

Coinneamh Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta)

Diluain 10 Màirt 2025

19:00

Air-loidhne

Geàrr-Chunntas na Coinneimh

An Làthair

Helen MacKinnon - Cathraiche

Sarah Thomas

Jon Andrews

Pamela Jardine

Wilma Laird

Alison Craig

Kirsteen Murray – Comann nam Pàrant

Magaidh Wentworth – Comann nam Pàrant

Innes MacQueen – Comann nam Pàrant

1. Leisgeulan Apologies

Fiona Stephens

Dan Mahon

Joanne MacKenzie

2. Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh 23 Samhain 2024 Minute of Meeting 23 November 2024

Proposed – Sarah Thomas

Seconded – Magaidh Wentworth

3. Gnothaichean ag èiridh nach eil air a’ chlàr-gnothaich Matters Arising not on Agenda

No matters arising

4. Fios as ùr bho Chomann nam Pàrant Update from Comann nam Pàrant

Innes updated committee on Seachdain Dhùn Èideann which will take place W/C April 28/04 with a total of 16 schools attending sessions at 5 different attractions throughout the week.

Innes has been working with parents in the delivery of Parental Advisory Scheme. In East Renfrewshire, a parent runs several Bookbug sessions throughout the area as well as in

Renfrewshire and in South Lanarkshire. These sessions, in general, have been received well. P1s enrolled in GME within East Renfrewshire increased in August 2024 and numbers are looking positive for August 2025. Parents are also doing promotional work within Sutherland and Angus. Innes is also supporting a parent in Oban with an aim to start promotional work within the area.

Magaidh & Innes have been supporting parents in Falkirk who were told in February that their transport to GME provision with Stirling and North Lanarkshire will stop in August 2025. The paper, which will go to committee on Thursday 13th March, proposes that the council continue to pay transport for those pupils currently in Primary School but will cease to provide transport for secondary age pupils and for any pupils who may wish to attend GME in a neighbouring local authority in the future. As Falkirk Council currently don't provide GME, and have no plans to do so, this is both detrimental to the current pupils attending GME and for any families that wish to choose GME in the future. We have met with parents twice and have been in communication with Bòrd na Gàidhlig who have had contact with the local authority. Magaidh also met with a local councillor who has been supportive to parents however in general parents have struggled to engage with councillors on this.

Innes gave the parents an overview of the new resources that Lewis Laing, Family Development Officer, is currently working on, 'Gàidhlig a-staigh'. This resource is designed to aid families to use more Gaelic in the home with their children. The book has every-day words and phrases that would be useful to families. This resource will be made available as a hard copy once complete but will also be available electronically with associated sound-files. Eilidh, Pamela and Sarah all offered to look through the resources and give back feedback. Innes will pass on details to Lewis.

Na Tràth-Bhliadhnaichean / Early Years

Kirsteen updated that June Graham, one of the Early Year's Officer in the Western Isles, has now left. The job advert has gone live so hopefully we will recruit someone.

Meanwhile Anne has continued to deliver all sessions within Lewis and Harris with someone assisting. These sessions continue to be well received.

Kirsteen continues to support sessions within Central Scotland. A new session started in South Lanarkshire recently with 9 families attending the first session.

We are pleased that the Early Years has received the same funding as last year.

Kirsteen delivered a Song & Story session training on Saturday 2nd March in Glasgow.

Rosemary Ward from Book Trust Scotland was at the sessions to give an overview of Bookbug training sessions. There were some good suggestions from attendees such as guidance on the books that are within the Bookbug packs. Those attending the sessions were all Gaelic learners so having this guidance and help with the books would make them more confident when delivering sessions. Kirsteen also intends to deliver sessions within Edinburgh & Inverness in the coming months.

There was discussion about possible actions from the report the Wilson MacLeod report

on Early Years. Some actions have been taken forward and we are waiting to hear from the BnaG education team on plans for the sector.

Magaidh updated committee that the consultation on statutory guidance is open until April 21st. The consultation is mainly corrections and alterations with no major changes. The Scottish Languages Bill is at stage 3 and will be discussed by parliament after Easter. There may possibly be amendments but probably no significant changes at this stage. The last proposed amendment that Comann nam Pàrant put through, (submitted to MSP Ross Greer) is that in an area of linguistic significance there should be a right to GME and that that GME could be the mainstream of education without a need to provide EME.

There was further discussion about the situation in Falkirk with Ali raising a concern that this could put off families in other areas if worried that other local authorities could follow what Falkirk are doing. However, the Languages Bill will mean that any local authority that wishes to change their transport provision will have to go through a full consultation so going forward transport will be protected.

Magaidh also updated that an advert for a teacher to establish new GME provision in Lochaline went out, however there was no applicants. The advert has now gone out for a second time.

A Feasibility study is to go ahead on a Gaelic high school within Stornoway.

CnamP Liaison meeting took place at the end of 2024 and was very useful with good discussions. We are hopeful that these meetings will continue. Discussion that as the Scottish Languages Bill will mean that CnamP will become a statutory body it is very important that we continue to be a strong committee.

There was also a discussion about the feasibility study on secondary education that is going to tender on Public contracts week beginning 10th March.

5. Fios as ùr bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig Update from Bòrd na Gàidhlig

- The Statutory Guidance for Gaelic Education is out for consultation with a deadline of **5pm on Monday 21st April 2025**. More information is available [here](#).
- [Gaelic Language Plans Funding](#) is now open with a deadline of **Tuesday 6th May**.
- Assessments for [Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd](#) have been completed and if groups haven't received information on the outcome, they will shortly.
- **Options Appraisal for inter-Local Authority Collaboration in the Delivery of Gaelic-medium secondary Education** – this project will go out to tender on Public Contracts Scotland week beginning 10th March 2025. Comann nam Pàrant Nàiseanta & relevant local CnamP groups are listed as recommended bodies to consult with.

- **Falkirk Council proposals to cut transport** – Bòrd na Gàidhlig have written & met with LA representatives to highlight that if the proposals go ahead, they will breach the commitments within their Gaelic Language Plan.

6. Fios as ùr bho na sgìrean ionadail Update from the local area

Stirling

They haven't appointed a Gaelic learning support assistant since the last one left. There is a Gaelic learner parent helper with Gaelic in the P1 class occasionally. The school are taking children to the Aberfeldy mòd. They are also taking children to Seachdain Dhùn Èideann and Cupa Iomain na h-Oige

Edinburgh

Although the numbers haven't been confirmed for August 2025 intake, they are looking very positive. Croileagan have successfully recruited three new playleaders that will hopefully be in post after Easter holidays meaning they will be able to return to their full offering of sessions.

CnamP attended meeting with council. There doesn't seem to be as such a focus on GME at these meetings and there doesn't seem to be future planning in place for GME. The council have contacted parents who have enrolled in GME for August 2025 to ensure they are aware of what is involved with GME

Oban

CnP an Òbain are holding their AGM later this month. Ali Craig will be standing down as chair but will continue stay on the local committee but would like to have more focus on high school.

Numbers are looking positive for children starting GME in August.

ASN

Pamela apologized for not being at the previous meeting. Back on the subject of Falkirk, Pamela shared how there has been cuts to adult ASN services also. She also discussed importance of funding being ring-fenced for the services.

A new report has been shared, showing that 40% of children in Scotland are now identified as having ASN. Additionally, a new ASN group has started running in Glasgow for Gaelic Medium Education (GME), and Pamela will be making connections with them. Pamela also has been supporting families within her local area who have children with ASN in GME.

There was a discussion about dyslexia diagnosis in GME. Pamela will look into issues surrounding dyslexia diagnosis and the support for children in GME who are dealing with dyslexia.

North Ayrshire

Jon shared that there has not been much progress, referring to a lack of communication from the council. There has been very little feedback regarding the Gaelic language plan, and no progress has been made with secondary provision. By September/October, families will need to start submitting placement requests for Secondary School, with one family already considering a placing request for Kilmarnock. On a positive note, a few people in the area have now been trained locally for the Gaelic bookbug initiative.

Glasgow

Parents will be having a meeting with council at the end of the month with the council. Hopefully will find out number of enrolments for August 2025.

Reopening of Calltainn that was due to open in December 25 now not going to be open until June 2026

East Ayrshire (Provided by Dan before meeting)

'Not a lot to report back on really, other than we've been immensely lucky to meet a local Gaelic speaker/former teacher that seems delighted to help out with Sradagan and would love to build a Mòd standard choir - so watch this space. We're also hoping to start a football team to compete at Cuach na Cloinne but will see how we get on finding a coach first.'

The school has appointed a new head teacher, but Gaelic didn't seem to be a factor in his recruitment. It's early days yet so we'll see how things pan out and hopefully he's positive about the whole thing.

The (CnP) group is struggling a little with active number and participation at the moment but still meeting regularly - I think we're all just a bit tired being the only ones showing any enthusiasm and doing anything, which is no doubt a familiar tale across Scotland.'

7. Aithisg Ionmhasair Treasurer's Report

The closing balance at the year-end, Jan 31 2025, was £2104.17. There were only three transactions throughout the financial year. These accounts will be compiled and submitted to the accountant.

8. GISBE/AOCB

No other matters.

9. Ceann-là airson an ath-choinneamh Date for the next meeting

Next meeting will take place in May and will be the AGM. Innes will share doodlepoll to decide on most appropriate date.