

Marykirk Parent & Carers' Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 2nd February 2016

Present: Fiona Thomson (Head Teacher), Bev MacKinnon, Karen Wolstencroft, Willie Brown, Kim Tait, Sara Adair, Karen Strather, Chantal Hay (Chair)

1. Review of Previous Minutes (27th October 2015)– agreed

2. Welcome to new MPCC members

Notes of interest were received from 4 new members.

3. MPCC Logo

Heather sent logo out but not received by Chantal. Gaynor to be asked to resend so that it is available if needed for the future.

4. Treasurer Update

Current balance £2472 in bank. Close to £1,000 raised by coffee morning + Christmas Puddings. We are still to pay for hall hire.

5. Smart Board Costings and Funding

No progress as yet with regard to a decision on purchase of a smart board. It can be located in the GP room only and an interactive TV would be required. Fiona contacted Hazel Hall, Aberdeenshire Council, but as yet she has not responded. The Council is currently undertaking a roll out of IT programme which is a tender stage. Locally, the flooding and other work in area have impacted on reception of phones and internet. IT systems now quite old and have not being updated for some time. The notebooks and PCs are between 4 and 8 years old. Some of the IT is not worth replacing. However, Laurencekirk cluster are not due to get IT review until next year. The budget allocated to each location is based on number of children at each school (anticipated about £1500 in total). However, the school will be losing much more in computers than anticipated due to the age of the machines. Children also have their own Enterprise money raised. Children will agree what they would like the money to go towards. Fiona suggests that technology is a priority to look at. Ipad and notebook to be looked at for the benefits of both - £40 per licence needed for each new notebook.

Summary of current situation:

- a. Waiting on Hazel Hall, Aberdeenshire Council to respond to query on costings
- b. Once known it may be beneficial to fund notebooks.

- c. MPCC noted that it did not seem long since last purchased by MPCC along with charging table. However, accepted that IT needs upgrading regularly due to new technology.
- d. Fiona will undertake a review of all computers to see which are worth keeping.
- e. A decision will then be made as to the best options when more information available.

6. Charitable Status for MPCC

Karen S has written to OSCAR for advice of what we do to become a charity. It is agreed that it is a worthwhile process to allow the MPCC access to grants. There is some criteria to be met however other equivalent groups have been successful in being registered as a Charity. Chantal and Karen will look at the form and take this forward.

7. Curriculum Priorities for the Term

Fiona gave an update on current priorities.

- Continuing to embed numeracy to enable application of skills in real life settings.
- Outdoor learning options are being reviewed next week when 30 teachers from cluster coming to join in. Carol Anderson is leading on the outdoor learning which is not weather reliant. Children should ensure that they have adequate outdoor clothing.
- Spanish and French now being rolled out by staff- general vocabulary around counting, weather, simple classroom routines. Madame Quinn still coming in.
- New teacher now in the P5-7 class.
- A trip is being planned for the P3-P5 to the Gruffalo Child which is being presented in Doric. The show is free but the bus will cost £110 return. It was agreed that the MPCC will cover cost of bus.

8. Fund Raising

Snail Race - It was agreed that the Snail Race is a good fundraiser Kim has confirmed with Bruce that he would be willing to assist with the planning (sponsorship etc) It was agreed that would be good to organise this after the summer at the start of the term.

Fashion Show – to be kept on the agenda?

Bingo Night - to be organised for Friday 29th April, 7.00 pm. All help will be welcomed for the organisation and on the night.

Letters of Thanks – companies who donated to coffee morning. Fiona agreed that the school will arrange for a thank you letter to be issued by the children.

9. Breakfast Club

Some parents have asked expressed an interest in a Breakfast Club being re-started. The cost for running any such facility would need to include for a minimum of 2 members of staff being present. Previously cereal was donated by Co-op which had to be picked up by a volunteer. Demand will be assessed from all parents. . KW will contact the co-op, Greggs and Lidl to see if they would be interested in giving support should the club get up and running.

13. AOB

- Sara mentioned that through the space project with Tim Peak, an experiment was running on growing seeds – a scientific experiment on impact on space on seeds. The school is also registered with sow2seed and the children will be participating. What's for Tea? also want to do more work with the children. There are therefore a number of options for the children to become involved.

- Green Power Goblin Car – project for equipment to build a car that is eco-friendly by using whatever materials they wish. The children have been accepted into this competition

- Generation science – A competition is planned against other schools with a K'next challenge to build the highest towers.

- Traffic in Marykirk – Concern was raised about the speed and level of traffic passing through the village and the difficulty in crossing the main road at certain times of the day. With the potential of additional new houses this will increase the level of traffic through Marykirk. Sometimes can take 10 minutes to cross the road. There is no safe area for children crossing the road. Whilst there is a flashing sign, this is not effective in slowing down traffic. The number of people crossing the road every morning including high school children. Fiona has also contacted the council in regard to this issue. They have been working with the children on road safety including stopping distances, travel plan, junior road safety group. When reviewing the Walking routes, there was no specific area where it was safe to cross. There is a lot of work being done in school but the road is just not safe. The issue is the way in which the drivers speed through the village and not the knowledge of the children. We are aware that the Community Council has raised this and will take up with the Roads Department. We have been advised that there will not be any action taken to reduce the speed limit – however, people are not keeping to the speed limit. The question was asked should we involve the

press – or perhaps have a petition. Bev advised that she would raise this again with the with traffic police. Fiona will also contact Hazel Hall, Aberdeenshire Council. A traffic survey by children can be undertaken as part of their maths. It was suggested that we flyer the village – as this is a village issue and not just the school. Review minutes to see what has been agreed previously. It was suggested that we also invite local councillors to the next meeting (KW to contact)

- Mile Initiative. This was not started because of the weather and the ground being so soggy. Parents were surveyed and it was agreed that the easiest way was for children doing the mile in their uniform. Fiona has made enquiries in getting a running track created around the football field. If we get a running track this would really help. Fiona is still following this up.

- Education City – this is a very good site for learning times tables etc. and encourages children to practice.

- School role us currently at 34 with the possibility of two further pupils joining after Easter.

- Active learning – books to be added.

- Show and Tell – not formally timetabled but where pupils have something that they are excited about and want to share this will be done. Also Celebration assembly first Friday of each month – remember to bring anything to show.

Date of next meeting - 8th March 2016 7.00 pm