



Hermitage Academy Parent Council AGM  
7 September 2021  
Zoom 7pm-8pm

**Attending**

HAPC:		Year Rep	
Lisa Johnstone Chair	LJ	S5	X
Thomas Dennett Vice Chair	TD	S2	A
Elizabeth Lambert, Secretary	EL	S4	X
Philip Hartley, Treasurer	PH	S2	X
Ruth Munro	RM	S1	A
Angela Bakker	AB	S1	X
Miles Stratton	LS	S1	A
Rob Taylor	RT	S2	X
Jo Gaughan	JH	S3	A
Tracey Niblock	TN	S3	A
Nanette Clark	NC	S4	X
Donna Hicks	DH	S5	X
Kathleen Daly	KD	S5	X
Claire Walker	CW	S6	X
Lucy Sage	LS	ASN rep	X
Douglas Morgan, HT (A)	DM		X

Agenda Item	Actions
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Apologies</b> The meeting was opened by KD on behalf of the Chair LJ	
<b>2. Chairperson's Report Appendix A</b>	
<b>3. Treasurer's Report Appendix B</b>	
<b>4. Acceptance of Minutes of previous meeting LJ</b>	<b>approved</b>
<b>Head teacher's Report DM Appendix C</b>	
<b>Vote on the revised Parent Council Constitution. DM</b>	<b>approved</b>
Nominations were taken for year reps and there being no objections were elected as follows: <b>S1 - Stella Kinloch, Kathleen Daly, Laura Watt</b> <b>S2 - Miles Stratton, Angela Bakker, Andrew Tennant</b> <b>S3 - Philip Hartley, Rob Taylor</b> <b>S4 - Malcolm Pearson, Claire Walker</b> <b>S5 - Nanette Clark, Elizabeth Lambert</b> <b>S6 - Lisa Johnstone, Donna Hicks</b> <b>S&amp;D - Lucy Sage</b>	<b>approved</b>
<b>Vote of thanks to outgoing executive, welcome all new members. LJ</b>	
a. <b>AOB</b> Thanks were expressed DM for the work undertaken by the Parent Council throughout what had been a difficult year. The Parent Council had supported the school by attending interviews, S1 information meeting for parents, the interviews for House Captains, advising on the Communication group and Stakeholder panel for the School Improvement Plan. As well as being available to provide support during the year.	

## Annex A

### Chairperson Report

I was delighted to be voted in as chair of the parent council in September 2020 having been a member of the PC for 2 years. Looking back on these years, Hermitage academy has seen considerable positive change, and much of this was in part due to the strength of the parent voice. Having never been in a chairperson role I knew I was challenging myself but I was confident that the PC was a strong supportive group that worked with the school for the benefit of our children.

In September 2020 the school was working towards their new blended learning model. The PC worked closely with Mr Williamson (head teacher at time) to put into practice the changes that would allow our children to return to school part-time. Can I just mention how hard the janitorial staff worked during this time to put these changes in place, we are very grateful for all your hard work.

We were just getting set for those when the Scottish government done a u-turn and announced that all pupils would return full time with social distancing measures in place.

Pupils, teachers and parents were delighted that a sense of normality has returned. Pupils were delighted to be back to face to face teaching. The parent council worked closely with Mr Williamson during this time to make sure all pupils were settling back into school life.

October 2020 saw a job vacancy go out for our new Head Teacher post. The PC was involved in this process from the application sift to attending the interviews. Myself as chair and other representatives from the PC were heavily involved in the process. The interviews were on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December and Mr Morgan was appointed out new acting Head Teacher to take up post in January after the Christmas break.

I'm October we had the news that once again exams were to be cancelled in Scotland, a devastating blow to all our senior pupils. Again the parent council worked with Mr Williamson and the year heads to work out how our senior pupils were going to go forward and what this new exam timetable was going to be like. It was extremely stressful time for our senior pupil, more so as nobody knew what they am timetable was and we were getting no answers from the SQA

Massive well done to our senior pupils this year you handled it well.

By December the PC were working with the school on communication. Feedback from parents was that communication from school to parents was poor. We worked with Mr Williamson and other DH to try and improve communication links. Google guardian was worked on by the school to help parents receive more information. This unfortunately is still a work in progress and communication still remains high on the PC agenda.

By Christmas break we were all shook by being thrust back into lockdown, a situation none of us wanted. We were back homeschooling, getting it right for every child was never more important than now. Every child home environment was different, there was tech issues, engaging issues, lack of laptops. The PC worked with the school and parents to try and resolve many issues with home learning. It was felt there was alot of inconsistent with work being uploaded by teachers and there was much debate on live classes. The PC worked without new HT and feedback all parents feedback. I think most parents and pupils were delighted when they were able to return to face to face teaching in April. Me personally I was doing a very happy dance let's just say there is a reason I'm not a teacher!!

When pupils returned in April there was hope that things would return to semi-normal. Mr Morgan had been in post since January (probably felt like 4 years rather than 4 months) our senior's had more of an idea how their assessments were looking and our new S1's were looking like they may get induction days this year. The parent council has set up a communication group who worked with Mr Munro and focused on the areas that are regularly feedback from parents. This group is ongoing and will continue. The PC was also involved in the SIP (school improvement plan) with pc representatives working in a sub group with Mr Munro and Miss Stewart. This group is also on going. As a pc we will be keeping meetings on zoom as feedback from parents is this is preferred.

To say it's been an extraordinary year is probably an understatement. We have faced challenges that I personally hope we never have to face again. I'm extremely proud of our pupils and wider community at hermitage. Many of us have faced extreme and devastating situations this year. The school community has also had devastating losses. It has not been easy, but the pupils, staff and wider community have pulled together and supported each other.

I just want to thank the PC for all their support this year. Elizabeth who has been my tech guru without her...well it would be interesting. Donna who has helped me enormously- with past chair advice, and all the parents. Thank you to all the teachers and school staff, you have done and continue to do an amazing job. Welcome to our new PC members and I look forward to working with you all this year.

Thank you and best wishes Lisa Johnstone Chair