

## Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

**Diluain 12mh Sultain 2022**

**7:30f**

**Coinneamh Zoom**

**Geàrr-Chunntas**

### **Attendance**

Helen MacKinnon (HM) – Chairperson, Glasgow  
Fiona Stephens (FS) – Vice Chair, Edinburgh  
Gill Steele (GS) – Secretary, Aberfeldy  
Marsaili Dow (MD) – Treasurer, Ayrshire  
Isabel Taylor (IT) - Dunoon  
Wilma Laird (WL) – Edinburgh  
Sarah Thomas (ST) - Stirling

Magaidh Wentworth (MW) – Manager, Comann nam Pàrant  
Innes MacQueen (IM) – Development Officer, Comann nam Pàrant  
Kirsteen Murray (KM) – Early Years Manager, Comann nam Pàrant  
Joanne McHale (JM) – Education Manager, Bòrd na Gàidhlig

#### 1. Leisgeulan

*Apologies*

Lewis Laing  
Evelyn Coull MacLeod

#### 2. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 11mh Ògmhios 2022

*Minute of Meeting 11th June 2022*

Proposed – Marsaili Dow  
Seconded – Isabel Taylor

#### 3. Gnothaichean ag Èirigh nach eil air a' Chlàr-chùisean

*Matters Arising not on agenda*

No matters arising

#### 4. *Bile nan Cànan Albannach*

Scottish Languages Bill

MW updated committee that the consultation on the Scotland Languages Bill is now open. Scottish Government are currently holding community meetings in the Western Isles & Skye. Claire Cullen, head of Gaelic & Scots at Scottish Government, is doing several sessions about the Bill. Comann nam Pàrant have arranged a session with Claire Cullen for reps from Comann nam Pàrant on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Claire is also doing a session at the Scottish Learning Festival.

HM iterates to committee how important this opportunity this is and one that we won't get again for a while. HM suggested to aim large on our expectations on what we'd like to see.

Discussion and points to consider:

What's the mechanism to ensure the things in the act come to fruition? What extra powers would we like to see for Bòrd na Gàidhlig? Language Commissioner?

GS, we need to bold with our ambitions. More extreme. Rights for their child to be educated in Gaelic. How do we move the Gaelic agenda forward? More powers required.

IM suggesting conducting a survey to gather point of views from parents. This could be done after the meeting with Claire Cullen on 29/09/22.

5. Fios as ùr bho Comann nam Pàrant (chithear aithisg)  
*Update from Comann nam Pàrant (see report)*

*Report distributed before meeting.*

MW added about involvement with the review of qualification and assessment in senior phase. A potential to get recognition that pupils have been through GM journey. An option for change consultation paper will go out October. If anyone feels strongly about this, contact Magaidh as CnP are feeding into the paper. Following covid there is a push for more on-going assessment and inter disciplinary learning in the senior phase. Review also looking at the introduction of other qualifications possibly related to activities pupils are involved in such as Film G and further developing apprenticeships.

IM gave an updated about the Edinburgh Gaelic Week. Information regarding next year's Gaelic week has been distributed to schools in Highland, Argyll & Western Isles. Once the level of interest has been gauged information will be distributed to other areas. More challenging to fit everything in one week with larger numbers in the Central Belt.

Eilidh thanked CnP officers for their work.

6. Fios as ùr bho Bòrd na Gàidhlig (chithear aithisg)  
*Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig (see report)*

Joanne McHale distributed report beforehand from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Newly Qualified Teacher Numbers may have fallen slightly. Although this is the same picture for English Medium. There has been an increase in those doing their teaching through Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

7. Cuisean aig ìre ionadail  
*Issues at local level*

### **Sandbank Primary, Dunoon – Isabel Taylor**

Currently no fluent Gaelic teachers in the classroom. One of the Gaelic teachers is acting HT. Another part-time post has gone out to advert. The inconsistency of teachers has raised concerns in the area, especially for new families starting out on their GME journey. Positively, there are very good links with Dunoon Grammar School and the Gaelic teacher is assisting in primary, where possible. There is a new Gaelic Youth Club due to start. The transformational Change programme that was proposed for Argyll & Bute has since been dropped by the Local Authority. JM updated committee that there is a new Education Officer at Argyll & Bute with responsibility for Gaelic.

### **Edinburgh City Council – Wilma Laird**

Things have been static in Edinburgh regarding progression of a standalone secondary school. There was a meeting in council in March of this with the Local Authority but since the election, very little progress. The meeting due this week has been cancelled. Papers that came out didn't give any clarity as how they are going to develop Gaelic Education within the city. Significant pressure now on the current secondary. Delays to Darroch campus but hopefully there will be access from October. In March, the council agreed to engage with the parental body, but there has been no contact made.

### **Stirling Council – Sarah Thomas**

Riverside Primary have produced their School Improvement Plan with a separate Gaelic Improvement Plan. Very positive. Full staffing at the primary school is welcomed. Timetabling still an issue at Wallace High School. Another pupil has dropped Gaelic as they have leave their normal timetable to attend the Gaelic class. Wallace High Schools needs continued pressure to improve provision.

### **Aberfeldy – Gill Steele**

Six P1s have started in August. This is very positive and a direct result since establishing the Sgoil-Àraich. One of the primary Gaelic Medium teachers has gone on maternity leave meaning the remaining Gaelic teacher is in the P1-3 class. The P4-7 class has a Gaelic speaking PSA and support from the secondary although English speaking teacher majority of the time.

### **Glasgow City – Helen MacKinnon**

Secondary Headteacher due to retire with affect from October. Nobody appointed after the first round of advertising. Application due to be changed to Gaelic desirable rather than Gaelic essential. MW sent letter to Douglas Hutchison on 11/08/22 regarding the recent parental request through the Education Act for GMPE but has not received a reply.

HM also discussed the East Ren Consultation which is currently open. Schools across the Local Authority are very full and essential they need to factor growth into the decision. A very strong consultation paper and should be used as an example for other Local Authorities.

## 8. Aithisg an Ionmhasair *Treasurer's Report*

Marsaili gave update to the committee.

9. GISBE /AOCB

No others matters arising.

10. Ceann-là airson an ath choinneamh

*Date for the next meeting*

Date for next meeting agreed as 26/11/22 which will be held in-person in Glasgow. This will be a hybrid meeting where there will be an opportunity for people to join online if they wish. IM to distribute information of location of meeting once booking confirmed.

IM