North West Sutherland Schools Parent Council
20.11.19 – 7.00pm Kinlochbervie High School

In attendance – R Flannery, C Mackenzie, K Lee, A Morrison, L Tebay, C-A Forsyth, J MacKay, K Davies, S Beveridge, T Morrison, C Corbett, A MacDonald, S Breckenridge, J-A Munro.

Apologies – D MacKay, I Shaw

Minutes of last meeting – Approved C Corbett, Seconded R Flannery

Matters Arising – No matters arising

Head Teacher's Report – attached. This was circulated to all present.

Matters Arising from Head Teacher's Report – Absence levels in the High School are exceeding acceptable levels. There was a letter sent home to parents recently giving a breakdown of their child's attendance. Parents found the letter confusing. They are welcome to contact the school for clarification and thought will be given to make the presentation of the information clearer. The period around the October holiday is historically problematic, and, while the school understand why this is the case, parents should confine breaks to the holiday period.

Primary School Issues
Durness – There were no Durness parents at the meeting. A Durness specific meeting was held on Monday 18th where various issues were discussed.
Kinlochbervie – no issues brought forward
Scourie – There are still issues with pupils taking out library books unsuitable to their age or reading level. Scourie was last inspected in 2016. The next inspection would not be due until 2022.

High School Issues – Due to the intensive nature of the Nat 5 course pupils feel that there isn't enough time in class to grasp a topic fully before moving on to the next topic. Parents report that this leads to them becoming disillusioned and anxious. The Nat 5 course requires a lot of independent study by pupils. To give them extra help lunchtime support will be added to the currently available study support and homework sessions.
Trophies – Why are they only engraved after they are returned rather than before they are awarded? This is purely a timing issue due to the decision on the recipients being made shortly before prizegiving.

Treasurer's Report – Kinlochbervie and Scourie have £2,141.55 in their account. No-one was available form Durness to provide a balance.

Correspondence – An invitation was received for the Schools Pipe Band Championship in March 2020. It was not felt that there were not enough pipers to participate but the letter would be passed to the piping instructor.
AOB – The group fundraising for a trip to Kenya will take over Cape Wrath Challenge fundraising in 2020. They will be asking for volunteers to help nearer the time.
The primary school trip to Orkney will be in April and High School pupils have a trip to Amsterdam in February.
There is a Craft Fair in the High School on 7.12.19 11am – 2.30pm. 25 stalls are booked for the event. A call has gone out for helpers. It is planned to have teas, baking sandwiches and sausage rolls.

Date for next meeting – Wednesday 4th March 2020 7pm
Venue – Durness Primary School

Meeting closed at 8.05pm