



Parent Council

Broomlands Primary School Parent Council

Broomlands Primary School, Ednam Road, Kelso, Roxburghshire. TD5 7SW.
www.broomlandsprimaryschool.com

MINUTES

Minutes from the Meeting of the General Committee of the Broomlands Primary School Parent Council. Held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 in the School.

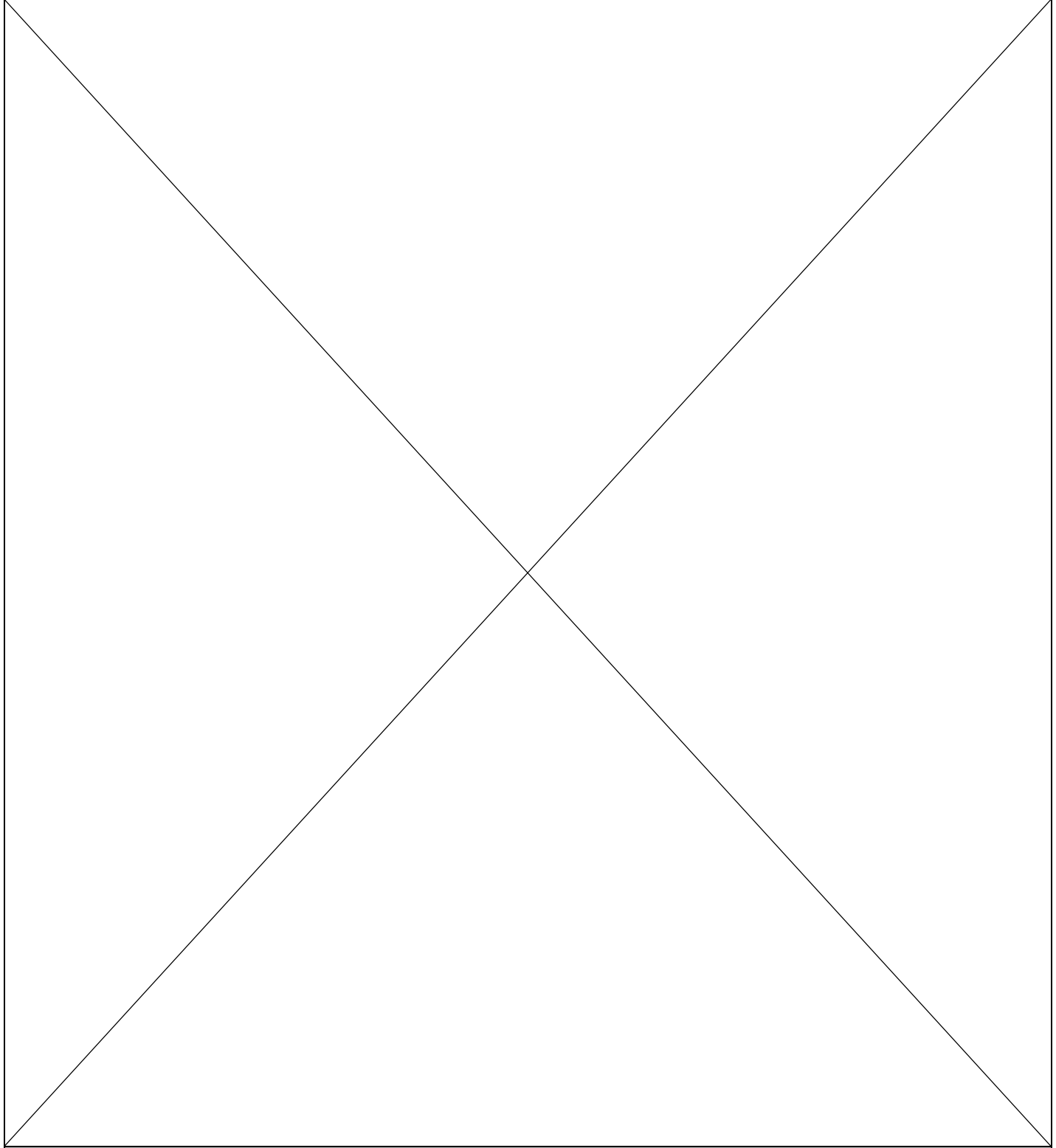
Present: Pam Guthrie (PG) Chairperson, Nikki Johnstone-Brown (NJB) Vice Chairperson, Adam Lindsay, Head Teacher (AL), Lizzie Freeland Cook (LFC), Joanna McNulty (JM), Kelda Pearce (KP), Lisa Haig (LH), Cllr. Tom Weatherston (TW) and James Thom (Clerk), who recorded the proceedings. (9)

Forum/Guests

Minute	Business	Action By
1	Welcome The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7.05pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.	
2	Apologies Apologies were submitted on behalf of Ala McIntyre (Treasurer), Ashely Wilson, Christine Riley, Ellie Henderson, Kinga Gomez, Louise Hewison, Tracie Patterson, Cllr. Simon Mountford and Cllr. Euan Robson.	
3	Minutes from the Last Meeting The minutes from the last General Committee Meeting, which was held remotely via Zoom on 30 May 2024, were distributed to members via email prior to the meeting. The minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting on the proposal of Lizzie Freeland Cook, which was seconded by Pam Guthrie.	
4	Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.	
5	<p>Chairperson's Business</p> <p>Pam reported that there had not been any recent meetings of the Parent Council Chairs Forum organised by the Local Authority. There was a meeting briefing the PC Chairs on the authority's 5-year schools plan and on a different night, an informative Parent Council Fair which was held at Tweedbank.</p> <p>There was a meeting scheduled on 25 February 2025 (same night as this meeting); however, copies of the minutes will be distributed when they become available.</p> <p>Pam went on to thank and congratulate the fundraising subgroup for a successful Christmas Fair and the members who oversee the fruit tuck shop, which remains to be a success.</p> <p>Further to its success in previous years, Pam proposed that the P7 leavers social evening to be held at the high school for all the feeder schools be reinstated. This always proved to be a successful and enjoyable evening; however, it has not been held for a few years. The Parent Council were keepers of the funds on behalf of all the other schools which is ring fenced for this purpose. The committee had no objections and Pam agreed to make preliminary arrangements.</p> <p>Pam reminded the committee that the Parent Council purchase scientific calculators as a leaving gift to the P7s. Adam will make arrangements for the school to order these and will send the invoice to the Parent Council.</p>	<p>PG</p> <p>AL</p>

	<p>For the purposes of successful succession planning, Pam reminded the committee that she will demit the office of Chairperson in the summer as her daughter will be going to the high school. Pam asked the members to have a think about a replacement chairperson(s).</p> <p>Pam made reference to the School's "Boats" day which proved to be a great success.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged the prompt response from the Local Authority regarding the issue of falling branches during the storm and an unfortunate incident which occurred as a result.</p> <p>On conclusion, Pam passed on her sincere thanks to Adam, Avril and all the school staff, Ala and James along with all the committee members and our local councillors for their support</p>	
6	<p>Clerk's Business & Correspondence</p> <p>James reported that he had received the documentation regarding our insurance from Connect which is paid for by the local authority and confirmed the safe receipt of our lottery license from Scottish Borders Council.</p>	
7	<p>Treasurers Business</p> <p>Ala was unable to attend the meeting tonight, however, in advance, prepared information regarding the Parent Council's finances which had been emailed to the committee members prior to this meeting. It highlighted income and expenditure and that the bank balance was £3,803.</p>	
8	<p>Parent Forum Business</p> <p>The clerk reported that he had not received any business to discuss from the Parent Forum.</p>	
9	<p>Sub-group Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events and Social – It was reported that the Christmas Fair was a great success and well supported again. The date for the Summer Fair is 6 June. The team are looking at other ways to raise funds, for example, beetle drives, bingo nights, exit bucket collections at venues and events and bag packing etc. • Healthy Tuck Shop – It was reported that this is still a success and continues to be popular with the students. The tuck shop has been costed and funded for the year through generous donation from individuals and local businesses. 	
10	<p>Head Teachers Report (attached)</p> <p>Adam delivered the head teachers report. An appeal was made on behalf of the school to see if the parent Council would be in a position to fund the licence renewal of Twinkl which is an online educational resource platform which is used by the whole school at a cost of £752.81. This was agreed in principle, however, would be presented to the full general committee for approval.</p> <p>Adam also discussed potential proposals regarding school homework for pupils, as it was felt that it may no longer be fit for purpose, was not delivering fully delivering the desired learning outcomes and it was time for a fresh approach. A draft proposal was shared with the members at the meeting to get an initial views and opinions. Some ideas and suggestions were shared and discussed and the school, will review these before continuing with the proposal.</p>	
11	<p>Diary Dates, Agenda Items & Notes for the Next Agenda/Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next General Committee Meeting will be on 29 May 2025 7pm in the School. • Summer Fair will be on Friday 6 June 2025. • The next meeting will be our AGM will be on 18 September 2025 at 7pm in the School, full arrangements TBC. 	ALL
12	<p>AOCB & Close</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding pupils riding their bikes on the pavements to and from school, as this is not within the remit of school time, Adam suggested that he could issue a polite reminder to pupils and parents.</p> <p>It was also noted that there were no real improvements in the parking at drop off and collection times. This is and will be an ongoing issue which the school along with other agencies are</p>	AL SCHOOL

	<p>managing the best they can but is and will continue to be monitored. It was noted, however, that there were some improvements in the proper use of the drop off circle. It was confirmed that there are plans in place for world book day, however, this would not include dressing up.</p> <p>The clerk sought and was given permission for the treasurer and clerk to carry out all routine business until the next meeting.</p>	<p>JT/AM</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>CLOSE There being no other business to discuss, the chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.17pm.</p>	





BROOMLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

General Committee Meeting
Broomlands Primary School Parent Council
Tuesday 25 February 2025 at 7pm, held in the school

AGENDA

Chairpersons: Pam Guthrie

- Welcome & Housekeeping
- Apologies
- Minutes from the last General Committee Meeting
- Matters arising from the above
- Chairperson's Business
- Head Teacher's Update
- Clerks Business & Correspondence
 - Matters Arising from the above
 - Seek permission to conduct routine business until the next meeting.
- Treasurer's Business
 - Update
 - Seek permission to conduct routine business until the next meeting.
- Parent Forum Business
- Sub-group Reports
- Diary Dates and Next Meeting Agenda Items (dates of future meetings).
- Close

PLEASE NOTE: To prevent unnecessary waste, it is NOT our intention to print off any of the documents to be made available at the meeting, therefore, please may we respectfully request that you bring along your electronic devices should you wish to study the documents during the meeting, likewise, make your own arrangements to get them printed and recycled afterwards.

Further information available from: James Thom (Clerk) on 01573 223 976



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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Apologies for not holding another meeting in November – I think when there is the fair, then the run up to Christmas it just becomes too much.
We would normally have the AGM in September; previously there have been x3 more meetings, usually in November, January, and May.
- Thank you for the fantastic effort to the fundraising team for another successful Christmas Fair.
- Thank you to the fruit tuck team too.
- Chairs meeting 26/09 at High School – me, Russet and Sarah. Christine Brown, Justin Sinclair – talked about curriculum development BGE and senior phase, tracking and monitoring and leadership academy
- 13th November – Chairs fair at Tweedbank. Alan Niven for licensing, School dinners, Inspire, Dyslexia, mental health,
Their next meeting was cancelled.
- Next meeting on tonight 7-8pm
- WhatsApp Group still going on – lots of varies info, breakfast club, who to contact for... etc.
- Just been added to cluster group, which I think only, has Edenside, and Morebattle chairs – Hopefully get the others added to this as this may be more relevant.
- P7 disco.... For after the High School move up days.
- P7 gifts – Scientific calculator.
- Stepping down as Chair – Nikki? Kelda and Lisa?
- BOATS day – really good.
- Woods/storm
- Thanks to Adam, Avril and all the staff
- Thanks to James
- Thanks to Ala
- Thanks to Councillors

Pam Guthrie – Chairperson
Broomlands Primary School Parent Council
25 February 2025

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

The Head Teacher's report provides updates on staff activities, upcoming events, new resources, and changes in staff and pupil numbers.

- **Staff Activities:** Staff spent the In-service day working with cluster colleagues on developing approaches to using concrete and pictorial approaches to teaching maths and numeracy. They also worked with the Educational Psychologist to look at how we support children showing traits of demand avoidance, which has led to some specific planning for individuals and will be helpful going forward.
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- **Upcoming Opportunities:** There are various upcoming activities including swimming lessons, nursery visits to Queens House, extra-curricular rugby, cross-country events, and a ukulele group planning to visit Kerfield Court to entertain the residents. P7 residential is planned in March and a Parent Information evening is planned for Monday 10th March.
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- **New Resources:** We are hoping PC can support our re-subscription to Twinkl, which makes a huge difference in terms of resources for teaching and learning and assemblies. This would be a sum of £752.81. We have also had a recent meeting with a rep from ClickView, which is a great video-based resource for all ages and all aspects of the curriculum.
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- **Approaches to Play:** We are continuing to wrestle with the purpose and place of play throughout the school and will be continuing this work through into next session.
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- **Staff and Pupil Changes:** The school has welcomed a number of new pupils throughout the school, and our current roll now sits at 325, including the nursery. As it stands, we will be at 10 classes again next session with over 40 new P1's joining us, which is a very healthy position to be in. We have welcomed Mrs Fiona Beal into P1/2, covering Mrs Turnbull's maternity leave. Mr Reid has moved into a new role in Jedburgh with Active Schools and we currently have supply cover in place until we can recruit on a more permanent basis.
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- **Finance and Property:** Recent purchases include maths materials including pan balances, bundling sticks and place value counters, following our In-Service day input. We have also invested in some professional reading around play, sporting equipment and tech adapters/cables.
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- **Homework:** We have been looking for some time at our homework offer and have a draft home learning policy I'd like to gauge your thoughts around. We are keenly aware that life is ever busier, and that any learning we support at home should be meaningful and manageable, having an impact on wider learning. A copy is provided for you to feedback to us about.



Home Learning Guidance – A Fresh Approach

‘Parents are the first and most influential educators of their children.’



Over recent months we have looked carefully at our homework practices. Having discussed this as a staff we find that traditional, formal homework approaches are not impacting children’s learning in the positive way we would like them to. The latest research shows the impact on attainment of children completing formal homework is low. Children often complete tasks successfully, but the skills do not necessarily filter through into their everyday learning.

However, wider learning at home can have significant immediate and longer-term impacts on children in different ways. These include a child’s early learning, later achievements, nurture, resilience, wellbeing and skills for life. Supporting parents to help them with their child’s learning at home is therefore “a vital part of improving outcomes for children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds” (Hunt et al, 2011)

Broomlands are looking to improve our Family Learning offer. We know that ‘Parents are key partners in supporting their children’s learning. In schools, staff should help all parents to understand what children are learning, how their work is assessed and how they, as parents, can support their child’s learning.’ (Building the Curriculum 5, A Framework for Assessment, 2010)

Scottish Government state that “Learning at home is the learning which happens in the home, outdoors or in the community. It can take place through everyday activities that families already do and can overlap with aspects of organised or active learning activities” (Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network, 2018) We know that many families and children have very busy lives out of school, and we feel it is crucial for children to enjoy developing friendships and having family time after school. As such, any home learning we set should be purposeful, enjoyable, and flexible. We will always value children sharing any learning they have done at home. We use our curriculum overviews and/or Showbie to help parents/carers to be well-informed of their children’s current learning. and strive to develop critical, creative, curious thinkers, motivating children to develop a lifelong love of learning. We want to empower you to support and challenge your children at home and to be an active part of their learning journey. We hope that by taking the “work” out of home learning that we promote a positive and encouraging attitude to each child’s learning. It is well evidenced that when children, school and families work together, children’s learning improves. We believe that a ‘Home Learning’ approach fits better with the ethos and culture of our school, and with the demands of modern family life.

Our Staff:

At the beginning of each block (August, October, January, April) we will send home curriculum overviews (P3 – P7) which will outline intended learning for the term. Within the curriculum overview, we will provide each child with a 'Menu of Home Learning Activities' to develop their learning skills.

Some of these activities will be suggested practical life skills for children to practise.

In P1 & P2 this will take the form of suggested follow-up activities, shared regularly on Showbie. We will put this Menu of Home learning activities on Showbie to ensure easy access for all families.

We will hold Family Learning opportunities within school to support parents with different aspects of learning and will share examples of home learning on the Broomlands website.

Teachers will encourage children to share their learning with their peers. Children with iPads can add photo evidence to their Showbie page at any time.

Children will always have at least one reading book to focus on as we know the critical importance of developing reading skills.

We may provide resources such as 100 Squares and other similar tools to support learning at home.

Our Families:

Will engage with the home learning by reading and discussing the curriculum overview and 'Menu of Home Learning Activities' and checking Showbie regularly.

Can record examples of learning at home in a wide variety of ways, including photographs/videos on their iPad, notes in home learning diaries, through PowerPoint or posters to share with their peers. They can bring in photographs/objects to demonstrate their learning.

Will encourage their child to use everyday opportunities at home for learning. There are lots of daily opportunities eg baking/gardening/shopping/packing school bags/making packed lunches/nature walks, etc.

While there is no expectation that all of the 'Menu of Home Learning Activities' are completed, we value your support in collaborating with your children to 'have a go'.

Thank you.

**Adam Lindsay – Headteacher
Broomlands Primary School
25 February 2025**



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TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank balance on the 21/2/25 - £3,803.00

Christmas Fair breakdown:

Taking on the night = £1988.90

Donations towards the Fair (Forbes Tech, Lloyds, Mrs Brown) = £350

Expenses - £359.8

Cookie Kitchen bought left over chocolates - £75

No money requests from school, although a while back we were asked if PC would contribute towards the cost of this year's leavers tops. Awaiting more information. From the attached report you can see how school has benefited from PC support so far, this school year.

Alicja McIntyre – Treasurer
Broomlands Primary School Parent Council
25 February 2025

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- Type in and Select Broomlands Primary School Parent Council – Kelso
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