

MERRYLEE PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES

1 NOV 2021 6.30PM - 8.00PM

Attendance - parents:

Yla Barrie (Co-Chair of PA), Rubina Khan, Stephen Bishop (Chair), Sarah Kingwell (PA Treasurer), Alan Brodie, Tommy Petillo, Elspeth McNeil, Susan Govan, Nairn Pearson, Phil Goodlad, Mel Jacobs, Julia Chau

Staff: Colette Haddock, Miss Kirk, Miss McElhone

Apologies: Carolyn Lochhead (Secretary), Laura Kennedy (Treasurer), Yvonne McFadden, Cara Wightman

1. Welcome and introductions

Stephen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes and update on actions

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Stephen and seconded by Sarah.

- Yvonne to take forward oral history project about Covid: carried forward from previous meetings
- Yvonne to work with Colette and Mrs McElhone to create a parent survey about views and knowledge of Hillpark: carried forward from previous meetings
- Cara to coordinate with Colette on an opportunity for children to meet herself and fellow Hillpark Chaplain colleague: carried forward from previous meetings
- All to look at the Glasgow and Clyde Parents for the Future group: Cara updated: Most schools are now using plastic water bottles again because of Covid. Colette advised that the school can now address this. The Eco-committee now has this in hand.
- Parent Council to write to Council to ask whether the lollipop person currently on Clarkston Road, where there is a crossing facility, could be moved to Mochrum Road: this has been done and an assessment is being carried out.
- Colette will pick up with Yla on the weed killer issue and contact the Council to find out why this has happened: carry forward
- Yla will ask the parent who had suggested coordinating PC dates with Shawlands and Hillpark to get in touch so we can make links :Colette met with Hillpark last week and has discussed links with Hillpark and transitional arrangements for the P6s and P7s.

3. Headteacher Update

Colette gave thanks to the PA for the Halloween decorations and for organising the Merrylee Monster Mash Trail and to all the helpers involved in this. Also thanked the PA for setting up the Halloween costume swap and said it was a good message to reuse outgrown items.

Covid update – not much has changed in terms of the restrictions and the current face coverings and social distancing measures remain in place. The school now have CO2 monitors in place and are required to report daily.

Staff update – Colette welcomed two new support teachers to the school. Mrs Williams will be returning from maternity leave and Mrs Whyte is going on maternity leave. Mrs Mort was successful in taking over from Mrs Whyte as the Principal teacher. Colette thanked Mrs Whyte for her support with setting up the clubs for the children alongside her class commitments. Colette noted that Mrs Provan will be retiring at Christmas and will be missed very much and wished her a very happy retirement.

Parent Consultations – Since parents still can't be in school due to Covid, telephone parental consultations have been offered. These may take some time to work through as the school only have six telephones and have sixteen classes.

Residential Trips – Colette noted that she has had a lot of enquiries regarding the residential. Last year the P7s had an outdoor week at school and a day trip to an outdoor center. The school is mindful of the ever-increasing cost of the school day and tries to subsidise these trips. The school has made a provisional booking for the P7s residential in May 2022, for the week of the 16th May to the 22nd May. The school has agreed which teachers will go on the P7s residential. The cost of the P7s residential is to be £230 per pupil. There is no booking for the P6s yet. A doodle poll will be issued next week looking for the parent's views on the proposed P7 residential.

Car Free Zone – Representatives from the Road Safety department are visiting both Merrylee and OLA on Thursday. No police representatives are available due to COP26 commitments. The P6 Road Safety pupils are also going to be involved.

Outdoor Learning – All classes enjoyed a day of outdoor learning in Term 1. Unfortunately, not all classes will have an outdoor day in Term 2 due to the impact this has on the school grounds. These classes will have Outdoor PE in Term 2.

School Allotment – The school have not been able to take advantage of the school plot due to Covid and staff issues. The Allotment Association have requested that the school give up their plot as they have a long waiting list and we have our own growing space in the new garden. Thanks was given to Allison Cameron who is a previous parent of the school and has been the caretaker of the allotment for several years. Colette encouraged any parents/grandparents who would like to be involved in the Merrylee Green Fingers to get in touch with the PA.

COP26 - COP26 is all school focus. Some of the p7s/p6s took part in the Lost Woods Project and helped plant trees at Cathkin Braes. The school is looking at recycling single use plastic in the dinner hall. The Eco-committee have been collecting plastic bottles and keeping a count of the numbers with the aim of achieving zero waste. A parent has offered to help display the children's artwork locally for The Art Project – love of mother nature.

Christmas – Colette noted that the school will be taking part in 'Christmas Jumper Day' on the 10th December and Children in Need activities. The school is looking into what we can do as a school for Christmas over the next few weeks.

Colette gave thanks to all parents that have helped through this period.

Questions on Headteachers Report

P7 Residential – Sarah asked about whether the school would be looking to take payments by instalment from the P7 parents and when this would start. Colette responded that they could extend the payment period for instalments and can look to lower the costs of the residential with some fundraising.

Parent Consultations – Susan asked if the parents would have the opportunity to review any of their child’s work/jotters prior to the telephone consultations. **ACTION:** Colette agreed to discuss with the teachers and get back to parents ahead of the consultations and possibly send some work home to parents on Monday or Tuesday next week. Colette noted that they are not seeing too many gaps in learning due to Covid.

Educational Recovery – Yla raised a question from a parent who asked “What does Educational Recovery mean and how does that relate to how my child is learning in class?” Colette responded the school had been given additional funding for educational recovery and were able to use these funds for an additional teacher (Mrs Mort) who has worked with groups of children in relation to Health and Wellbeing and the school have been able to build up resources for Literacy. **ACTION:** Colette to include information on Educational Recovery in the imminent School Newsletter.

4. PA Update

Yla reported that the Halloween decorations and Monster Mash trail had been very well received and lots of families had enjoyed this over the Halloween weekend. Yla, Sarah and Carolyn met with OLA parents association members to discuss if there are any ways in which we could work together. The seasonal products have had lots of issues this year along with problems with ParentPay. However, the PA are working together to place the order to the supplier this week. Morrisons’ Crossmyloof have kindly supported the school with some pumpkins for Halloween and more spring bulbs for the garden and we kindly thank them for this. **ACTION:** Colette to send photos of the pumpkins to the PA in order to thank Morrisons’ Crossmyloof. We have been in touch with the school photographer, and he is available to do single and sibling photo shots at the school in a shorter timeframe and taking additional Covid precautions. Our Christmas planning is underway! We are also planning and considering what activities/events the PA can support after the restrictions lift at the end of March 2022.

Stephen asked whether the arrangement with Morrisons’ Crossmyloof was indefinite. Sarah responded that they have chosen to champion Merrylee Primary and this arrangement should be sustained and continue for the future.

Sarah updated that the PA have circa £2000 in funds and will expect to turn a profit on the seasonal goods. Yla noted that there could be some expenditure required for a tool shed to house the school resources from the allotment shed.

5. Treasurer’s report

Stephen presented the Treasurer’s report in Laura’s absence and noted that the bank account balance is £643.27 and there a £15.59 in monies owed. The zoom account renewal is due to come in. **ACTION:** Mel Jacobs is to inform the PC when the Zoom account is renewed.

6. AOB

PC Website – Stephen updated that the website is down and Tommy and himself are working together to resolve this.

Lollipop person – Phil suggested that parents could undertake ad hoc patrol crossing training in regards to the safety issues crossing Langside Road at Mochrum Road. Stephen explained that he

had made contact with the council and they have assessed the crossing in the wrong place. He has been back in contact with the council and they will carry out a further assessment in the right place.

ACTION: Stephen to follow up on this and ask when the assessor is coming.

Christmas events – Susan asked if panto visits are a possibility and would there be any Christmas parties? Colette is looking into events but finding them very expensive (£15 a head for the panto). Last year we had some online pantos and class Christmas parties.

P7s End of Year Celebrations – Sarah asked if the school is going to have an end of year celebration for the P7s. Colette said that they are looking into this and there will definitely be something.

7. Date of next meeting: 24 January 2022