

# Agenda

## South Morningside Parent Council Meeting

15 March 2021 at 6.45–8.20pm via TEAMS

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1) Welcome, attendees and apologies                               | Brendan Paddy    |
| 2) Review & Approval of Minutes of 18 January 2021 meeting        | Bobby Pathak     |
| 3) Review of matters arising & actions from last meeting          | Bobby Pathak     |
| 4) Return to school & focus on teaching                           | Michael Urquhart |
| 5) Christmas cards update & projections for end of financial year | Alistair Haig    |
| 6) Deanbank update and Q&A  | John Cameron     |
| 7) Parent Council positions vacant                                | Chair            |

Chair (from 2021/22)

- |        |     |
|--------|-----|
| 8) AOB | All |
|--------|-----|

2020/21 meeting dates:

~~12 October 2020~~

~~23 November 2020~~

~~18 January 2021~~

15 March 2021

26 April 2021

14 June 2021

AGM meeting date:

13 September 2021

**Date of next meeting: SMPC Mtg. 26 April 2021**

## **Supporting Papers**

### **South Morningside Parent Council Meeting**

15 March 2021 6.45-8.20pm via TEAMS

1. Draft Minutes of the Parent Council meeting 23 November 2020 (Bobby Pathak)
2. Matters Arising/Action log (Bobby Pathak)
3. Chair Report (Olly Headey)
4. Treasurer Report (Alistair Haig)
5. Transport Update (Ange Robinson)
6. Accommodation Report (John Cameron)
7. Comms Report (Eilidh Stimpson)

# Meeting Minutes

## South Morningside Parent Council Meeting

18 January 2021 at 6.45pm via TEAMS

### Parent Council Voting Members – Attending

Olly Headey	Jeremy Balfour
Brendan Paddy	Alison Reeves
Alistair Haig	Elisabeth Quinn
Bobby Pathak	Chris New
Fraser Walker	Colin McRae
Ellie Trotter	Reuben Carr
Louisa Dall	Angela Robinson
Shelagh Halford	Abigail Cabrelli

### Parent Council Voting Members – Apologies

Andy Valdez-Tullett	Gedimias Burba
John Cameron	Martin Little
Brian Sharp	Lizzie Boyce
Tatiana Tantarouda	Emelia McMenamin
Andrew Leiper	Nadia Cunden
Chris Hebden	

### Parent Council Non-Voting Members – Attending

Michael Urquhart	Susie Morgan
Karen Richmond	

## Attending Councillors

Cllr Melanie Main	
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## Councillors – Apologies

Cllr Neil Ross	
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## Attending Parents/Carers/Guests

Carol Duncan	Hannah Law
Jen Rogan	Jane Petty
Eilidh Stimpson	Reuben Carr
Sophie Arnold	Wendy Donegan
Isaias Ferreira-Rachmiel	Elaine Jones
Neil Inglis	Eva Fraser
Iain Ring-Macleod	Thom Kenrick
Olga Arren	

## Welcome, attendees and apologies

Apologies were made regarding the problematic start to the meeting. The agenda was summarised and attendees thanked. TEAMS etiquette introduced including the muting of mics, using the chat function for questions and the facility to raise hands.

## Review & Approval of Minutes of 23 November 2020 meeting

The meeting minutes were approved by the Parent Council.

## Review of matters arising & actions from last meeting

See separate document.

## Home learning support for key workers and vulnerable families

- Mr. Urquhart outlined the problematic nature of defining both essential and frontline workers.
- Where possible additional school support has been placed for families on a temporary basis.

- With 101 pupils across three sites, this has resulted a relatively high number of pupils currently being supported in school during this lockdown.
- A priority during the first week of learning was to ensure children could access digital materials as well as use them. All 30 laptops/tablets have now been handed out to families that require the hardware to access school materials online. This includes 3 families benefiting from parent council provided laptops.
- Edinburgh council guidance for learning at home makes clear the normal school day will not be replicated at home. The expectation is for 3 to 4 hours of learning which parents should coordinate with other things to do at home, either independently or with guidance.
- Teachers and staff remain in year group bubbles and teacher check ins with parents have now begun to be rolled out.
- Staff appear to be fielding fewer questions from parents, compared to the previous lockdown, possibly indicating a little more comfort with the challenges of home schooling.
- With learning channels set up in advanced, it is hoped resources will be better accessible.
- While only speculation, it currently looks unlikely schools will return on 1 February. With that in mind, blended learning (e.g., two days at school followed by two days of home learning etc.) remains on the table.
- It was acknowledged the cohort with perhaps the single most challenging transition have been the P3 year group given they have had to contend with the move from Learning Journals to TEAMS as well as their earlier move from Deanbank to Comiston Road.

### **Support for priority projects with South Morningside Community Council**

South Morningside Community Council's secretary was given the floor regarding her request for the PC's support for two proposals under Edinburgh Council's investment in their town centres project. Predating the coronavirus pandemic and its subsequent lockdown, their proposal centres on

1. Widening the pavement from 160 Morningside Rd to Cuddy Lane opposite Waitrose and
2. Pedestrianising the pavement immediately in front of M&S and Superdrug.

It was suggested ideas will be fed to parents in order to gauge the support the PC may give to the proposals.

### **Parent Council positions vacant**

Parent Council positions vacant

- 1) Chair (from 2021/22) – Olly made clear that the position of Chair/Co-Chair remains outstanding, it was reiterated that without a Chair the PC will be forced to close.

## AOB

- Deanbank

A request was made to inspect Deanbank for, amongst other things, asbestos. This has been delayed until the summer given it is currently being used by the children of vulnerable families and keyworkers.

Given also it is likely that Deanbank may not be used (once the new building is completed) until 2024, it was suggested other inspections may be scheduled while the building is vacant, including inspecting the roof.

New hoarding has been erected in lieu of the temporary heras fencing at Deanbank. It was clarified fire officers were happy with the perceived pinch point between the hoarding and the scaffolding currently surrounding Deanbank.

While the new hoarding now affords the same level of separation protection to the children as was being offered to pedestrians on Canaan Lane, an unexpected consequence of losing sightlines to the school is that site contractors have been overheard in the playground using inappropriate language. The site manager has been approached regarding this issue.

- Outdoor learning

Once learning is back to some level of normality, outdoor learning provision may be embedded into the curriculum. The idea of using hoodies to represent houses (as per the current house t-shirts) was suggested. While this will be an added expense to parents of £11.50, it was further suggested the use of house specific hoodies would be used for house events during outdoor learning while promoting the school uniform.

This will be put up for discussion and reported back.

- Uniform boutique

Again, once learning is back to some level of normality, it was suggested that the uniform boutique be widely publicised. Given the two lockdowns, parents may have more than usual usable clothes which would be of value to publicise, if possible, before the start of the summer, for instance as a stall in the playground.

While lockdown restrictions require parents to keep possible apparel at home, this will be looked into.

- Afterschool club

The afterschool club is in danger of discontinuing given financial pressures of two lockdowns. Parents using the club may be asked to contribute during its closure to keep it afloat.

The meeting closed at 19:48

# SMPC Meeting Pack

## South Morningside Parent Council

Matters Arising/Action Log 12-Oct-20

### OPEN MATTERS

Reference	Date Raised	Issue/Action	Owner(s)	Status
#5/20	September 14, 2020	Review reported pollution levels outside school site	Howard Kippax	Awaiting information on historical and/or current pollution levels. Olly to check progress. Info unavailable (Closed Jan 24 2021).

## Chair Report

The combination of lockdown and an extensive period of home-schooling has meant it has been a relatively quiet couple of months on the Parent Council front. Thankfully, as of Monday 15th March, all our primary children will be back in the classroom! Thanks to all the teaching staff at South Morningside for helping us through this period, and congratulations to all the parents and children for getting to the end!

As the lockdown rules are eased in the coming weeks and months, we hope to be restarting our fundraising efforts. The summer fair is traditionally our biggest fundraiser of the year. It will likely not be possible to hold a normal event this year, but if you want to help out with plans for alternative fundraisers please get in touch via [fundraising@sm-pc.org](mailto:fundraising@sm-pc.org).

The Greenbank to Meadows Quiet Route is now in place, although there are no new traffic calming measures to encourage walking and cycling on the backstreets south of Cluny Gardens, as was originally proposed. The closing of the northern section of Canaan Lane to through motor traffic may help reduce road danger outside the Deanbank Annex. Conversations with the council are continuing on ways that the road outside Deanbank could be made safer and more encouraging for families walking or cycling their children to school.

We are still without a volunteer to take on the PC Chair role in September. We really need to hear from anyone who feels like they can spare an hour or two a week to take on this critical role. Unfortunately, without a chair in place the Parent Council – and with it all the after-school clubs – must close. That would be bad. If you can help us with this, please get in touch via [chair@sm-pc.org](mailto:chair@sm-pc.org). Time is quickly running out for a handover so it's now critical we find volunteers soon. We look forward to hearing from you.

-- Olly and Brendan, Co-chairs



# Treasurers Report – South Morningside Parent Council Meeting - Monday 15 March 2021

## 1. Surplus for the period

Year to date (as at 10 March 2021)

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020		Income	Expenditure	Profit/(loss)
Cash bal at start of yr	Bank	45,691.94	-	45,691.94
	Accruals - club costs	(4,275.78)	-	(4,275.78)
	<b>OPENING BALANCE</b>	<b>41,416.16</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,416.16</b>
Surplus on Events	Christmas Cards	6,288.50	6,670.00	(381.50)
	Calendar	1,529.00	608.00	921.00
	Summer Fair	-	-	-
	Winter Festival	-	-	-
	<b>SUB TOTAL EVENTS</b>	<b>7,817.50</b>	<b>7,278.00</b>	<b>539.50</b>
Other Income	Edinburgh Council Grant	840.40	-	840.40
	EasyFundraising	-	-	-
	Blue Sky Photography commission	-	-	-
	Charity Grants	-	-	-
	<b>SUB TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>840.40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>840.40</b>
Clubs	Chanter & Drumming *	-	-	-
Clubs	Ski-ing	712.00	2,358.00	(1,646.00)
	Stage *	4,812.50	2,716.00	2,096.50
	<b>SUB TOTAL CLUBS</b>	<b>5,524.50</b>	<b>5,074.00</b>	<b>450.50</b>
Expenditure	P7 Activity	-	145.00	(145.00)
	Workshops/Drama/Theatre trips	-	130.00	(130.00)
	Teachers allocation	-	969.71	(969.71)
	Science Week	-	(1,560.00)	1,560.00
	Charity Grants	-	(450.00)	450.00
	Other General Expenditure	-	(129.38)	129.38
	<b>SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(894.67)</b>	<b>894.67</b>
	<b>2019-2020 NET INCOME/(EXP)</b>	<b>14,182.40</b>	<b>11,457.33</b>	<b>2,725.07</b>
	<b>CURRENT BALANCE</b>	<b>55,598.56</b>	<b>11,457.33</b>	<b>44,141.23</b>
			Control	(11,987.80)
				<b>£44,141.23</b>

## 2. Available funds

2. Available Funds		
<b>CURRENT BANK BALANCE</b>		<b>44,141.23</b>
Less o/s batch run		-
		-
<b>Cash Book Balance</b>		<b>44,141.23</b>
Less Restricted Funds		
	Event Float Requirement	(4,000.00)
	Surplus on Clubs*	(450.50)
	Committed Funds	(23,916.93)
	Event Surplus**	
<b>AVAILABLE TO SPEND</b>		<b>15,773.80</b>

## Comments

The accounts do not include:  
Judo club and Friday Night Football

Questions on the accounts can be raised at PC meetings or [treasurer@sm-pc.org](mailto:treasurer@sm-pc.org)

Alistair Haig – 10 March 2021



## ACCOMMODATION SUB-GROUP UPDATE

**MARCH 2021**

## **SUMMARY**

### **New School**

The next Teams call with the council and contractor is on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, and is now set up as a recurring 4 weekly meeting.

We should have a better idea after this if work is on track.

We did request updates from the council and contractor for the SMPC meeting, attached overleaf. These confirm the upcoming work, but don't flag if the project is in further delay.

We also understand that there is now a fixed hoarding between Deanbank and the new school, and we have not received any parent complaints regarding this, unlike the earlier Heras fencing.

## **Council Update (08/03/21)**

*At my last update everything was progressing well. We had agreed during lockdown to relax the rules around deliveries to the site due to the small numbers of pupils attending both Deanbank and St Peter's. However once P1 and 2 returned this was of course rescinded.*

## **Contractor Update (09/03/21)**

*Following our chat we note that the next Parent Council meeting is Wednesday 15th.*

*As this is ahead of our next meeting please see below points with a view to providing an update of our progress:*

*In the period we have:*

*Completed the Phase 1 roof liner tray installation.*

*Completed the steel frame to Phase 2.*

*Completed the installation of the pre-cast stair sections.*

*Completed the installation of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor metal deck to Phase 2.*

*Progressed the external wall metal work and boarding.*

*Progressed the roof installation to Phase 1.*

*Going forward over the next month we intend to:*

*Complete the concrete upper floor slab.*

*Progress the external wall frames and boards.*

*Progress the ground floor slabs.*

*Commence the roof installation to Phase 2.*

*Commence the windows.*

*In general, we have had a difficult month in February with the cold weather and the snow.*

*Given that we are mainly working on external areas this had an obvious impact on the progress.*

*Over the last few weeks we have had a positive reaction from the trades on the project and we are rapidly building momentum and the project should change considerably over the next few months to the outside observer.*

## Transport Report

We had a meeting with other school transport sub-groups in January, mainly to discuss the Greenbank to Meadows Quiet Route, which has now been implemented. Disappointingly this doesn't include a modal filter in Canaan Lane, which was originally proposed. The Spaces For People consultation is open until 21 March at:

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/retainingspacesforpeopleconsultation/>

and support for the Canaan Lane changes might help these be maintained and improved.

We will be looking to meet with council officers in the upcoming period to discuss proposals for Canaan Lane in particular to ask for any amendments for the new school to be pushed to an earlier timetable, as well as another meeting with other school transport groups.

## Communications update

It's been quiet for the comms team since the last meeting and update. We have continued to post community/relevant posts on fb. Classlist has been quiet. We are expecting we will be busier with the return to school of all pupils.

The comms team are still looking for anyone who would like to join to help us with occasional website updates and email group alterations. Not an onerous job at all, but needed! Thank you.