

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

**Geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh**

***Minute of meeting***

**Disathairne 5 Màirt 2011 aig 10.30m ann an Oifis Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5**

**Caolshràid Mhicheil, Inbhir Nis IV2 3HQ**

***Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 10.30am in Comunn na Gàidhlig office, 5 Mitchell's lane, Inverness, IV2 3HQ***

**An làthair**

***Present***

**Dawn Morgan (DM)**

**Bob McGowan (BM)**

**Marsaili Dow (MD)**

**Kerry Butler (KB)**

**Magaidh Wentworth (MW)**

**Inbhir Nis**

**Dùn Èideann agus Lodainn**

**Siorrachd Air**

**Sruighlea**

**Oifigear Phàrant**

**1. Leisgeulan**

***Apologies***

**Fiona NicLeòid**

**Fiona Byrne**

**Colin Meek**

**Margaret Ford**

**Lyndsay Bradley**

**Ros an Ear**

**Lochabar**

**Ulapul**

**Ath-tharacail**

**Ath-tharacail**

**2. Geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh, 20 Samhain 2010**

***Minute of meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010***

The minute of the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November was accepted.

Proposed: Marsaili Dow

**Seconded: Kerry Butler**

**3. Gnothaichean ag èirigh nach eil air a' chlàr-chùisean  
*Matters arising not on agenda / Action Points***

**From §3 Matters arising not on agenda  
Highland area meeting still to be arranged  
From §8 Treasurer's Report**

**A letter had been received from CnP in North Uist requesting that the funds held for them by CnP(N) be transferred to their local Feis. This was agreed.**

**4. Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) – Cùmhnant le Bòrd na Gàidhlig  
*Comann nam Pàrant (Nàiseanta) – Contract with Bòrd na Gàidhlig***

**DM and MW had met with representatives from BnaG on 21st December and a copy of the draft contract for 2011/12 received at that meeting was circulated and discussed. Members were happy with the terms of the contract. It was agreed that CnP Gaelic Policy should be on the Agenda for our next meeting.**

**Action: MW to circulate Gaelic Policy to members prior to next meeting.**

**5. Comann nam Pàrant – Structar, coinneamhan agus làrach-lìn  
*Comann nam Pàrant – Structure, meetings and website***

**Structure**

**There was discussion on the role of CnP at local and national level, in particular the relationship with Parent Councils at local level. It was agreed by all present that there was an important role for CnP groups at both local and national level but lack of support from some of the areas was concerning. CnP groups differ from Parent Councils in that they are not tied to one school but represent parents from pre-school through to secondary in an area and as they are not regulated in the same way as Parent Councils so can be a more independent voice for parents.**

**A copy of the CnP(N) constitution was circulated and following discussion the following amendments were proposed:**

**3.7 replace 'Comhairle nan Sgoiltean Araich' with 'Bòrd na Gàidhlig'**

**6.2 change the number of minimum members from 'not less than 10' to 'not less than 8'**

**Action: These changes will be put to the Annual General Meeting in May for approval.**

**Coinneamhan**

**All present felt that CnP(N) could not have any less than the current 4 annual meetings although it is difficult for parents to find the time to commit to travelling away from home for meetings. Prior to our AGM we need to encourage more parents to join the national committee to fill the vacancies that currently exist.**

## **Website**

**As Bòrd na Gàidhlig are currently investing in developing a new website for parents which will have information on GME from pre-school onwards it was decided that we should continue to update ours but not make any major costly changes at present. There was also discussion on how we could produce a newsletter and we will take this to the education team at BnaG for further discussion.**

**Action: MW to discuss newsletter with BnaG**

### **6. Pròiseact Comhairleachaidh Phàrant *Parental Advisory Scheme***

**Since our last meeting a further two advisors have been trained in Inverness and as more parents are interested in attending training a second date for Inverness will be organised. MW has had meetings with parents in Mull, Oban and Dunoon and is planning training for Argyll in co-operation with Donald Macleod from the local authority.**

**Sealladh Media have started to work on producing the DVD on GME.**

**A seminar on bilingualism was held in February with Prof. Antonella Sorace from Bilingualism Matters at Edinburgh University in Stornoway and was well attended. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Bilingualism Matters hoping to set up a Western Isles Branch of Bilingualism Matters which will support the work of the Gaelic medium promotion officer and the Parental Advisory Scheme.**

### **7. Ro-sgoile *Pre-school***

**The Gaelic pre-school sector is to be managed directly by Bòrd na Gàidhlig following termination of funding to the pre-school organisation Taic. BnaG have already advertised a number of development officers posts for pre-school and have organised 3 training days (Stornoway, Inverness and Glasgow) for the groups in March with two keynote speakers from Wales. CnP officer is to attend all three days. BnaG has also offered the groups financial support in this financial year which is to be managed by CnP / CnaG. CnP hope to work closely with BnaG in the pre-school sector which is so important to GME.**

### **8. Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd – luchd-taic sa chlas *Highland Council – classroom assistants***

**CnP groups in Highland have recently been involved in a campaign to retain classroom assistants following a threat by Highland Council to discontinue all posts as part of their budgeting measures. Parents felt that these cuts would have a particularly damaging impact on GME especially since the change to teacher / pupil ratio last year has resulted in bigger classes with teachers even more dependant on classroom assistants to support language learning in the class over and above their other duties. Following a successful campaign by English and Gaelic medium parents the decision was postponed until a review of all posts is undertaken by the council. A cross party group and task group is to conduct the review and report back to the council in June. CnP has written to Hugh Fraser, Director of Education asking that he ensure that the Gaelic medium sector be represented on the Task Group but we have had no response as yet.**

**Action: MW will continue to monitor the situation and inform local groups.**

### **9. Aithisgean Sgìreil Comann nam Pàrant *Comann nam Pàrant Area Reports***

**Verbal reports were given from members present.**

The main item discussed was the current consultation on future primary school provision in Edinburgh. The two options in the consultation document were 1) a dedicated Gaelic school in the old Bonnington Primary or 2) expansion of Tollcross. The recent public meeting had been extremely well attended with virtually no arguments against establishing a dedicated school made.

Action: CnP(N) to respond to consultation indicating our support for Option 1 – a dedicated Gaelic school.

**10. Aithisg Ionmhasair**  
***Treasurer's Report***

**MD gave a verbal financial report and said that the accounts were with our accountant in preparation for the AGM.**

**11. GISBE**  
***AOCB***

**No matters raised.**

**Next meeting:**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May AGM in Glasgow**

**Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> May in Glasgow**