in a breakout area between the classrooms. There was a move away from having full class I.C.T. lessons and technology was located in pods next to the classroom.

Mr. Sinclair repeated that there would be no school facilities available to community during the day.

Mr. Dow said that a major concern is security and asked how Mr. Sinclair proposes that this will work considering the access we have at the moment.

Mr. Sinclair said he doesn’t know. In Blackwood there are two separate accesses – if they can get two accesses down that road it would split up into two entrances but it might not be possible. He said they can look at Overton Road but there are problems with the levels there.

Mrs. Mullen said that if the access was changed it would take it away from the town centre.

Mr. Sinclair said that access is already a real problem. The councillors already know the problems we have – it’s a standing order on the agenda.

Mr. Doris said that’s why the parents were so surprised to hear about this when they (the council) have had so much input regarding access issues.

Cllr. Cooper said that the problems had been with parents parking rather than access. She had walked round the school and was amazed at the amount of land space not used by the school. If that was all taken away and you looked at the template – then they will look at how access can be provided in a safe way. She said she understands the reservations and further discussion will take place, but so many community builds have been successful.

Mr. McGunnigal said that everybody wants to know more details and Cllr Cooper said they did too. Mr. McGunnigal asked about the route which would be taken into the planning process through the Parent Council – what other plans are there to consult other members of the community.

Cllr. Holman said that as always a consultation with the community will take place. Cllr. Campbell said all he was asking for is to look at it (the proposal) and if the feasibility study shows it doesn’t stack then obviously we can’t go ahead with it, but we should look at it. He added that the Parent Council should be a part of this.
Mr. McGunnigal said he is not against or overly fond of the idea but every parent will have genuine concerns because they want their children to be safe but understands that the local authority must spend public funds carefully.

Mr. Dow said the Parent Council wants their concerns raised so that they are kept informed about what is planned.

Mrs. Shields asked the councillors how they thought the community would feel about sharing the facility within a denominational school.

Cllr. Cooper said she would be surprised if anyone in the community voiced those kinds of concerns. The Parent Council is an important part of the consultation but the Community Council representing the people will also be an important voice in the consultation process.

Mr. Fogarty thought the discussion should move on he said that at the moment it’s just an idea. As soon as the finance is approved, the feasibility study will go ahead. Only if that says it’s okay and can go ahead will these concerns become a reality. He thinks it’s more important at this point that the finance is in place, and then the consultation process can begin.

Cllr. Campbell said that it’s an emotive subject because you all care. The money for the school is guaranteed. Plans are moving ahead for further housing resulting in more classrooms. The Council are planning ahead for an upsurge in the nursery and in the school. Next phase is whether the money gets passed.

Mr. Sinclair will discuss with Community and Enterprise colleagues the feasibility study. Some sort of consultation will then take place to look at the issues and that will be part of the feasibility study. Then a further large consultation with the school and the wider community to look at the pros and cons will take place then a decision yes or no will be made.

Mr. Doris asked what other options are being considered – if the feasibility study is not possible what is plan B?

Cllr. Holman said Ballgreen Hall will still be there. Even looking at that, there would be need for another feasibility study to consider the future of the Ballgreen Hall.

Mr. Doris asked how we know that this is the correct solution and the best value for taxpayers unless we know whether other options may be more cost effective.

Mr. Sinclair said that best value for money usually means that integrated facilities are more cost effective than separate ones. In Stonehouse, through the feasibility study, added value issues were uncovered and the library was located in the building.

Mr. Dow asked for clarification of the process. Cllr. Cooper repeated that the funding proposal will go before the Finance Committee at the meeting on 5th February to approve budgets for Ballgreen Hall and the school. Further proposals will go before the full committee in March.

Cllr. Campbell confirmed that only the funding would be approved at this stage.

Mr. Dow asked what plans had been made to ensure security and added that at present we have a gated school. Staff can control who comes in and he asked for reassurance that the school would remain secure.

Mr. Sinclair said that the school grounds will be fenced and enclosed and closed during the day. C.C.T. linked to janitor’s room will be installed. Enhanced CCTV provision – linked to a central office in Hamilton is available. The design is carried out in a way that maximises visual security – no nooks and crannies where people can hide. They try to design play areas that teachers can supervise easily.

Mr. Dow asked about the community security. He said groups who use the facilities may cause us concern being so close to our children.

Mr. Sinclair said that community staff will be in place to secure the facility with the same CCTV.

Mr. Dow asked if the fencing would be transparent.

Mr. Sinclair said they would use a meshed fence recommended by the police because there was visibility both inside and out.

Mr. Dow suggested that there would be an increased risk of mess, vandalism etc. if the school was used out of school hours.

Mr. Sinclair said that any room can be hired out by the community at the moment if
they want a let and that is the policy of South Lanarkshire Council.
Mr. Dow asked what happens if a let has been problematic.
Mr. Sinclair said that policy is in place to ensure that it doesn’t happen and if it does
the facility will not accept a further hire. Cleaners go in to make sure the school is
clean and safe for the children to use the next day.
Mr. Dow asked about the financial responsibility to school or community to pay for the
cleaning – does it come out of the school budget.
Mr. Sinclair said that the community will pay for cleaning etc.
Cllr. Cooper said that she hires rooms in other schools at present for a variety of
reasons.
Mr. Doris said that our children will be educated in a building which will also serve as
a community centre.
Mrs. O’Neill asked about the size of the accommodation planned for the community
wing.
Cllr. Cooper said that at present there was no conception of the size that a budget of
2.3million will build.
Mr. Sinclair said that the lets would be looked at and the size would be sufficient to
meet the needs of existing lets during the day.
Mr. Dow asked if it was envisioned that both buildings will be on one or two levels.
Mr. Sinclair said he envisioned it is likely to be a two story building but that’s not been
considered yet.
Mr. Dow pointed out that the neighbours may be upset to have a taller building as
well as having another facility built on their doorstep.
Mr. Sinclair said they would have to look at the challenges and come up with the best
solution.
Cllr. Holman said the build would be planned to minimise the effect on neighbours as
you would any other build.
Mrs. Mullen pointed out that the school was in the middle of a housing area and
neighbours do get upset by parking etc.
Cllr. Holman said one of the advantages is that when the new school is built it may
well overcome the issues with parking etc.
Mr. Sinclair added that the biggest design issue is parking.
Mrs. O’Neill asked how they would manage to accommodate traffic entering and
leaving the site.
Mr. Dow added that there would be problems, especially if it’s is a tandem build.
Mr. Sinclair said that there are ways and means around that – restricting access to
plant when the children are entering and leaving school etc. He said they usually
build the car park first to provide parking for construction workers etc. and it could
help to solve some of the problems – community parking can become a drop off and
pick up area for parents.
Mr. McGunnigal asked if all this discussion, feasibility studies etc could delay the
building of the school. He asked if the school could be build first and then the addition
of an integrated facility considered.
Mr Dow also wanted to know if the process would delay the build.
Mr. Sinclair couldn’t say but he did say the design process had started more quickly
than planned – a four month period before the initial design stage was planned. This
should give more time. The survey will take place soon, and the roads department
are already looking at the issues involved.
Mr. Fogarty said the heavy plant doesn’t just damage the school when it’s brought in,
but it also damages the roads surrounding the school – will there be repairs to repair
any damage done.
Mr. Sinclair said a visual survey would be carried out and a record made of all the
adjacent buildings.
Mr. McGuire asked how long feasibility study would take.
Mr. Sinclair is hopeful that the design work will start in June – just after the school
closes, which means free access will be available during that time.
Mr. Dow and Mr. McGunnigal expressed their wish that there be no delay in building
the new school.
Cllr. Holman said the money is there, the programme is there, the council commitment is there and the work is starting.
Mr. McGuire said that there had been a guarantee from previous Executive Directors and senior members of Education Resources to the School Board/Parent Council that the new school/nursery class will go ahead as originally planned.
Cllr. Cooper said that Eddie McAvoy (Leader of the Council) will also guarantee that the school will go ahead – every school will be rebuilt and St. Patrick’s will be rebuilt. But the building of the community facility has not yet been guaranteed and still has to go through the council budget at the finance meeting next week.
Cllr. Holman said that objections can cause delay in some circumstances.
Mr. Dow said if both facilities are built it will delay completion
Mr. Sinclair agreed that may happen but said it could be twelve to eighteen months for a new build, but adding or not adding the integrated facility should not change the timeframe for completion.
Cllr. Holman said that rebuilding Auldhouse Primary was simple but was held up because of the contractors.
Mr. Sinclair said that Building Services will probably want to build it but it has yet to be decided. They will build Kirklandpark Primary and another large school. They have been good contractors but must match existing tenders or they won’t get the contract.
Mr. Doris asked what could stop this going ahead and asked if it was consultation or an ‘incinerator consultation.’
Mr. Fogarty said the public could stop it.
Cllr. Campbell said that the planning for the incinerator facility was private application, and council have got the ability to appeal it, but this is a council build and very different from other applications.
Mrs. Mullen said that the goalposts had changed. She had been a member of the School Board and Parent Council and they had waited a long time for the new school. At the time they understood that other schools came first on the council’s programme and they had waited patiently. She asked why suddenly everything has changed. She said that she now feels that it was wrong to accept the situation at the time.
Cllr. Holman said it had not suddenly changed and the community has been concerned about the Ballgreen Hall for some time. They were looking at the greater good of the town, not just for Strathaven but across the council. She said there are hard decisions as to how the council invests in improving conditions in your village, with your money.
Mr. Dow said that from the Parent Council point of view, whether this is a good thing for the community or not, they feel they have been disadvantaged by this. He said that they had waited for a long time for this and now feel that the children will be decanted for a longer period, there will be a potential delay because of the planning process, the issues involving cleaning etc. and added that he could see no advantage for parents in any of this, other than the car parking. He said that Cllr. Cooper had talked about the advantages for the community but asked what the advantages there would be for the school.
Cllr. Campbell said they couldn’t say without seeing the feasibility study.
Mr. Dow said that it was interesting that this question couldn’t be answered. He said that he would like these issues to be taken to the wider parent forum. He asked for contact numbers or contacts that would provide additional information.
Mr. Sinclair said they could write to him highlighting concerns relating to the design process and feasibility study. He said he would imagine the elected representatives would also be there to be contacted.
Mr. Dow thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and said that before the next meeting he would draft a letter outlining the issues for parents. He asked that parents should email him raising their concerns and asked if the Parent Council was in agreement with this. All agreed.
Cllr. Cooper asked Mr. Dow to be very careful about how he worded the letter. She
said this is a proposal, not a done deal. She said the funding will not be approved until the meeting of the Finance Committee in February and that is when there will be a proposal on the table in terms of the budget. Once approved, then a proposal is on the table in terms of building a community wing. She said she would be keen that Mr. Dow uses the word “proposal” and he should make it clear that there will be consultation and a feasibility study taking place and this is not a done deal. All expressions of concerns are taken on board by the elected members and by Mr. Sinclair.

Mrs. Mullen asked if the councillors would attend the budget meeting and support this proposal and how would this go forward?

Cllr. Campbell said that there would be a line in the paper stating that 2.3million will be allocated to be spent in the community of Strathaven.

Cllr. Cooper added that The Community Council have asked that the money raised from the sale of the John Hastie Museum will be invested back into the community of Strathaven and not be used elsewhere. A potential use of that money is to look at the feasibility study which includes a community wing as part of the rebuilding of St. Patrick’s Primary School. No decision will be made until the feasibility study takes place and the consultation process.

Mr. Sinclair suggested that the Parent Council members should visit the integrated facility at Blackwood Primary and could perhaps hold the next Parent Council meeting there.

Mr. McGuire said that whatever the final outcome is, the fact that the plans for the new school are going ahead is an exciting time for St. Patrick’s Primary and should be celebrated. He agreed that a visit to Blackwood would be of great benefit for the Parent Council.

He thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

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<td>4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</td>
<td>Proposed by Elaine seconded by Sarah.</td>
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<td>5. REVISED CONSTITUTION</td>
<td>All agreed with the revised constitution. Ms. Hutchinson asked for an addition to the newsletter which has been inserted. Mr. McGuire added details of the building/repair work carried out previously by South Lanarkshire Council. Mr. Dow has spoken to community service about having the railings painted and they think it is feasible. Des Dickson (Education Resources) has sent him a proposal form. Costing has to be made but a decision is pending. Mr. Dow said that the information relating to the start date may affect this.</td>
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<td>6. POPE FRANCIS FAITH AWARD</td>
<td>Mr. McGuire updated the Parent Council in relation to the Pope Frances Award. He said that in November SCES (The Scottish Catholic Education Service) had contacted all Catholic primary schools regarding an award in Primary Schools similar to the Caritas Award in Secondary Schools. The award is named after Pope Francis and this is the pilot year. Mr. McGuire said that fifty schools from across Scotland were chosen to participate in the pilot programme and we consider it a great honour to be one of the fifty. There will be an Enrolment mass on Education Sunday (subject to agreement by the new parish priest Father Devine). The award is open to all pupils in primary 6, regardless of their faith. The award is based on work carried out in school, at home and in the parish. A parish commendation will be given to those pupils who are active in the parish. Part of the work involves keeping a Faith Journal. He regards this as an exciting development and the school is very happy to be a part of it. He reported that out of seventeen eligible pupils, sixteen are undertaking the award.</td>
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<td>7. HEAD TEACHER’S REPORT</td>
<td>Mr. Dow said that as everyone had had a chance to read over the printed report and as the meeting had been such a long one, the report would be taken as read.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>Gary thanked everyone and gave his email address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. A.O.C.B.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March 2014. Mr. Dow said he would be in touch with council members with regard to visiting Blackwood Primary and/or holding the next meeting there. He again thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>