North Highland O.W.L. Meeting

Tuesday 26th March

Milton Primary School

Present – Shirley Anne Stevenson. Julie Brewer, Julie Gordon, Abby Forrest, Catrina MacRae, Fiona MacRae, Kerry Dolan and Catherine Elbourne.

Apologies – Simon Harry, Jodi MacKay, Catherine Allison and Sue Coggins.

1. Julie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed as a true record; they were proposed by Julie Brewer and seconded by Kerry Dolan.

3. Matters Arising

A)

* Shirley Anne reported that (eventually) she was able to get a bank account for the group set up with the Bank of Scotland in the Dingwall branch. Due to bank protocol Shirley has used her school address at Ferintosh and her .gov e-mail as our contact details. Thanks you Shirley.
* As a result of the above the Forest Enterprise Initiative money has now been banked and Julie has been able to process the grant applications for:

£500.00 Start Up

£500.00 Launch Event

£500.00 Kit Grant

£1,000.00 Administration Grant

Unfortunately, due to the time it took to set up the bank account, we were timed out on the Centenary Celebration Grant. Bonnie will see if we are able to still access this under ‘extenuating circumstances’!

B) Julie Brewer has set up our North Highland O.W.L. group on the Scottish O.W.L. website. Julie will write up a short introduction to our group and post this on their site. Thank you Julie.

C) It was decided to abandon the idea of creating a Survey Monkey survey to establish C.P.D. training events as we had agreed on providing training which would cover 5 areas of the curriculum at the previous meeting.

These have been agreed as follows:

* Literacy – Creeping Toad; who is available for one day rather than the two days we had hoped for, due to popular demand. We have yet to decide which schools to invite, how many and how many children from those schools to be able to make the most of the day. It was then agreed that we could offer a late afternoon/early evening session for C.P.D. for the adults. Julie Brewer will ask how many children Gordon can take per session and also find out if transport may be an issue with schools. We could look into funding/part funding transportation costs to enable accessibility.
* Numeracy – We have still to get in touch with the lady (previously mentioned) from the R.S.P.B. in Moray who had delivered an impressive session for C.A.L.A. Julie Brewer will see to this.
* Health and Wellbeing – Outdoor Cooking and Food Hygiene Course to be arranged. Julie Gordon has just taken part in this course and said it was very good and well delivered. The course cost to individuals had been £85.00, Julie brewer will find out from Simon if this has been part funded or not.
* Science – We were going to approach Frederique Lacraz from Alness academy to deliver an Outdoor Rockets Session.
* Art – Kerry has agreed to take a Willow Work session (looking at 2D and 3D art) and will get in touch with Kay Smith from Alness Academy to see if she would like to contribute her expertise in this area.

4. We will decide on our launch date and formulate a launch day programme later in the year when we have established all the initial setting up of our group.

5. There are O.W.L. meetings in Perth on May 6th and 7th entitled The Future of O.W.L. The 6th will focus on news from all the groups and the 7th  for the Chairpersons of the groups to attend. We hope to be represented.

6. A.O.B.

A) Julie will set up a Face Book page for our group. Catrina suggested that we also have a closed Face Book page to enable us to communicate easily with each other in between meetings. All thought this was a very good idea.

B) Simon suggested that we look at providing Woodland Activity Leaders Training and Coastal Activity Leaders Training for the group. The suggestion was well received.

C) Shirley Anne pointed out that while as part of meetings it was great to have a skill sharing session at the end but a few folk in the last meeting had gotten decidedly jittery at the thought that they may be called upon to deliver one of these sessions. We would like to make it very clear that there is ABSOLUTELY NO EXPECTATION THAT ANYONE IS EXPECTED TO DO THIS unless they offer. We were appreciative of this being pointed out early on – thank you.

7. Date of the next meeting – we will meet again at Ankerville Nursery in Alness on Wednesday 24th April at 4pm. Kerry will do Fairy Fires and Kelly Kettle

We looking forward to meeting up again!

**Directions to Alness Ankerville Nursery**.  
Coming from the south or north turn off the A9 at the Alness Industrial estate turning (also signed Recycling Centre) Follow this road past the Teannich Hotel and turn right into the Industrial Estate. Drive past the recycling centre until you reach a right hand bend, turn left on this bend and Alness Ankerville Nursery is situated on the street named River Lane and can be found on your left hand side.