

## **Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) (CnP(N))**

### **Geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh**

#### ***Minute of meeting***

Disathairne 22 Samhain 2014 aig 10m / *Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014 at 10am*

**Coffee & Craic, 74 Elderlsie Street, Glasgow**

### **An làthair**

#### ***Present***

Bob McGowan

Daibhidh Sutherland

Marsaili Dow

Fiona Stephen

Kathleen Macleod

Iona McTaggart

Gill Steele

Magaidh Wentworth

Dùn Èideann agus Lodainn

Meadhan Alba

Ionmhasair

Convenor, CnP Dhùn Èideann

Na-h-Eileanan Iar

Na-h-Eileanan Iar

Obar Pheallaidh

Oifigear Phàrant

### **1. Leisgeulan**

#### ***Apologies***

Dawn Morgan

Mairi MacMillan

Inbhir Nis

Bòrd na Gàidhlig

### **2. Geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh, 20th Sultain 2014**

#### ***Minute of meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014***

The minute of the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September was approved.

Proposed: Fiona Stephen

Seconded: Marsaili Dow

### **3. Gnothaichean ag èirigh nach eil air a' chlàr-chùisean**

#### ***Matters arising not on agenda***

Gaelic Awards; Tha committee thanked Kathleen for her work in submitting nominations on behalf of Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta).

### **4. Prògram obrach làitheil agus cuisean ag èirigh**

#### ***Current Programme of work and issues***

The Parental Advisory Scheme will form part of the research that Bòrd na Gàidhlig is to commission on how parents can best be provided with information on Gaelic medium education. This research will hopefully provide clarification on the direction and remit of the scheme especially in areas that currently have a high uptake in GME where there is no need for promotion.

Comann nam Pàrant continues to receive Early Years funding to support the 0-3 sector. This will continue for 2015-16 although it may be less than in previous years.

Parental Officer has attended meetings in Kilmarnock and Tongue in support of parents.

Gill reported that Perth & Kinross are advertising the post of Gaelic Development Officer for a third time and are also moving Gaelic to the remit of Adult Education.

## **5. Comann nam Pàrant / Comhairle Phàrant**

### *Comann nam Pàrant / Parent Council*

Following on from our last meeting, when the suggestion of linking the two bodies at national level had been mooted, the committee discussed at length the relationship and different remits of the two organisations. Main points of discussion were:

*Relationship of groups at local level; both voices useful; erosion of CnP would be concerning; parents need clarification on roles (Edinburgh CnP have newsletter for parents which they find is a useful means of informing parents on their role)*

*Parent Councils have a national voice through the National Parent Forum, as part of the 'normalisation' of Gaelic it is important to raise the profile of GME at the NPF.*

*Any Parent Council issue that they felt should be brought to the attention of CnP(N) could be fed to representative at local level and raised at national committee.*

*It would be concerning if issues raised at national level were primarily those from the stand alone schools in the cities at the expense of the smaller classes who face particular challenges.*

*Parent Councils have legal status not accorded to Comann nam Pàrant; how could the status of CnP be strengthened?*

Action: MW to arrange for some CnP representatives to meet with Màiri MacMillan, BnaG

## **6. Iarrtas 'Awards for All' airson tachartas nàiseanta**

### *Awards for All application for national event*

Magaidh informed the committee that our Awards for All application was successful and that we can now proceed with this event.

The event will take the format of a one day conference "Gaelic medium education; Learn from the past, look to the future" with two keynote speakers followed by a number of informative seminars and a panel for audience discussion at the end of the day. The event will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May in Inverness.

Content on the day will include the following:

Gaelic medium education; an initiative in response to parental demand (how parental pressure in the mid-nineties led to growth in Gaelic medium provision)  
Parental rights to Gaelic medium education, what will be the effect of new legislation for parents?  
National Guidance on Gaelic education, what will this new guidance mean for parents and children?  
Comann nam Pàrant at local level, partnership working (Local Authority, schools, Parent Councils, early years)  
Taking the curriculum beyond the school; home and community, how to support your child  
Gaelic learning for parents, what are the options?  
Support for Additional Learning needs in Gaelic medium education  
Early learning and childcare

The day will also provide play activities for 3-12 year olds to allow parents to attend. These will be Gaelic medium activities in support of the children's learning in Gaelic medium education.

The committee discussed possible speakers and workshop leaders.

Iona and Magaidh will be meeting with Mairi from Early Years, BnaG in the Western Isles in the first week of December to discuss a funding application Communities and Families fund to support Early Years activities in the Western Isles.

## **6. Cuairt-litir / Newsletter**

The current edition is in production. Members were reminded that contributions are always welcome. There was discussion as to the value of print runs but costs are prohibitive. There may be scope for including some information from the newsletters in an Annual Report which we could print.

## **7. Aithisg Ionmhasair / Treasurer's Report**

Marsaili provided an update on accounts.

## **8. GISBE / AOCB**

Bob circulated a copy of a recent article from TES on aspects of GME and for which he had supplied a comment from CnP(N).

Bob raised a question regarding numbers of pupils currently studying subjects at secondary level. There was discussion amongst the committee on the possible merits of the 'virtual classroom' and whether there could be better deployment of resources.

Gill raised the issue of favourable weighting in examinations for young people who sit exams in Gaelic as pupils in Ireland are granted.

Action: MW to contact SQA with query on 'favourable weighting'

**9. An ath choinneamh / Next meeting**

14<sup>th</sup> March in Glasgow.