

## **Trustee Report:**

### **Charitable Status**

We remain registered with OSCR since we joined in September 2022.

Our charitable trustees include our office bearers and one non-office bearer. These will be reviewed annually, and as of spring 2026 we now need to officially register these with OSCR and ensure they have PVG due to changes within the charity and with disclosure Scotland, our current trustees do meet these criteria.

OSCR membership continues to allow us to seek funding from additional sources and has had a very positive impact on our overall income. We have continued to receive funding through schemes offered by Parent Council members' and volunteers' employers, which we would not have been eligible for without charitable status.

### **Disclosure Scotland**

In April 2025 changes came in which will have an ongoing impact on PVG requirements. As a volunteer group we can get checks completed for free through Volunteer Scotland. The changes which occurred this year mean that anyone who undertakes regulated work with children would require a PVG or if they have power or influence over children or a child group. There have been many discussions with CONNECT SCOTLAND and East Lothian Council (ELC) to ensure we are clear on the requirements.

Anyone who is regularly helping at an event or making decisions with power or influence will need to be registered. Staff members who help at our events are covered by their employment PVG, so we do not need to cover that.

### **ELAPCM**

In May 2025 after several emails from parent council chairs ELC agreed to restart ELAPCM meetings which can be a great resource for help and support and can raise awareness of what is impacting multiple schools across the county. They have not quite returned to their original format but hopefully this will continue to evolve over the coming year.

### **NBCAP**

Unfortunately, we did not have a parent rep on the North Berwick Community Area Partnership, meaning that we lose a vote on decisions made and potentially miss out on funding opportunities. This would be a very important and helpful role which we would hope to fill again this coming year.

### **Road Safety**

Road Safety continues to be a concern for everyone in our village. We have found it difficult to get someone to represent the parent council on this during this school year. In Spring our Chair took on the role due to real concerns with the approach of transition and our road safety. Meetings are ongoing with Aberlady Community Association and GACC and East Lothian Council about this and it will remain a high priority for our parent council and the primary school this year. We continue to appreciate all efforts from parents and carers in being mindful about where they park and drive around school drop off and collection to help us ensure the safety of our children.

### **Nursery**

Sadly, capacity at Aberlady Primary School nursery remains an issue which there is currently no obvious resolution. We appreciate the vast amount of work which has been put into this concern but unfortunately remain frustrated at the lack of solutions available.

### **School Extension**

There was a very positive meeting in December 2024 suggesting the extension remained a priority however there has been little visible progress during this academic year though I believe a substantial amount of background work has been ongoing. We are hoping for an update during the first term back to school and will continue to ask regularly until it becomes clear what is happening.

### **Parent Forum Queries**

Our meetings provide an opportunity for parents to raise queries through the Parent Council with school staff.

Parent forum queries are very helpful to facilitate communication and clarify decisions as well as highlight what matters to the pupils and parents.

### **Uniform**

We continue to have a stock of preloved uniforms, and we continue to have a small supply on a rail at the front of the school which you are welcome to help yourself to if required. Thank you to all those involved in sorting and labelling and folding the uniform for the clothing swap events and in maintaining the stock at the front door.

### **Fundraising and events**

Fundraising in Aberlady is a busy calendar of parent council, Gala and community council events. Some are fundraisers and others for fun and community spirit. This year's events included:

- We started the year with a lovely mid-week yoga night which was Sass and Soul retreat.
- The ever-popular Autumn Fair was a brilliant community effort and is much loved by all. A well-known format of hampers, raffles, teas and coffees, P7 led activities, children's pre-made crafts to buy and plants and produce.
- There was a decision not to run Fireworks in 2024 due to a lack of suitable location and volunteers within the community to take on this substantial event. Aberlady fireworks was a high-profile event which had huge potential as a fundraiser but also required a substantial amount of pre-emptive planning and is not without risk. Confirmation must happen early in the summer, and this is not always possible. Historically it was a shared community event with Aberlady Gala, Aberlady Parent Council and Aberlady Football Club, all taking a significant role. Planning for this event was difficult due to the lack of viable location as previously used fields could not be acquired, it was therefore cancelled as the proposed alternative location had road safety and access concerns. There has also been no active interest in a 2025 fireworks event either and planning would have to already have started.
- This year we ran a Halloween disco which used to be a PTA staple in Aberlady many years ago and it was lovely to bring it back, intended as a fun event rather than a serious fundraiser the children came and seemed to really enjoy themselves, there was a small profit made on the night as well.

- Christmas term saw us building on the success of previous years with our post nativity meet and greet, followed closely by our lovely Book Swap held just before Christmas which saw the community donate so many beautiful books and every child happily leave with at least two books.
- Following on the success of the Tea towels in Summer 2024 we signed up for Class Fundraising Christmas cards which were both effective and lovely to see our children's designs on cards, teddies and magnets and we plan to repeat this again this year.
- Due to challenges with firework location Gosford very kindly offered use of their estate as a venue for an alternative fundraiser. This was also decided as a shared event and after much discussion a fundraising day occurred including a morning YOGA event, and a Take a Peek event. These were both hugely successful with the Take a Peek event going viral online and being far more popular than any of us could have predicted.
- 90s Night, this clashed with the Gosford event above but still contributed to overall fundraising.
- Sports Day, which is always a positive event and also made a good contribution to funds raised to finish the year.

Easy Fundraising continues to add to our fundraising potential. Thanks to all those who sign up and use it regularly.

We are conscious that other community events got cancelled due to poor ticket sales such as the Burns Night by Gala. It is getting noticeably harder to run successful fundraisers and timing, type of event and cost all need to be considered.

This year our income was boosted by very generous donations from Aberlady Gala, personal donations and contributions from employer charity schemes. In an often-challenging fundraising climate, this extra income was very welcome.

We will continue to have 'fundraising only' meetings (held in the evening in school and attended by the head teacher) and have a dedicated fundraising WhatsApp group.

#### **Overview of finances, donations to school and use of funds**

Our total income in 2024/25 was an amazing £12,309. After deducting direct costs of fundraising events and other direct expenses we were able to support school projects totaling £7,467 with £4,018 carried forward for future years. Total costs and expenses were £850. Closing funds were £16,391 (2024: £12,398).

Our fundraising has allowed us to support the school in various ways. This year we have continued some of our regular donations such as Athletics, contributions to school trips, Christmas Show and our student support fund. We have also helped to fund playground equipment, P2 water tray, house tokens, laminator, whiteboard, noticeboards for the playground and chairs.

We also supported "just for fun" activities that included ice cream van visits, refreshments for families after the P1 and P2 nativity, transition gifts for P1 and P7s and some staff biscuit treats at Christmas.

Each spend of Parent Council funds (whether a donation to school or other spend) during the year was approved by the full Parent Council, either via an email to all members seeking approval, or in a routine meeting.

At the date of the AGM (02/09/2025) our bank balance was £17,864.51. We are happy that this is an appropriate amount considering our reserves policy, and that in accordance with our constitution, donations made to school during the 2024/25 academic year were in line with income received.

### **Summary of 2024/25**

This has been a good year for our Parent Council, both in terms of fundraising, communication and our relationship with the school, the community and other community groups. We are very lucky that we have a fantastically supportive community and school team to support our children and allow them to grow and learn in such a great environment.