

ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL
Alford Academy
Greystone Road
ALFORD
AB33 8TY



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Minutes

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 14th September 2021
Virtual Meeting (Covid-19 Pandemic)
7.00 pm

Office Bearers:

Ingrid Huldal (Chair); Joe Purkis (Vice-chair); Denise Smith (Treasurer); Monica Iloya (Secretary)

Parent Council Members:

Charlotte Millburn; Coralie Robertson; Fiona Henderson; Frank Sewell; Grainne Paton; Sarah Lewis

Parent Forum:

A Lyon; Amy Wilson; Dawn Brown; Fiona Parsons; Fiona Woodhead; Flora Grigor-Taylor; Linda Purkis; Louise Mitchell; Marianne Crombie; Nicole Wade; Peter Young; Steve Aitken

School Staff:

Angela Wotherspoon (Head), Struan Gardner (Depute), Stuart Cookson (Depute), Lisa Lees (Depute)

Councillor: Gwyneth Petrie

Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome and Apologies

Ingrid Huldal welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Anne Glennie; Nicola Sedgwick; Lucy Greene

Minutes Last AGM - Accepted

2. Chairperson's Annual Report

Ingrid presented her report at the meeting via a Powerpoint Presentation. Please see attached report.

3. Treasurer's Annual Report

Audited accounts were presented. Please see attached report

4. Election of Office Bearers

A request for nominations for Office Bearers was sent out prior to the meeting. There were no new volunteers/nominations for office bearers.

Chairperson:	Ingrid Huldal	Proposed by Monica Iloya Seconded by Denise Smith
Vice-chair:	Joe Purkis	Proposed by Monica Milne Seconded by Denise Smith
Secretary:	Monica Iloya	Proposed by Ingrid Huldal Seconded by Charlotte Millburn
Treasurer:	Denise Smith	Proposed by Ingrid Huldal Seconded by Charlotte Millburn
Co-opted member:	None	

Election of Members

There are 15 parent/carer members (this number includes office bearers). Penny Fuller has stood down as all her children have left school now;); Richard Stroud has also stood down as a co-opted member after many years' service. At the AGM, there was potentially 16 volunteers to be members; Sheena Lawson has since stood down (email received 15.9.21) leaving 15 members

The following are members for 2021-2022:

Dawn Brown	(S1)
Lucy Greene	(S1)
Sharon O'Mant	(S2)
Coralie Robertson	(S2)
Fiona Henderson	(S1, S3)
Joe Purkis (Vice-chair)	(S3)
Sarah Lewis	(S3)
Grainne Patton	(S3)
Frank Sewell	(S3) (S4)
Denise Smith (Treasurer)	(S3, S5)
Monica Iloya (Secretary)	(S3, S6)
Nicola Sedgwick	(S3)
Donna Gray	(S2, S4, S6)
Ingrid Huldal (Chair)	(S5)
Charlotte Milburn	(S5)

AGM closed at 19.30

Minutes

First Meeting of Alford Academy Parent Council Session 2020 – 2021 – 14.9.21

Attendance and Apologies – as per AGM

1. Minutes of previous meeting

ACTION: Denise to chase up Aberdeenshire Council Payments - completed

ACTION: Email to go out again to parents as regards “Easyfundraising” - completed

Minutes Proposed by Joe Purkis and Seconded by Coralie Robertson

2. Constitution review

The Constitution was reviewed in 2020 and has been referred to during the past year. The Constitution was sent out in advance of the meeting. There were no requests for any changes to the Constitution.

3. Head Teacher Welcome & Update – Mrs Angela Wotherspoon

Mrs Angela Wotherspoon introduced herself to the Parent Council. She is now in to her 5th week as the new Head Teacher at Alford Academy. She gave a presentation to the Parent Council as follows:

- Recovery, renewal and improvement is the school’s focus
- Working together to nurture, inspire and achieve is her overarching aim for the school
- Leadership Team Update: Lisa Leaves is leaving Alford Academy on a Secondment for 2 years as a Quality Improvement Officer. Graham Scott has been appointed as Depute to take over her role as Depute Wellbeing, Inclusion
- HoWLs – Habits of Work and Learning – these are ongoing tools used by the school for assessing progress
- HHARK – Hard Work, Honesty, Ambition, Respect and Kindness are the school Values
- Alford Improvement Plan: This is ongoing with a focus on “Reset and recovery”, “renewal & Improvement”
- The school will be reviewing the Quality Indicators over the next 3/12; it is likely the school will have a School Inspection at some stage as this was cancelled at the beginning of Pandemic.
- She will strive for the school to be a centre of excellence for learning teaching and assessment and also sector leading in the care and welfare of all stakeholders.
- Lots has happened since she started at the school with new staff and some posts still in the recruitment process ie. English, technical, guidance teacher
- There are currently 712 pupils at Alford Academy
- Senior Pupil executive Team with Angela undertook interviews recently and 9 senior prefects have been appointed; she acknowledged the need to

big up their role post-covid given the challenges for them to be active and visible to all pupils given all the Covid restrictions that have been in place.

- Eco Group – this has started up again; a pupil has designed a new logo
- Horizons (Stuart Cookson): The Horizons programme has started eg S6 NHS Talk – School Nurse presentation; First Aid; Car Maintenance/purchasing a new car. This programme was started in response to pupils requesting more teaching on life skills.
- Wellbeing/Inclusion (Lisa Lees): Fiona Murray is working on the webpages for ASN (Additional Supports Needs); she will be handing over her workstream to Graham Scott.

4. Parent Council Sub-groups 2021 – 2022 – Priority Review/Updates

- **Fundraising** (Ingrid Huldal, Grainne Paton, Coralie Robertson) – Coralie gave an update – they hope to collaborate with other groups; various ideas/projects being discussed eg printer cartridges; outdoor spaces. They are looking at what grants are available – eg “Learning through Landscapes” can help with planning; they are awaiting to hear re. Grant application to Co-op. Dawn Brown (S1 parent) volunteered to join this group and has a lot of experience in this Sector.
- **Parent Council-Pupil Partnership** (Frank Sewell & Coralie Robertson) - The group thanked Penny and Ishbel for all their help in this group. The Group have not achieved as much as they would have liked due to the Covid Pandemic. Stuart Cookson is happy to link up with this Group as he has been in discussion with the Student Council.
ACTION: Coralie will liaise with Stuart to arrange a meeting with the Student Council
- **Community Group Link: additional support needs** (Sheena Lawson, Rhona Stuart, Sarah Lewis & Donna Gray) – there has been little activity this past year due to the Covid Pandemic
ACTION: The Group will arrange a meeting with Graham Scott and Fiona Murray to discuss further
- **Alumni Project: Inspire Young People** (Joe Purkis) – Donna Gray has stood down from this Group. There was nothing new to update. Joe gave an overview of the purpose of this group. They aim to get a list of people/resource for careers/contacts from former pupils. Stuart Cookson is also working on the Horizons project by reaching out to as many folk as possible. These 2 projects are closely linked. Stuart reported that a Google form is nearly ready to be sent out. He is hoping for individuals will be able to record a video clip of their career pathway to help inspire pupils.
ACTION: If anyone is interested in getting involved with either the Alumni Project or the Horizons Project, please email the parent council at alfordaca.pc@outlook.com
- **Communication** (Charlotte Millburn) – this project started in response to the Parent Council Checklist undertaken which showed some of the communication areas were “amber” – she met with Struan Gardner to review the Website and then the Covid lockdown happened which has stalled things; she feels that the school communication has improved during lockdown. Fiona Woodhead (new S1 parent) has offered to help with this sub-group and made some suggestions eg more videos for P7 transition etc. Struan reported that there are changes in process with the merging of the website and blog

- **School Uniform Recycling** (Amy Wilson, Sarah Lewis, Charlotte Millburn, Ingrid Huldal & Monica Iloya) – The Group are happy to do this again next year and Amy is happy to lead this group

5. AOB

- The Parent Council said a big thankyou to Lisa Lees and wished her all the best with new job
- School Improvement Survey – the school will be sending out more surveys and appreciate parents completing these and these will be used to inform how the school can be improved
- A Parent Question on S3 Subject Choices for this year – Stuart Cookson replied- the plan is to review the changes from last year by speaking to pupils and sending out a questionnaire to parents; the timeline has just gone out to staff and parents will also be informed in due course.
- A Parent Query as regards the ongoing use of Google Classroom still for homework and also in class with the need for pupils to use their own devices for this; the advantages and disadvantages were acknowledged; Struan Gardner replied – resilience is still needed just in case there is a need to switch back to remote learning in the future; he advised that different faculties were at different stages as regards digital learning and some areas of learning more suited to digital learning than others. He reassured parents that the School did and is continuing to identify those pupils who needed/need IT support and many chromebooks etc have been handed out and there are also devices available in classrooms when needed; the BYOD (bring your own device) programme was discussed; he acknowledged that there was a need to find the right equilibrium as regards digital learning. Any parent with individual concerns as regards IT access should discuss with the school directly.
- A parent query as regards the school’s strategy for learning for pupils having to self-isolate due to Covid/Awaiting Results – staff are asked to populate google classroom with some work if the pupil is well enough to do some work at home; school will correspond with parents to let them know this. It was acknowledged that this can take time to arrange as teachers are teaching as well and will work better for pupils off for more than 1-2 days.

6. Date of next meetings:

Wednesday 17th November 2021

Wednesday 11th May 2021

Monday 17th January 2021

June 2021 – TBC (P7 Parent Welcome)

Tuesday 15th March 2021

Meeting Close: 21.05

APPENDIX:

Parent Council Sub-groups 2021-2022: Members

Fundraising – Ingrid Huldal, Grainne Paton, Coralie Robertson & Dawn Brown

Parent Council-Pupil Partnership – Frank Sewell & Coralie Robertson

Community Group Link: additional support needs – Rhona Stuart, Sarah Lewis & Donna Gray.

Alumni Project: Inspire Young People - Joe Purkis

Communication: Charlotte Millburn & Fiona Woodhead

School Uniform Recycling: Amy Wilson, Sarah Lewis, Charlotte Millburn, Ingrid Huldal & Monica Iloya

Parent Council Members 2021 – 2022: Quorum 6

Dawn Brown	(S1)
Lucy Greene	(S1)
Sharon O'Mant	(S2)
Coralie Robertson	(S2)
Fiona Henderson	(S1, S3)
Joe Purkis (Vice-chair)	(S3)
Sarah Lewis	(S3)
Grainne Patton	(S3)
Frank Sewell	(S3) (S4)
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Donna Gray	(S2, S4, S6)
Ingrid Huldal (Chair)	(S5)
Charlotte Milburn	(S5)