



Chairperson:  
Mr Matthew Cox  
33 Setters Hill Estate  
Baltasound  
Unst  
ZE2 9DU

Clerk:  
Miss H Sinclair  
1 Brakefield Crescent  
Haroldswick  
Unst  
ZE2 9EJ

**Minutes of the Parent Council AGM held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2025, at 6pm, Baltasound Junior High School.**

Mr Duncan Johnson                      Mrs Lauren Spence                      Karen Priest  
Mrs Jane Macaulay                      Mrs Vaila Thomason

Mr Paul Thomson    Miss Hazel Sinclair

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Matthew Cox, Victoria Mouat, Linda Thomson and Lisa Johnson.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Read and approved.

**Elect Office Bearers and Chair**

All parent members were happy to remain on in the group for the next 2 year term. Matthew Cox was nominated as Chair by Duncan Johnson and seconded by Karen Priest, so he will stay on as Chair and Jane Macaulay is happy to remain co-opted member. Hazel Sinclair was nominated as Clerk by Vaila Thomason and seconded by Karen Priest. There are no new members to the group.

Overview of Parent Council Activities:

The Parent Council have been involved in many activities including;  
Working Groups  
YPI  
Farmers Market/Raffle  
Christmas Concert/Raffle

**School Improvement Plan 25/26**

Differentiated Support For All Learners -  
Understanding the needs of all learners in school and what strategy should be in place for support. Tailoring what we do to support students, socially and culturally - with a significant rise in ASN numbers, support to come from Learning Support Workers (formerly classroom assistants). As Paul continues to teach Business Studies, an extra 45 hours of LSW time is allocated to Baltasound, which is used for this.

Environment, Experiences and Interactions – (MYJHS, Cullivoe, Burravoe and Baltasound JHS) - How we interact with our students, making BJHS a better place to learn, promoting a nurturing, inclusive setting.

Develop Play Pedagogy – An online presentation in May by Mrs Fordyce and Mr Spence was very successful, showing Baltasound as having a pioneering approach to play.

If any PC member would like to join any of the Improvement Plan Groups, this is easy to organise, they should let Paul know and meeting dates will be passed on to them.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance at Baltasound last year was an average of 96% - a good figure, but still room for improvement. Attendance rates seemed to take a dip after covid and of course there are various reasons for absence, including bugs which may lead to 48 hours absence.

The policy will set out attendance percentages and at what stage intervention by staff and outside agencies should take place.

The school values, Safe, Ready, Respectful – students need to be set up for life beyond BJHS, whether that is the AHS, College or the workplace.

Regular feedback of students average attendance should be shared with parents because they may not realise how the percentage can creep up.

Paul will share the draft policy and then share with parents via newsletter.

### **Occasional Holiday Dates**

Date set: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

Feb UHA Holiday – could the Jarl Squad visit on the Thursday? Having a coffee morning on the actual Friday even though there is no school was discussed, the school could be flexible. Having it on the Thursday would give more time and there would probably be more people there.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Baltasound Parent Council will be on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2025.

### **AOCB**

None