



Chairperson:

Mr Matthew Cox
33 Setters Hill Estate
Baltasound
Unst
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Clerk:

Miss H Sinclair
1 Brakefield Crescent
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ZE2 9EJ

Minutes of the Parent Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November, 2025, at 6pm, Baltasound Junior High School.

Mr Duncan Johnson Karen Priest
Mr Matthew Cox Mrs Linda Thomson

Mr Paul Thomson Miss Hazel Sinclair

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Victoria Mouat, Lisa Johnson, Vaila Thomason, Jane Macaulay and Lauren Spence.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Read and approved.

Matters Arising from Minutes

Attendance Policy – The whole school attendance rate for Term 1 is approximately 97% which is a good figure but it is brought down slightly because of term time holidays. This is largely due to where we stay - travel time from Shetland and particularly the North Isles unavoidably adds time to planned trips due to the weather.

Occasional Holidays – Monday 25th May. Due to the In-Service day on Friday 13th February, the school will hold our coffee morning on Thursday 12th February instead. The Uyeasound Jarl Squad have agreed to visit on that day.

End of Year Raffle/Concert

The Christmas Concert will be on Tuesday 16th December. Lower Primary will be performing a Nativity and Middle and Upper Primary and Secondary will be performing a version of the Nativity Movie. Students have agreed to fit in practice at break and lunch times which will minimise time taken out of the timetabled school day. There will also be some musical items which will be practiced in music time with Mrs Strachan.

Paul asked members if they would be able to help organise the Raffle on the night.

School Improvement Plan Update

Environment, Experiences and Interactions – School building services – jobs need to be logged before any action taken. The whole setting needs refreshed – plaster in walls filled and painted throughout. 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.

Policy Updates

All policies are on the school website – our school – school policies and frameworks. Members were invited to have a look through these policies and any comments/changes are welcome. Mobile phone policy – At the moment the rule is no phones for primary students and secondary students may use their phones at break and lunchtimes, but not in class unless the teacher asks them to bring them out. Shetland Islands Council are in the process of looking into the mobile phone policy, but no obvious changes have been made.

Medication

All medication forms at Baltasound have been reviewed and re-issued this term. This is on the advice of the Care Inspectorate which states that dates of medication must be clearly marked and also there must be a section which advises the action to be taken in the instance of a student refusing to take medication as directed. All medications must be kept in a container clearly marked with the student's name and photograph – all medications must also be reviewed on a regular basis.

Security

The security system at Baltasound has not been in use for several years. After a local break in and phone calls from worried parents as that situation unfolded, the fact that we do not have a security system fit for purpose was highlighted. At the moment, in any case of emergency the police are at best 4 hours away, which is unacceptable. The SIC are in the process of looking at security across the school estate and have indicated that schools without security and north/remote isles would be prioritised. There are 4 entrances/exits which would need to be looked at with regards to security as a whole rather than a temporary solution put in place for the front door. The Parent Council will draft a letter with their concerns with regards security, and send to SIC.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Baltasound Parent Council will be on Tuesday 20th January, 2026 at 6pm.

AOCB

Play Policy - Baltasound is working towards being the first school in Shetland to receive the Play Pedagogy Award. We welcomed visitors from mainland Shetland today to see how play based learning in EY and Primary is being implemented here, with more visitors expected over the next couple of weeks.