

Minutes of Methlick School Parent Council

Thurs 25th September 2014

Present Jim McWilliam Mrs Guy (Head) Laura Bruce
 Nicola Baird Lou Jowitt Lionel Snodgrass
 Claire Brown Fiona Lawrence

Apologies Mrs Macintosh Yvonne Mitchell Sandy Pullar

	Action
<p>1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jim welcomed all present.	
<p>2 PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laura queried the Pantomime Trip and whether costs had been obtained. Mrs Guy responded by explaining the costs were very expensive at approx. £1000 and that there was no guarantee that the children would all be sat together. Mrs Guy had made enquiries to see an older Christmas film at the cinema which would cost £100. The cost of the bus was £430. M&M productions had been booked by the school to perform Pinocchio on Wednesday 29th October. Approval of MSPC minutes from meeting held on 28th August 2014 were proposed by Fiona and seconded by Lou.• Minutes of the Sub-Committee were discussed. Jim outlined all the various funding possibilities he has contacted. All have acknowledged his applications although he is still awaiting contact from Braiklay Estates. Jim informed the committee that Aberdeenshire Council has a moratorium on play equipment, either the installation or adoption, at the moment. It is not clear when this moratorium will be lifted. Hence this could incur an additional cost to the MSPC to undertake the maintenance of the equipment.• Lionel re-emphasised the need to be self-driven to raise funds. A target of 4k is required to be raised by the end of 2014 and a further 9k by the end of June 2015. A discussion of the various	

fundraising initiatives took place.

- Methlick Football Gala 5th October. Discussions took place as to how the MSPC could be involved. Providing a BBQ was the strongest possibility. Claire to speak with Michael to see if this was possible. Laura and Lou voiced their willingness to assist Jim on the day if required.
- Xmas Fayre. Claire reported back to the committee that following discussions with Kate Bloomfield; if the committee could supply support/cover on the day, the proceeds from the fayre could be split. Nicola, Claire, Lou, Laura and Fiona all offered help and assistance. Claire to speak further with Kate Bloomfield.
- Barn Dance. Jim appealed to all to form a committee to take forward the Barn Dance. Jim, Lionel and Claire hope that the dance will raise substantial funds towards the outdoor play equipment. Nicola, Lou, Laura and Fiona all voiced their support. A meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th Sept at Nicola's house to try to make this event a possibility before Xmas. A barn has been identified in South Ythsie which has power.
- A pub quiz was also discussed as an option to raise funds to be held before Xmas. Claire to speak with Jay Allan at the Ythan view.
- The sub-committee also discussed with the committee the need to tidy up the school grounds. Following a letter sent to the council written by Jim, improvements had already taken place such as a broken light (although it was noted this was now no longer working), the vengie had been strimmed and some of the flower beds had been given some attention. A board had been fitted above the front entrance and tiles had been attended to. The committee appreciated the work that had been done although it was noted that there was much still to be done.
- Lionel highlighted 2 dates he had identified to tidy up the school grounds; 5th and 26th October. Lionel asked for volunteers to assist him in gardening the borders etc. Laura may be available to help and some members from the community. Lionel advised that the Military Veterans maybe available on the 26th October to help. Lionel asked if it was possible for the children to maintain the grounds after they had been tidied. Mrs Guy suggested that perhaps Golden Time could be used for this purpose. Jim would try to use weed killer over a weekend prior to the working group beginning to clear the grounds. Hugh would be asked to see if there was a possibility in using a rotavator from Inverurie Garden Center. Jim would post the dates and relevant information on the new MSPC website. Mrs Guy to investigate the list of parent helpers to see if anyone could assist/put out a note to parents informing them of the event and the need for help.
- Jim and Lionel spoke of the school ground improvements and in particular to the shelter. Jim advised the committee that there would need to be a working party to be organised later. Jim spoke of the possibility of designing murals to decorate the walls of the shelter which the school children could be involved in. The

Claire

Claire

Claire

surfaces would need to be prepared.

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

- **The Authority** – Mrs Guy had a visit from Andy Griffiths who is the Head of Service and oversees all Primary Schools within Aberdeenshire. Jim asked Nicola if the MSPC Secretaries could write a letter to Mr. Griffiths on behalf of the MSPC supporting Mrs Guy in her desire to retain the two probationary teachers at the end of the academic year.
- **Staffing.** Stuart Bell our Janitor has been given a promotion. He will oversee some schools in the Meldrum and Inverurie Areas. Graeme Bell our previous janitor is covering for him. One of the school's cleaners Noreen is retiring at the end of the term. A special lunch will be held for her. The staff have decided to tidy all their resources and centralise them. It is hoped that the room upstairs will be utilised as an arts and crafts room.
- **Our Pupils.** Mrs Guy advised the committee that she had spent a lot of time with the pupils in their classrooms and has been monitoring the Learning and Teaching. A very enthusiastic meeting was held with the Pupil Council who have lots of ideas. A group of P6/7 pupils are competing in a Math's Challenge at Meldrum Academy on Wednesday 1st October. A meeting has been organised with parents on 1st October to share information about the P6/7 residential trip in May.
- **Our Parents.** A very useful meeting has taken place with a group of parent helpers. The school has a list of 12 helpers and they will help run the school library on Thursday mornings on a rota basis. They are also willing to come into school to help with various practical jobs for the staff. 3 helpers had tidied the library that morning.
- **Open Afternoon.** An opportunity for parents to come into school and see what their children have been learning about has been organised for Wednesday 8th October. At this point the MSPC offered to do Teas/Coffees and asked if parents could be kindly asked for donations of home bakes.

Nicola/Sandy

School

4 CHAIR PERSON'S REPORT

- Methlick Community Council. Jim advised the group that he had attended a meeting held by the Methlick Community Council with Lionel. Amongst the issues discussed were the parking outside the school on the road at drop off and pick up

times. It was requested that parents be asked not to perform U-turns on the road out of respect of other road users. The committee discussed the school car park as being full to capacity and that parking on the road was a necessity. Cottonhillock car park was also well used. Nicola queried with the committee that was Braiklay Estates to create a new car park for the school/new entrance to car park? Jim is to investigate.

Jim

- Formartine Beginning to Blossom. Jim spoke of a competition called "Formartine Beginning to Blossom" which schools could participate in. Rod Gunnson is the main contact. Bulbs are to be ordered by Aberdeenshire Council.
- B&Q also hold community days
- Charges for Plastic bags. As of the 20th October shops can charge for plastic bags. Jim raised the possibility of contacting local shops and supermarkets to see if they would consider donating some of the monies raised to the MSPC. Fiona is to look into this and report back to the committee.
- MSPC Website. Jim advised the committee that the new website was up and running and asked for feedback. The website would be another form of communication with parents to advise of events and other information. Lionel queried whether there could be a link to the Methlick Blog. Jim to set up a link.

Jim

5 **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The current balance according to last month's statement is £2343.36 and £125.58 float. The accounts had been audited and signed off by Ronald Storey. A cheque for £250 for the ceilidh band was yet to be cashed. Unfortunately the ceilidh was not well attended and did not cover costs.

6 **HALLOWEEN DISCO**

A discussion took place regarding arrangements for the above event. Nicola advised the committee that 10 parent helpers would be required if there was a full turnout and that between the committee and parents who had come forward, there was more than enough help which she very much appreciated.

Mrs Guy

Mrs Guy was asked if a trestle table could be made available for outside the PE hall and 2 tables inside the hall as well as some chairs. Mrs Guy agreed.

Mrs Guy said the school would be able to do a risk assessment.

Yvonne required a payment of £75 for the disco and suggested crisps should be purchased from Asda who are currently selling large boxes of 36 for £3.00. Nicola supported this and the committee agreed. Fiona would liaise with Yvonne with regards to the purchase.

Nicola/Lionel

Nicola to do a contact form for the night.
Lionel to provide a float.
Nicola to speak with Yvonne re glowsticks.

7 **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

This was covered in the discussion of the minutes of the meeting of the sub- committee in point 2.

8 **A.O.B**

Yvonne wanted the committee to be made aware that the 20mph speed sign outside the school no longer appeared to be working and wondered if this was a direct council matter. Jim believed that it was a matter for the roads department and would look into it.

Mrs Guy informed the committee that organic juice that had previously been brought for the children to have at lunchtimes was now finished. As the children did not appear to like it, what did the committee want to offer to the children in its place? It was decided that water from the cooler would be used and that perhaps a P7 pupil could supervise the children at the drinks table.

9 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING** – The date is set for Thurs 6th November 2014 at 6.30 pm.