

MPCC– Wednesday 9th January 2019 @ 18.30

Minutes of Meeting

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Present: Heather Herd (Chair), Fiona Thomson (head teacher), Morag Williamson (Treasurer), Kim Tait, Lesley McNamee, Katrina Suer, Karen Stather, Willie Brown (Secretary)

Chaired by: Heather Herd

1. **Apologies**

Leanne Hill

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes were proposed for approval by Fiona & seconded by Lesley.

3. **Matters Arising**

3.1 Handover: Email issue still unresolved. Karen is due to meet up with Morag later this week to carry out handover of materials for accounts plus add Morag's name to signee list for MPCC bank account. Katrina suggested use of online cloud storage as a secure but readily accessible means of holding MPCC information. This would make handovers much easier as well as well as aiding general administration tasks. For the same reasons, registering a domain name specifically for the MPCC along with dedicated email addresses would bring benefits. Setting these up with European providers who provide GDPR compliant services will be necessary to avoid complications due to GDPR.

3.2 MPCC Charitable application: Katrina has agreed to be the fourth trustee.

3.3 Hall matters:

Storage space: school already using some of the space in the annexe. MPCC would benefit from also being able to keep decorations etc here. Make enquiry at next Hall committee meeting. **ACTION WB**

Crockery. At previous hall committee meeting in December, the MPCC had asked about the crockery within the hall kitchen only to be told it is in regular use so needs to stay there. Fiona mentioned they had found crockery in boxes in the attic which appears to have been there for some time without being used. Is this available for long term loan by school? Ask at next hall meeting. **ACTION WB**

Vandalism & school-age children: seems to be recurrent but need to stress that it would be unfair to blame Marykirk Primary pupils as being responsible in the absence of any positive identification especially given that not all school-age children in Marykirk attend the local school.

Scaffolding: this is necessary for accessing the lighting in the hall but after querying how long it was to remain up at the Hall Committee meeting in December, it was taken down.

4. **School Improvement plan**

Fiona provided an overview covering various topics.

Behaviour & discipline: the staff are currently putting the finishing touches for a reward scheme called "the Bank of Positivity" where children in the senior class will be awarded pretend money to reflect hard work & good effort.

Reward time club: one Friday afternoon a month where pupils can select from one of number of different activities with additional support provided by parent volunteers. This is due to start in late January.

Restorative approach to resolving issues between pupils. A joint meeting had been held last year to introduce this method. Feedback from those who had attended was mixed. Some parents are doubtful as to the effectiveness of the approach. There were concerns that it could appear to give out the wrong message as being a “soft touch”, leaving the perpetrator unpunished & the victim no better off.

Mastery of maths: This is an ongoing initiative and aims to link in to the methods of maths education in secondary school.

Homework: it is a challenge establishing the right amount. Some parents feel there is too much whilst others feel there is not enough.

Fiona was asked if there was any update on her return to a full time presence at Marykirk from the present shared role with Luthermuir. Fiona advised that the Council are not likely to finalise anything until the post of Head Teacher at Inverbervie primary has been filled.

Degree of concern from parents present regarding maths & numeracy skills. Parents of older pupils feel that their children’s maths abilities aren’t what they should be and that they could struggle to catch-up once in secondary. Fiona replied that ongoing test results are encouraging when compared to national averages. Transition to Meams Academy involves a linked syllabus and that could provide some reassurance. Fiona to share a copy of the current version once she has received it. **ACTION: FT**

Queries were raised about various situations where parents weren’t contacted directly by the school regarding incidents involving their children. Fiona will investigate and respond. **ACTION: FT**

5. **MPCC Constitution**

The updated template from the Council has been read through and compared to the current one. There are a few clauses which could be useful to adopt besides the areas we already knew about. Probably the most prominent one was lack of quorum. The draft charity one had suggested three of whom one to be an office bearer. This was agreed. Rather than go through the whole document, mark up a proposed draft with new &/or modified clauses highlighted and send on for comment to all via email. Ideally, would like to approve the new constitution at next meeting. **ACTION: WB**

6. **AOCB**

6.1 Fundraising

Potential interest in running a ‘50 Club’ or similar? Confirm status re licensing then establish level of interest before taking any further. **ACTION: WB**

Gin night – with Karen to gauge interest. **ACTION: KS**

6.2 MSP Mairi Gougeon due to visit the school on 1st Feb. Any issues to raise with her? Classroom resources (Kim) & issue with hazardous traffic situation combined with a lack of crossing.

6.3 Fiona is looking at purchasing Chromebooks at £250 each. Better than ipads in terms of keeping them updated and also for typing. MPCC agreed this sounded worthwhile and will highlight & publicise funding these as a target.

7. **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 19th March 2019 @ 18.30