Berwickshire High School Parent council

Minutes from meeting: Thursday 28th October 2026

Attendees:

Sally Kitchen, Marianne Hodge, Laura Feeney, Jill Whitcombe, Emma Dickson, Susan Benson, Bethan Thomson, Sandra Dewar

Apologies:

Ray Georgeson, Jude Reid, Kirsty Binnie, Sara Steady, John Greenwood (local councillor)

Minutes from last meeting:

Agreed

Chair Report:

Minted sale very successful, Sally thanked everyone for their help before, during and after the sale. This will be an event that we plan to run again. Everyone agreed that the profit for effort was much greater than previous year's Christmas fair.

Sally attended the SBC PC Chairs Meeting recently and gave feedback from our School Cluster group:

Eyemouth has confirmed planning and preparation for their new Primary school building.

Mobile phone policy was discussed, and a proposal will now move to the consultation process, ED unsure how the BHS will move this forward as she feels the policy in place currently at BHS is working well for pupils, teacher and parents. No information at PC chair meeting of where any funding will come from to implement any agreed phone policy.

PC were asked to ensure any funding requests are made to SBC by November 2026, Sally felt there was no money available and was discouraged from making any request, in the past a small amount has been granted for printing and stationery expenses. MH has the funding request from 2025/26 and will consider applying this year.

Treasurers report:

MH updated the treasurers report to show a further £96.80 donated to the PC funds from Laura Feeney who kindly listed several items from the sale on Vinted and gave the profits to the school. Everyone appreciated Laura's efforts.

S6 UCAS bus was paid @£350

Netball dresses discussed and no request has been made to PC yet form the new dresses. Confirmation needed if this was to come from the generous Netball donation for girls in sports donations. SK/MH to discuss with PE department

200 Club:

Winners: 1st prize no: 48 - Ceri Leather

2nd prize no: 12 - A Dickson

3rd Prize no: 16 – Elizabeth Landon

Rectors Report:

Check point assessments**,** due to finish on Friday 31st October. This will be the 4th year that the BHS has used these assessments tools. They enable teachers and pupils to identify learning gaps and have helped to improve the whole school's attainment. It highlights areas for support and gives evidence for any exam support measures. They are not always popular with the pupils, but Emma feels the results show pupils when there is a need to improve effort and mindset before the exams start.

Roof: following the recent storm Amey staff and the school had to ensure pupil safety inside and around the school while the "flapping" roof was secured. Parents were kept informed and the issue was resolved by Wednesday 28th October.

News Report: Emma discussed the news report around a previous, temporary, teacher. She felt saddened that the picture of the school was used.

Careers Fair:

Over 50 local businesses have stalls at this year's fair. ED will not be able to attend as she has a Schools Assessment meeting in Glasgow. Susan and Laura have volunteered to represent the PC, promote the 200 club and canvass for new PC members.

Fundraising:

Unsold items of clothing from the Minted sale will be donated to the local charitable organisation, Loop in Duns and Salvation Army in Bewick. SK will remove the bags.

Future ideas - Kids age specific Minted sale. School kit amnesty for Hockey, Rugby, Netball teams to reduce spending from parents and recycle 2nd hand sports items.

Quiz night in the school or the Volunteer Hall.

Coffee morning/Plant sale in the Parish Church Hall. LF will confirm date with Church.

Fundraising requests:

RDA request for £1500 to cover the cost of the busses for the next block of lessons. Lesley Rocher explained that this is 13 journeys using Robertsons buses. PC felt this was too large an amount to fully fund and discussed where possible funding requests could be made – LNER, Windfarms and COOP grants. ED/MH will investigate where the pupils attending RDA live and see if any are covered by a Windfarm grant fund. Parents of RDA pupils giving lifts and also pupil sponsorship from local businesses were discussed.

Library fund request, Mr Bain has been given a £21.80 loan from PC to cover costs while his grant fund is processed.

Dyslexia Quality Mark Update:

Dyslexia quality award, ED praised Kathy Hoffman for the huge amount of work she has put into the school's preparation for the inspection by the DQA team. This has been a long process, but the results proved how well Kathy and BHS staff were doing. The full report will be shared by ED but the standout areas included the successes in the Dyslexia Hub sessions, Pastoral support staff, Teacher's lunch training sessions, Parents support groups, Pupils support groups and the iPad supports and especially the Reading for pleasure groups.

Issues raised by parents:

Toilet confusion continues and Emma will again reinforce the processes in place to allow pupils to use the facilities.

Staffing, Long term sickness cover, there will be staff rotation, so pupils affected are supported with their learning.

Hockey kit prices, parents have raised that purchasing the required kit is very expensive. Pupils are not allowed to play if they do not have the right kit. £60 for the kit was quoted. Could the team not share bibs or reduce the items required to help parents with this cost? A sports kit amnesty could also help to have items available to the school. Other school sports teams have cheaper items and shared kit. Other hockey teams and clubs appear to have less strict kit rules.

S1 parents evening successful, Barista team were praised by parents attending.

A.O.B:

Email now available for booking Amey janitors for future PC events.

PC Meetings will now be moved back to Wednesday evening.

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 10th December 6-7pm all welcome, we meet in the school reception area prior to the meeting.

200 club members the draws for November and December will be made at this meeting and winners informed thereafter**.**