



<https://alfordacademy.edublogs.org/parent-council>

<http://alfordaca.pc@outlook.com>

## **MINUTES OF THE ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL AGM**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (7.00 – 9.00 pm)  
Virtual - via Teams link

### **Attendees**

- Office Bearers: Ingrid Huldal (Chair), Joe Purkis (Depute-chair), Dawn Brown (Treasurer), Coralie Robertson (Secretary)
- Parent Council Members: Monica Iloya, Karen Leven, Sharon Witherspoon, Tanya Viliene, Frank Sewell.
- Parent Forum: Linda Purkis, Amy Wilson, Ali Lyon, Susie Young, Ian Forbes.
- School Staff: Mrs Angela Wotherspoon - Head Teacher  
Dr Matt Skellern - Depute Head Teacher (Learning and Teaching)  
Mr Stuart Cookson - Depute Head Teacher (Curriculum)
- Councillors: Cllr Jeff Goodhall, Cllr Anouk Kloppert, Cllr Gwyneth Petire, Cllr Iris Walker

### **1. Welcome & apologies**

Apologies:

Parent Council members: Charlotte Millburn, Sarah Lewis  
Additionally: Mr Graham Scott - Depute Head Teacher (Pupil Support), Cllr Sarah Brown, Cllr Blackett, Cllr Ron McKail.

### **2. Chairperson's Annual Report**

This year has been an incredibly busy year for the academy and parent council so there's lots to reflect upon. We celebrate two years of Angela as Head at Alford Academy, thank you so much Angela for the open communication and support you provide throughout the year.

To the Senior Leadership Team, thank you for all your amazing support and for showing up to every Parent Council. We love hearing your updates, it's very special and I know the level of commitment you give to supporting the Parent Council does not happen elsewhere. We are very glad you can attend and be involved in our meetings.

Last school year was the year the school inspection finally took place, after being cancelled the week before covid lock down. This was a huge undertaking with an extraordinary amount of school inspection staff on site auditing every aspect of the school. School inspection – 21st November 22

Parents and carers got the chance to volunteer to meet with the school audit team and provide the voice of parents, this took place over a number of group sessions and they then used this feedback in their evaluation. The Parent Council was involved in a number of sessions before, during and after the school inspection and we have been working together with Angela and the Senior Leadership Team on a few particular areas of the School Improvement Plan. You'll hear more about these areas in our future sub-groups as we progress the School Improvement Plan.

One particular area that I'd like to highlight is the good results the school received on leadership and I'd like to commend the school again on the quality of communication to parents.

We held an EGM to recap on the school inspection and review how the suggestions for improvement will be included in the School Improvement Plan. That's the picture you can see there on the right – we had a number of councillors there to provide support us and I'd like to thank the involvement of those counsellors who show up to support us. Report Published in March 2023 – EGM held on 15th May to review outcome and actions to be taken as part of School Improvement Plan.

Highlights of the past year included the second year of in person awards ceremonies – this year MC'd by Dawn Brown and Simon Crouch, who is one of our Chaplaincy team. I loved hosting the first year! This is a Parent Council sponsored event and the largest event we support through the year.

Just after the study leave break, we held the Senior Pupil Leadership interviews, and again blown away by the high standard and quality of the pupils. We had about 13 senior students apply and each and everyone was amazing. It was so difficult to choose the top four...it seems to get harder each year and this is a reflection of just how well the school is doing in developing our kids....they are the leaders of tomorrow and I'm very proud to see this get better each year.

I'd like to thank all the members of the Parent Council and also the volunteers on the various sub-groups. With a particular big thanks and a little gift for my amazing Office Bearers. Coralie, Dawn and Joe....thank you!!

We are all volunteers and most of us have full-time demanding careers, so I'd just like to point out the commitment we all give to supporting the school. We have a few ideas for improving engagement as we go through the year so I really hope we can count on your support to attend and contribute to the parenting workshops and other events this year.

- Sponsorship
  - Senior and Junior Basketball Team Kit
  - Girls Football team kits
  - award ceremony
  
- Fundraising
  - Coop funding – raised total of £4027.32
  
- SCIO status – research and agreement to move forward. Office bearers have had a number of discussions to research and debate this move and we feel comfortable that this is the best way forward so we can access funds only available to a SCIO and not rely on fundraising from our families.

- Code of conduct rolled out
- Raise visibility at school through parent evenings & open days
- Parent Survey to kick year off – get everyone’s views on what they want to see and where we should focus.
- **Sub-groups:**
  - ASN – limited success, feedback was that this is such a large topic and one which parents felt very strongly about. 44% of our pupils at Alford Academy fall into the ASN group where the school has to provide additional help to ensure each gets the support that’s needed. That’s a mammoth task – focus will shift to not only ASN but to raising awareness of this and supporting workshops for parents on more focused topics and bring in specialists to talk about different topics such as ADHD, behavioural issues, communicating with teenagers etc. Quite often just having a friendly ear to talk about the difficulties we face parenting teenager kids is the help we need.
  - Fundraising Sub-group. Parent survey – already have 58 responses – event winner so far is a Spring Fayre – urge anyone with event planning experience from primary school or interested in helping with this event then please volunteer for the fundraising committee as we sure could use your help.
  - Horizons Sub-group - actively trying to improve our career education to inspire young people about their future careers. This sub-group is focused on engaging with parents & carers & wider community to share experiences, pathways and skills to inspire our young people – we have had a few parents provide details on skills on the survey, so we’ll use that to re-engage with parents and get them in to support.
  - Parent Council & Pupil Council Partnership – Frank & Coralie meet with the Student Council and listen to what they want. We have asked them to come along to one of our meetings in the future and also we’d love to hear from the senior leadership too.
  - Communications – Charlotte has done a great job of updating the website and we will continue to try to improve how we communicate with you. As always, any idea please email the pc email address.

That’s it folks, very exciting year ahead as we go for SCIO status and work on all these new initiatives....

### **3. Treasurer’s Annual Report**

Fundraising was quiet this year as the Parent Council didn’t want to ask families for contributions whilst coming out of Covid and the cost-of-living crisis. Easyfundraising has been successful, raising over £300 when supporters ‘click’ when they shop. The Co-op fundraising is ring fenced for the Outdoor Space project. The Parent Council supported school sports kits, the school library and the awards ceremony. The annual accounts are shared in draft at the meeting and no comments were raised. The accounts will now be audited by Penny Fuller and presented at the next Parent Council meeting.

ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL  
 MAIN ACCOUNT  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
 1st September 2022 – 31st August 2023

Balance Brought forward 01/09/2022			<u>5256.53</u>
Add Income			
	Easy fundraising	376.26	
	Co-op Funding (ringfenced)	3509.25	
			Total income <u>3885.51</u>
Less Expenditure			
	Basketball kit	443.24	
	Library books donation	219.32	
			Total expenditure <u>662.56</u>
Balance Carried forward as of 31/08/2023			<u>8479.48</u>
Expenses outstanding to still be presented			
	Schools award ceremony	1800.00	
	Girls football kit	417.00	
			Total to be presented 2217.00
			Balance remaining <u>6262.48</u>

#### 4. Election of Parent Council members and Office Bearers

The Parent Council members seek to be made up of a broad spread of parents across the school years and can have 15 members from the parent forum so are looking for one more volunteer.

Elected Parent Council Members 2023/2024 (Quorum 6):

Nicola	(S1)
Tanya Viliene	(S2)
Ingrid Huldal	(S2)
Dawn Brown	(S3)
Charlotte Milburn	(S3)
Sarah Lewis	(S5,S3)
Sharon Witherspoon	(S4)
Coralie Robertson	(S4)
Donna Gray	(S4,S3)
Linda Purkis	(S5,S3)
Monica Iloya	(S5)
Amy Wilson	(S5, S1)
Joe Purkis (Depute Chair)	(S5,S3)
Frank Sewell	(S6,S5,S3)

## Elected Office Bearers 2023/2024:

	Office Bearer	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Dawn Brown	Lindas Purkis	Monica Iloya
Depute Chair	Joe Purkis	Coralie Robertson	Dawn Brown
Secretary	Coralie Robertson	Dawn Brown	Joe Purkis
Treasurer	Ingrid Huldal	Sharon Witherspoon	Frank Sewell

### 5. Annual General Meeting closes

The Parent Council would like to thank Ingrid for all her hard work and support as Chair for the last three years during an exceptionally busy time with the arrive of the new Head Teacher, the pandemic, the school inspection and moving towards SCIO status.

#### Date of next meeting

Tuesday 19th September 2023 – first PC meeting

#### Parent Council meeting dates (2023/2024)

Tuesday 19th September 2023 (AGM & first PC meeting)

Wednesday 22nd November 2023

Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Wednesday 13th March 2024

Tuesday 14th May 2024

Wednesday 19th June 2024 (P7 parents welcome evening)