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**Attendees:**

Joanne Macaulay, Polly Clement, Alasdair Friend, Lucy Anderson, Jo, Corinne MG, Ali Payne, Onyema Ibe, Stacey Karch, Katy Wilson, Wraights, Lesley Lawrie, Anna Menzies, Marcus Britton, Ros, James Lewis, Xana Marwick, Steph Dodds, Chris Wilson Jo Wishart, Sinead Fitzpatrick, Madelaine, Michelle Walsh, Kyrsta Macdonald Scott Sara Ali, Heidi Proven

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Welcome and Introductions

Joanne Macaulay

Jo welcomed everyone and explained the parent group have a surplus of money to spend which will be the focus of the meeting.

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Headteacher's Report

Alasdair Friend

**Covid update:**

Towerbank has had one case of COVID which occurred during the October break week. No action was required from the school.

Although school remains open and we are trying to be business as usual, things are not as normal. It is increasingly stressful for staff with some anxious about the situation. It is not easy to teach given the restrictions and there are so many things we want to do but can't.

We can now do PE inside – but trying to do as much as possible outside.

We think we can start borrowing books from the library in a limited way.

We still can't do assemblies. We have recently been told p 1 and 2s can sing but only if 2m apart, outdoors and all facing the same way.

Ventilation is tricky, we need to have windows open but we need to keep children and adults warm.

After school activities are also difficult.

**IT update:**

Ipads have been ordered and will hopefully be in the school soon.

**School Streets:**

School streets restriction is tricky. It is not really enforced but it is for the safety of parents and children. Where there are dangerous bits of driving it is really useful to get evidence – e.g. photos that are taken legally. There was a serious incident recently of a council lorry reversing towards children. This was photographed and reported as a near miss. This was taken seriously and it resulted in disciplinary action.

**Reporting & Consultations:**

The school has heard loud and clear what people have said about learning journals. They have not been universally liked by teachers either.

Consultations are still ongoing – feedback is positive. Schools still can't use zoom, council does not allow it. It also doesn't work well in school.

### **December/Christmas:**

We are drawing up some plans for before Christmas. It's called the 12 days of Christmas in the run up – one of them is the Window Wonderland. We have ordered loads of tissue paper and we hope that we can link classrooms, make some creative window designs. One of the important things is to look at how we can help other people at this time. We are going to do a collection for the food bank and as a tribute to Emma Liddle.

### **Volunteer required:**

Jo – school needs someone with a child in P1 or P2 to help with a learning journals review – Corinne offered.

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#### **Outdoor Learning**

Xana Marwick

A group of parents have come together to see if they can help the school offer more outdoor time for the children and teachers. This is in response to Covid, and the government advice that transmission levels of the virus are much lower outside.

- We are keen to see if we can help the school build on the already existing time that classes spend outside, as this will be a safer environment in terms of mitigating transmission of covid19.
- We'd also generally love to see the kids have more outside time as it's well documented that time outdoors helps their mental and physical well being.

The school is already doing a lot to support the classes to go outside, we are looking to see how we can help increase it – whether that's through helping with resources, logistical, fundraising or very practical needs around getting outdoor space upgraded.

We've had a meeting with Mr Friend and the TPG who will already be taking forward some plans that will enable more use of outdoor space during the school day.

We are going to work with the school to improve the outdoor shelter to make it a better space for outdoor learning – so that it can be used by classes during the day.

So if you've got ideas and would like to help – please get in touch with us via TPG (towerbankparentcouncil@gmail.com OR the Towerbank facebook page).

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#### **Spending Plan 2020/21**

Polly Clement

Normally we spend on subsidising trips and other activities we can currently do. In conjunction with the school the TPG have come up with the following spending proposal:

Sol's musical instruments installation - £1,100

Link entrance hall screen to computer - £270

Online theatre production for P1 and P2 - £100

Class sets of 4 books p5-7 to support diversity learning - £825

Author visit from Rossie Stone, founder of Dekko comics, & sets of comics - £175

Warm and waterproof coats for the PSAs - £1500

Tepee including installations costs £4500

### **Discussions:**

Dekko comics and author visit from Rossie Stone will mostly be funded via an Inspiring Classrooms grant. If the grant application is successful the TPG will fund the remaining amount.

Questions were asked about cost and allocation of coats for PSAs. The PSAs are spending extended amounts of time to cover long break times and lunch times. They are expected to stand outside in all weathers. By purchasing suitable coats we are saying we value what you are doing and keeping them warm and dry. The TPG did not think that £100 was a lot of money for a good quality winter coat.

The school is going to "try before we buy" the Tepee. The advantage is it is moveable – it would fit a class, one of the ideas is it would fit in the middle of the grassy circle. It can go on beach. How do you stop kids tripping over rope during playtime – that's part of what we need to try and resolve by trying before we buy.

What is here in the spend for p3 and p4? Whilst there is nothing currently in plan to be paid for by the TPG it does not mean that the P3&4 year groups will miss out. The school may pay for something or we may get a future funding request.

### **Funding allocation:**

TPG bank balance is £29,874 some of the funds are earmarked for specific projects, there are £13,917 of unallocated funds,

Approved spend carried forward from 2019/20 is £4000 (ipads and key boards)

Proposed new spend is 2020/21 is £9,190

Therefore total projected spend for 2020/21 is £13,190

We normally keep a float of around £4000 to allow us to respond to ad hoc requests.

In order to maintain a float of unallocated monies and to pay for the proposed projects we will use £1800 of school uniform sales profits need to release £2200 previously allocated to other projects.

The playspace project has not been active in the last 2 years. It has £8594 of funds allocated. Some of the work in the playspace plan includes the building of

a sale structure in the wildlife garden and loose parts for the wildlife garden totalling £3200. Propose releasing £2200 from these projects.

James lewis suggested a clock on school

**Vote:**

POLL to vote on 8 SPENDING ITEMS and reallocation of funding. All items were approved along with the reallocation of funds.

**Other questions:**

One question about donating warm clothes for children to wear – we have agreed that if an individual is identified then we would support that.

Questions – will swimming go ahead this year? no not this year.

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Fundraising

Corinne Morrison-Gillies

No additional work/stress/pressure on staff/parents/carers

Not asking for money in the next 8 months

Focus on the following form SHANARRI for our Community

Healthy, Nurtured & Included

What that looks like?

Christmas music in playground at Christmas

Recipe book/bake

Jan/Feb virtual quiz

Easter picture egg hunt – local shop windows

Virtual online cheese and wine

Past Easter is TBC

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AOB

We are thanking Noreen Langlands for all she has done for the school before she leaves

Jo thanked everyone