

MPCC– Tuesday 19th March 2019 @ 18.30

Minutes of Meeting

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Present: Heather Herd (Chair), Fiona Thomson (Head Teacher), Morag Williamson (Treasurer), Kim Tait, Emma Kellas, Greg Stewart, Katrina Suer, Leanne Hill, Karen Stather, Willie Brown (Secretary)

Chaired by: Heather Herd

1. **Apologies**

none

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes were proposed for approval by Katrina & seconded by Heather.

3. **Matters Arising**

Handover: Last year's accounts are still not handed over as they are still with the auditor.

IT providers for a new email address have been identified. Email will be addressed first and then follow up with cloud storage. **ACTION: WB**

Chromebooks: previously identified as a funding target. For time being, the aim is to purchase two now and follow up with two later.

3.1 Hall matters:

Storage space: there is space available in the attic for the material that is only needed once a year e.g. Halloween disco & Christmas coffee morning.

Crockery. All avenues appear to have been exhausted in the search for spare crockery within the hall that could have been kept at the school on semi-permanent loan. Greg has offered to look into sourcing a crockery set. **ACTION: GS**

4. **Financial**

Balance £2128.84 at time of reporting.

Fiona asked if the MPCC were willing to subsidise the transport costs for the P4-7s swimming classes with children attending being charged a nominal sum per head and the MPCC making up the difference. The MPCC have done this in previous years so it was agreed to continue to do so.

5. **Constitution**

Proposed draft constitution was nominally approved as presented. There was some discussion around whether to limit the number of consecutive terms that an office bearer could serve in order to try to ensure a good spread of experience throughout the forum. On balance, it was felt that there were better ways to achieve this.

Constitution will now be distributed to the wider parent body to allow for for any final comments to be made before then adopting as is or in amended form (where necessary).

6. **School Improvement plan**

HMIE/Education Scotland Inspection: The school is to be inspected on the 23rd of April on the theme of 'Pupil & Parental Engagement'. Anyone wishing to attend as a member of a focus group to speak to the Inspection team should let Fiona know.

The Skills Groups held on the last Friday of each month appears to be well received by all those taking part.

The Pupil Council have identified improving in literacy as their current aim. They have asked for more reading challenges to help them in this. There may be the option of running reading groups and if appropriate, parental involvement in these could also be considered.

Staffing: a letter will be distributed tomorrow (20/3/19) outlining the details of the structure. Fiona will remain joint Head Teacher of both Marykirk & Luthermuir PS but will now be aided by a Principal Teacher. Miss Wells from Luthermuir PS is taking up this role. This will allow Fiona to spend more of her time within Marykirk PS. This will run as a pilot until December 2019.

The decision regarding the request for an additional teacher for the next academic year is not likely to be known until the summer term.

The P7s are getting on well with the Link Guidance Teacher from Mearns Academy for their preparation to starting there after summer.

7. **Raft Race**

An entry has been made for the race itself.

Fete: Paul Diack from the Raft Race committee has been in touch with Heather. The Raft Race have offered us the option of hiring the large marquee at a cost of £100. From this we would keep all proceeds but not receive a donation from the committee as has been the case in previous years. We would also need to arrange uplift of the marquee although help would be provided to erect it.

No decision was taken on the above as. Initial thoughts were that it us a lot to take on and especially ensuring that we can use the marquee effectively to generate funds. It would definitely require a solid commitment from a greater number of parents to assist during the day for an undertaking of that size. Running the relatively smaller usual stall has been a challenge in previous years so the marquee could be just too big.

There's a lot to be said for sticking with what we know works. There is the possibility that we can build on the strawberry theme and sell cream teas with scones etc as well as the usual strawberry kebabs. The jam could be made by the children as part of the monthly "Skills Group" sessions. Karen will look into what she can get in the way of strawberries. **ACTION: Karen S.**

8. **Road Safety/Crossing**

Road safety & crossing concerns are shared by the local councillors. The best way initially of keeping the focus on this is to write to the councillors with these concerns. Besides parents and other villagers writing to the council, the children could write letters raising their concerns & experiences. **ACTION: FT**

The road safety issue and lack of a crossing was raised with Mairi Gougeon MSP during her recent visit but was met with a non-committal response.

9. **Delegation & Training**

Make use of delegation to allow a representative from the MPCC to attend related meetings on behalf of the Chair when they are unable/unavailable to attend such as the recent one for Chairs of the south Aberdeenshire PTAs.

Fiona suggested inviting Christine McLennan, the local contact for the Parental Engagement and Support Hub Aberdeenshire, to our next meeting to discuss what is on offer in the way of support and training. **ACTION: FT**

10. **AOCB**

Fundraising

The possibility of running a '50 Club' or similar is on hold for now. Pick this back up once constitution and related issues are dealt with. **ACTION: WB**

Gin night: Karen has been in touch with Dunottar Wines and they have quoted £15 a head to provide various gins. Opinion on using them was mixed and there is always the option of just buying a selection of gins and running it ourselves. There is the option of having a combined Gin & Bingo or "Gingo" night. Either way, likely date would be May/early June.

Previously raised issue with MPCC being confused with other organisations that use those initials. This also impacts on registering web domain name as well as causing issues for any application for charitable status. Before setting up new email etc, now is a good time to consider possible alternatives. Aim to generate a few suggestions and make a decision in the next fortnight.

11. **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 30th April 2019 @ 18.30