**PORT OF MENTEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL - Small School BIG Ideas**

**PARENT COUNCIL - In partnership with teachers and community**

**MINUTES OF MEETING 7.15pm on 2nd Sept 2014**

School contact: email [pofmenps@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:pofmenps@stirling.gov.uk) tel 01877 385 225. Parent Council Chair: Clare Messer [clare@wendyhouse.uk.com](http://mail.aol.com/38556-111/aol-6/en-gb/suite.aspx). All parents/carers welcome at meetings.

PRESENT APOLOGIES

David Scott Head Teacher Margaret Young Teacher

Stewart Thomas Vice Chair Fiona McGuffie Teacher  
Grant East Treasurer Clare Messer Chair   
Sophie Pither Minutes Lorna McGuire   
Tim Messer Lisa McNeill Ritchie

Scott Gillespie Denise Gillespie   
Kim Stewart   
Alice Struthers   
Kaye Clark

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY- Parent Council Fund** (Full details from Grant on request.)

**Summer BBQ profit: £321.28** (takings: £577.73 expenses: £256.45)

**Current balance: £883.24** (have paid for 2014/15 skiing/panto/ICT/school trips)  
(Money from upcoming Nov Fisheries, estimated to be approx £1,300.)

**Further Expenditure:**

**Estimate: £300** Interfilm tutor has purchased 2 digital cameras for pupils/school for an upcoming film-making project. As agreed: roughly £300 to be paid.

**£20** for each pupil committee (Eco Committee/Pupil Council/Enterprise Group) to be paid.

**Estimate: £600** Ipads & cases x 2 still to be bought. Grant researching price. [Will be able to afford 1 now, 1 after Fisheries BBQ.]

**Estimate: £10** Lock/Fence repair. School to do repair and invoice Parent Council.

**Estimate: £?** Shed storage/shelving – M Young to assess cost & inform Parent Council.

**Estimate: £150** not discussed, but Xmas presents usually bought by parent council.

**Estimate: £450** upfront expenses (food) for Fisheries BBQ.

**Fisheries BBQ – Sun 2 November, pm, time tbc**

This is our big fundraiser of the year and a fun family event. The Fisheries rent fishing boats to celebrate end of the season, hold a BBQ, a large raffle, prize-giving for best kids’ fly design, and the children sing. All donations are split 2/3 to school, 1/3 to Port kirk.

Sophie to contact Douglas/Quint at Fisheries; meet with them and Grant to begin organising.

Lisa McNeill Ritchie/Kaye Clark have agreed to help collect raffle prizes. Kaye is a P1 parent, so Lisa to help her re sorts of prizes, etc. Any other volunteers, raffle donations welcome.

Sophie to get job list from Clare to distribute among parents.   
Grant offered to buy meat – advised to see local butcher for a deal. He will also open a Bookers’ wholesale a/c for future events. But many thought best to get a deal from a butcher for this event.  
Alice to ask her neighbour Saul (musical parent!) if he’ll help with kids singing this year.   
David to sort fly design competition among children.

Jobs include:

Preparing meat/kebabs, in the morning: about 5 people needed.

Making large pots soup: 4/5 pots needed – various flavours, some veggie.

Selling raffle tickets on the day   
Helping with boats

**BURNS NIGHT FAMILY CEILIDH** NEW FOR 2015!!

Kaye/Alice/Kim full of enthusiasm to organise a Burns’ ceilidh in the village hall. Proposed for Sun 25 Jan, early evening in the village hall. Children/adults to perform music. CD for dancing (anyone a good caller?). Haggis/Neeps/Tatties to be prepared by parents. Stewart to speak to Nigel Cole to book the hall. Proposed entry: £10 family, £5 single adult, £2 child.

**Callander Bottle Stall -** Date tbc.

New event proposed for spring 2015 – Stewart/Tim/Scott to enquire re a stall in the square.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - 2015 date tbc next meeting.

**Sponsored Walk -** 2015 date tbc next meeting.

**Success! Food for Thought £5000 Grant**

The school has been awarded a £5000 grant for food education from Food for Thought.

Our proposal included buying portable hobs/cooking kit for children to use in school and in cooking clubs, a visit for P6 to Nick Nairn Cook School on 16 Sept to cook with Nick (shared with Buchlyvie School P6/7 who also won the grant), an outdoor cooking session with Intrepid Scotland (fire pit!), and a whole project about making soup – teaching the children to make it, finding out where ingredients come from, using local ingredients, historical aspect eg how eating habits have changed: visiting Inchmahome to learn about how/what the monks cooked, and more. To be organised asap.

**Thanks & Help - Wildlife Garden Clearing**

Thanks from Miss Young/School to National Park Rangers (organised by Tim Messer) and parent helpers for tidying the wildlife garden/clearing pond in July. Brambles to be cleared.

**FRI 24 OCT, after school –** please come and help – easy jobs in the garden; rangers will strim if Tim can arrange. Kaye offered to take brambles in her pick up. Or Tim to compost.  
Tim also to see if Nat Park will come and weave the willow den. BUT if anyone knows someone who can weave willow, please tell school asap as it’s gone wild!

Miss Young asked for 3 more garden days arranged over the school year. Dates tbc.

**Path**

Tim liaising with National Park re funding a path between school and the hall. To work with Alan Simpson (landowner).

**School Garden Project**

Lorna McGuire & Miss Young’s Garden Project - a proposal for £10k Lottery grant to improve the school grounds & garden. Lots of great ideas for outdoor creative play & learning. **Miss Young/Lorna/Helen Webster to set a date to liaise and take it from there.**

**Strathard News**

Clare Messer is now designing this local news mag, and offered a slot for pupils to write in – any subject! Clare to give David word count and David will send copy/images to her before 13 Sept. Magazine is bi-monthly. Any ideas, contact David/Clare.

**Head Teacher’s Report – David Scott**

**Child Protection**

Mr Scott felt we had not discussed the school’s role in child protection at a parent council meeting before so he ran through it. He said, although this is a difficult subject to talk about, it is important to bring it up (particularly in the light of recent national events, eg Rotherham) and for parents to understand teachers’ role.

Points raised included:

-The children’s health and safety is teacher’s first priority.

-The school encourages open and honest communication between pupils, staff,   
parents and carers and aims to create an atmosphere where concerns can be raised by all.

-The school aims to work in partnership with parents.

-All staff receive a day’s training a year about signs to look for if children are suffering abuse.

The staff are obliged to act on things the children say or do if they have concerns. This could mean contacting social services before phoning parents. They can also phone social services for anonymous advice.

-Mr Scott is happy to talk through any aspects of this privately with parents. Simply phone and make an appointment.

**Travel Questionnaire**

Mr Scott will be sending out a ‘Getting to School’ questionnaire as the council wants to find out how pupils get to school (eg. bus/drive/walk/bike).

Suggested he ask if parents would like more suitable paths/routes so that children could cycle/walk, as at the moment it’s considered too dangerous on local roads. A cycle ‘train’ was mooted, but most felt roads too dangerous for children to cycle at all. Mr Scott said school will do another cycle proficiency course, previously done at school and in Gartmore.

**Progress Report**

Mr Scott reported that the school has done well in the standardised tests for reading, maths done electronically at school. School uses Durham University tests, widely used across UK. Results can be discussed at Parent Teacher meetings re your child.

School will initiate improvement programme for Spelling & Mental Maths this year.

**Other Business**

**Christmas Shoe Boxes**  
Majority present agreed for pupils to do Blythswood Christmas Shoe Box project (voluntarily preparing shoe box with small Christmas gifts for children around the world). School to organise; collection point in Callander; info/instructions will be sent home nearer the time.

**P1-3 Story Sacks**

Miss Young needs 1 or more volunteers to go through the P1-3 story sacks – on a Tues morning this term. Please email or call school if you can help.

**Harvest Festival Assembly**

Thurs 9 Oct, 2.15pm. Bring food donations of any kind to be distributed to a local food bank.

**Feis 20/21 Sept 2014**

See [www.feisfhoirt.org.uk](http://www.feisfhoirt.org.uk) for info on feis (traditional musical tuition/celebration suitable for all abilities: primary & secondary pupils - accordion/clarsach (harp)/fiddle/Gaelic song/guitar/ percussion) Sat 20/Sun21 Sept, Falkirk. See website or contact Fiona Allen 01877 331098.

**Sign by School**

A few parents felt the Yes sign looks like it’s a message from school (in fact it’s school’s neighbour’s sign/land). Kim volunteered to politely ask if he’d move it, but he felt that was the best spot.

**SUMMARY OF DATES for your DIARY**

**FRI 24 OCT, after school: Garden Tidy.** Helpers needed; tell Miss Young if you can come.

**THURS 9 OCT, 2.15: Harvest Festival Assembly @school**. Donate food, come and hear your children sing, etc.

**SUN 2 NOV, pm: Fisheries BBQ** (at Port of Menteith Fisheries). Will need helpers/soup made, etc. Form will go in school bags before event.

**SUN 25 JAN, pm: tbc Burns Family Ceilidh, Village Hall.**

**NEXT MEETING  
JAN 2015, date tbc. Plus possible get together before Fisheries bbq in November.** All always welcome. Agenda suggestions to Chair: Clare Messer[clare@wendyhouse.uk.com](http://mail.aol.com/38556-111/aol-6/en-gb/suite.aspx) **or school:** [pofmenps@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:pofmenps@stirling.gov.uk) - 01877 385225