

Brannock Parent Council

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

16th June 2025

School Bistro - 7pm - 8:30pm

School representatives present:	Kevin McConnachie (Headteacher) (HT)
Parents present:	Vicki Lavelle (VL) (Chair) Elaine Greenshields (EG) (KW) (Vice Chair) Marina Lyle (ML) Louise Murdoch (LM) Jennifer Bogie (JB) Cheryl McVey (CV) Arlene Rafferty (AR) Carol Simpson (CS) Gordon Murray (GM) Martin Dean (MD) (Secretary)
Guests:	
Apologies:	Gail King (GK) Eileen Donn (ED) Arlene Twaddle (AT) Mick Lavelle (ML)

Diary

19th August	Monday	First Meeting - Introductions and aims for the year
19th September	Thursday	AGM
21st October	Monday	
21st November	Thursday	
16th December	Monday	
16th January	Thursday	
24th February	Monday	
27th March	Thursday	
28th April	Monday	
29th May	Thursday	
16th June	Monday	Close for Summer



Minutes

Date	Act	Documents made available
16/06/25		The following documents were made available, • Agenda, • Minutes from the previous meeting, • Head Teachers Report (16th June 2025) • Anonymous meeting feedback form for attendees

Date	Act	Welcome and Introduction
16/06/25		The Chair (VL) welcomed all attendees.

Date	Act	Chair Update- PVG (disclosures)
16/06/25		The chair, VL, attended the PCG meeting where it was discussed that there was not a default requirement for Parent Councils to apply for individual PVG/disclosure Scotland as we are not running events where parents or teachers are not already present. It was also clarified that we would not fall under the 'influence' criteria. A vote was taken by the Parent Council (present) to confirm that as a group we do not require PVGs.

Date	Act	Chair Update- Connect Membership
16/06/25	MD	It was confirmed that Connect membership was useful and would continue. MD took an action to complete the subscription which was completed. [Subsequent to this North Lanarkshire has stepped in and confirmed that they will be providing the membership for all NL schools under an umbrella contract].

Date	Act	Chair Update- ASN meeting
16/06/25		VL discussed the ASN meeting that had taken place. The minutes are attached to the previous month's minutes.

Date	Act	Chair Update- Thank you!
16/06/25		The chair thanked everyone for their input this year, "after a rather eventful start to the year, I feel we've made a positive impact this year on a number of school matters".

Date	Act	Chair Update - Quiz Night
16/06/25	HT	The chair has found a Quiz master willing to run a Brannock Quiz night. There followed a discussion on the best time to do this next session. GM gave insight into the best days to run things like these (based on experience at Holytown) - Thursdays. The HT offered to suggest some possible dates that fit with the school calendar.



Date	Act	Chair Update – Canteen Update
16/06/25		The chair, VL, attended a meeting with James McParland and Pupil council regarding the School Meals/ Canteen/Breakfast Club. The meeting was positive with James advising the pupil council on his next steps. He will come back to them with some answers related to questions the pupils have raised.
	JM	James advised that a breakfast club could be run by staff and that official food hygiene certificates would not be required for basic tasks, such as making toast. It was suggested that we could ask Warburtons for bread donations.
		There were queries from the Parent Council on several points;
	HT	* Providing paper cups or reusable plastic/dishwasher cups for the water fountains.
	HT	* Recycle bins
	HT	* The status of meal deals vs separate items and pricing which was thought to be variable and not well understood.
		* Cost of school meals vs other local authorities was queried. [it was thought that NL are not subsidising the costs and therefore NL is much higher than other regions]
	NLC	* MD raised a concern about the cost of meals not being subsidised since the canteen is staffed by NL employees and MD queried what was covered in the 'costs' and whether the children and parents are covering the costs of employing council staff as part of meal costs? Is this staffing cost higher than the private sector and if so – is that fair? Maybe NL should be covering the cost of their staff, not the pupils, if that was the case.
	!!	* £3.65 was seen as exceptionally expensive vs other regions which were sometimes as low as £1.25 (East Ayrshire [Meal deal £1.25 / main meal-(deli option/pizza/burger/pasta/noodle/rice pot + 250ml carton of water/a piece of fresh fruit / soup or a yoghurt or a healthy biscuit or an additional piece of fruit]
	HT	* The lunch cards and cash handling was brought up again – it appears that there is little appetite to resolve what is seen as slower canteen Q's due to some pupils requiring cash handling at the till vs online or via machines (which don't handle paper money?)
		* It was suggested that pre-order via the app was better, however with the preorder it was not clear how the Q's work or whether off-menu items were available.
	HT	* MD raised a concern that after several years of 'canteen queries' being raised that there persists a level of misunderstanding amongst pupils and parents. MD asked why this is not better or fully understood by everyone, and why there was not an easily available school glow page covering all aspects 'food'. – there was no real answers to this as the current time.
		* Request to confirm the menu (printed form and for this to be made available to all parents)
	NLC	* MD raised concern about the practice of 'Selling Water' to pupils. He thought this practice, in Scotland, was ill advised and conditions children to consider that they must pay for water – it is a national resource in Scotland and should not be sold to people when some of the best water is free from the tap! It is also a monumental waste of single use plastic bottles.
	HT	* MD asked the HT whether there was scope for applying pressure to NLC via the school to improve the processes and procedures and costs of canteen facilities.

Date	Act	Chair Update – Blue Tokens
16/06/25		We have received confirmation that we will be part of the blue token scheme from 1st July until the end of September in the Bellshill, Bell quadrant and Motherwell Craigneuk express. Money raised will be supporting the creation of the Forest school area.
		This may be £500 – £1500.
		The PC were grateful for all the effort that has been taken to complete the paperwork for this application. It is not insignificant and very much appreciated.



Date	Act	Chair Update – Forest
16/06/25		The chair would like to raise awareness of onsite forest resources – There followed a discussion about selecting a date for an official forest school opening (inviting along local press, councillors and officers to promote a positive story for Brannock). It was suggested that the 20th August might work for this.

Date	Act	Secretary Update – School Environs
16/06/25		MD updated the PC on recent discussion with NLC (from James McFarland). This confirmed that the school is liable for all general maintenance activities around the school. The grass will be cut by the council as well as any structural shrubbery. Structural damage such as cracked walls, pavements and are the responsibility of the school – to raise tickets for resolution. This is all. MD indicated that there was persistent areas of concern around some parts of the school and it would be good if tickets could be logged with the council for these areas;
	HT	* Some persistent areas of litter around shrubberies, especially at the front of the school.
	HT/ NLC	* Some structural shrubbery near the entrance that has grown up in the last two years that requires cutting back. The HT is aware of this but now that the council has confirmed that they will manage this if tickets are raised we look forward to this being resolved.
	HT/ NLC	* Cracking and damage to brickwork and planters / crumbling brickwork / rather less than perfect repair work which is not in keeping with the originals making it look very haphazard and unfinished. Wrong brick types used for capping, leaving sharp and unsightly holes in brickwork. * Painting of fences in some areas appears overdue – some work has been done already after a LOT of asking. * MD raised a snagging list of many of these points and forwarded it to the council and HT. It is understood that raising tickets for this is the schools responsibility. NLC have confirmed that, so far, they are not aware of any outstanding tickets.

Date	Act	HT Update – Accident outside the school / Vehicles
16/06/25		The HT raised a point about a serious traffic accident outside the school. The school SLY has had a meeting about this with NLC – the options that are seen possible are increasing the amount of fencing. MD – asked whether the school could lobby for additional traffic calming measures which are in place around many other NL schools, and appear to be be part of an NLC planning change at the current time, including additional speed restrictions. The HT thought that the fencing was the chosen option to reduce another incident.

Date	Act	HT Update – Attendance / Exclusion / Comparisons with the VC school / Staffing
16/06/25		The HT presented information on attendance/ Exclusion and comparisons against the Virtual Comparator School. These may be attached to these minutes if available.

Date	Act	S6 Prom
16/06/25		A big thank you to everyone involved in supporting and assisting the S6 prom. There are many staff involved who give a lot of time to this. It is important that they understand how much this is appreciated by parents, and pupils.

<Meeting Ended 20:20>



Brannock High School Parent Council Meeting

Head Teacher Report

Monday 16 June 2025

1. School Improvement Plan Update

- Average Whole School Attendance Target – 89.5%

Stage	Ave Att rate(%)
S1	88.6
S2	88.4
S3	84.0
S4	87.9
S5	90.2
Grand Total	87.7

% Att Rate	No. Pupils	%
95+	182	36.5%
90-94	118	23.6%
85-89	80	16.0%
80-84	42	8.4%
75-79	22	4.4%
70-74	14	2.8%
60-69	14	2.8%
50-59	10	2.0%
0-49	17	3.4%

- Overall attendance is 1.8 % below school target (April 1.6%)
- S5 & S6 attendance is at or above school target
- S1- S4 Attendance is below target, S3 significantly

Exclusion Target – 30 Half Day Openings for the session Current - 26 Half Day Openings

- Improve Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Outcome Measures -

By February 2026, leavers (2025) to be achieving 5 or more qualifications at Level 4 in line with our Virtual Comparator - Achieved

By February 2026, Leavers (2025) will achieve Level 5 Literacy in line with our Virtual Comparator - Achieved

By May 2025, 85% of S3 pupils will achieve Level 4 literacy in at least one area (currently 57%) - Achieved

Draft Improvement Plan Priorities for Session 2025-2026

1. Improve Learning, Teaching and Assessment – Focus on Moderation in the BGE (S1-S3) through the work of the small school collaborative and the Departmental feedback issued through our Leadership of Learning Visits.

Outcome Measures - By February 2026, leavers (2025) attaining 5 or more qualifications at Level 6 will be in line with our Virtual Comparator.

By February 2026, leavers (2025) in Quintile 1 will be above the Complimentary Tariff Points of the Virtual Comparator.

Further Attainment Targets will be identified following the Insight Update in September 2025

2. Improve Attendance

Targeted groups in S3, S4 and Quintile 1

Whole School Target 89.5%

3. Improve Pupil Wellbeing

Increase scores in Wellbeing Survey on specific questions - 'I like this school', 'I feel safe' and 'I belong to this school'

Poverty Proofing Policy

Mobile Phone Policy Consultation

Communication Strategy

Parental Engagement Strategy

2. Staffing Update – 2025/2026

Projected Roll for session 2025/2026 = 612 (530 Mainstream and 82 LCSC)

0.6 Spanish Post – 2 Candidates have now been offered, accepted and withdrawn. HR contacted to see if we can move to 3rd place

1.0 English Post – Katie Kennedy Appointed – Aug 25 Start

Recruitment

1.0 Technical Post – Advert Closes 11 June 25 – Re-deployment will be taking the position

1.0 History and Modern Studies Post – Interviews take place on Wednesday 18 June 2025

1.0 Clerical Post – Approved and waiting on Advert being published

1.0 Learning Assistant – No Applicants

L Crosbie – CLD – Redeployed to Motherwell Youth Work Services

3. Accommodation Update

Modular Units have not been signed off, we are awaiting NLC concluding sign off with contractor.

4. School Events and Achievements

School Sports Day

New S5/S6 Return

Staff vs Pupil Charity Football Match

County Sports

Brannock High School Presentation at Vision Schools Event - UoWS

Pupil and Parent Council Meeting with Chief Officer James McParland

Staff Golf Outing

School Prom

Languages Leadership of Learning Visit

Alton Towers