

# MILE END SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
Mile End School at 7pm

## Final Minutes of Meeting

**Present :**

Luke Halliday Chair MEPC  
Angela Bowyer Vice Chair MEPC  
Eleanor Sheppard Head Teacher  
Alex Nicoll MEPC Member  
Frank Wahedally MEPC Member  
Julie Malhan MEPC Member  
Jonathan Scott MEPC Member  
Abbe Brown MEPC Member  
Jenny Laing Councillor  
Bill Cormie Councillor

**Apologies:** Ian Carroll, Mike Affleck, Euan Milne, Janet McRoberts, Euan Esslemont, Moira MacIver

	<b>SUBJECT</b>
1.	<b>WELCOME</b> Luke Halliday welcomed all to meeting.
2.	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> Proposed and seconded
3.	<b>HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT – ELEANOR SHEPPARD</b>  The Global Citizen project is going well with staff applying for a placement on a working trip to Rwanda.  Great numbers attended our Open Day last week.  Over £1100 was raised for Children in Need.  We look forward to working with The Belvedere Gallery again later in the session on a 'Games' inspired competition.  We will participate in a Tapestry project as one of 96 schools creating a Tapestry to welcome visitors to the Commonwealth Games  Nursery hours will be 3 hours 10 minutes next year, we are currently looking at how to make this work.  We are in the process of order some additional reading books, some to meet the needs of able

readers, some high interest low ability books and some to meet the needs of those with dyslexia.

Next term work begins on our P4 – 7 show, 'Pirates of the Currybean'.

I-pads are now being rolled out to children in receipt of Support for Learning.

We are looking forward to the Book Swap tomorrow.

We are looking to purchase additional licences for Accelerated Reader as the system is having a great impact on reading ability/motivation.

James Packham is busy planning our science week for 2014 which will include a world record attempt.

We successfully achieved Silver in the PSQM (Primary Science Quality Mark)

The school is trialling spelling package that would provide a service similar to Manga High.

The new ASN inclusion team will visit the school on 11/12. This will be an opportunity to understand the progress towards a final report and discuss the needs of the school.

The schools is preparing for a science week in March 2014. James Packham is preparing with a number of events, including session from local companies discussing science in the Oil and Gas industry. Ina addition the children will attempt a world record!

The sensory garden is taking shape with a local charity pledging £5k which with other funds will provide money for paths, a bench etc.

Staffing is a continuing a challenge with staff absences causing further difficulties. On a more positive side interviews for Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) ongoing.

4. **CAR PARK – ELEANOR SHEPPARD**

The parking practices of a minority of parent are still causing congestion in the car park leading to unsafe conditions for the pedestrians negotiating the area. Attempts to reason with those parking inconsiderately can be met with indifference and cause arguments. It was agree to send out the car park survey again, after the previous email contained the wrong link (Action LH).  
Options discussed included:

- Closing sections of the car park
- Closing the entire car park at certain times
- Filming the poor parking and keeping a record
- Making complaints to the police
- Involving the press to report on the issue
- Adding markings for hatched areas and applying for a traffic order to prevent parking on them, although this would cost £2-4k
- Having a 'safe car park day' to encourage awareness

It was concluded that there should be a focus on the area of main concern which is the double parking of cars next to the, already full, drop off area. ES will discuss a proposal to place temporary cones or barriers next to the drop off area to prevent parking but with enough room

	for those in the drop off area to pull out and drive off.
5.	<p><b>Named Person – Luke Halliday</b></p> <p>The response from the SPTC was discussed and it was decided that there was no reason to be overly concerned by the new legislation. No further action.</p>
6.	<p><b>TREASURER’S REPORT – EUAN MILNE</b></p> <p>£1,000 received from Aberdeen City Council (Education, Culture and Sport), banked 9 October 2013. Balance in account stands at £1,792.34. The last cheque written was 28 August 2013 for £190 to Alternatives in Education (training course). This has been debited from the account. Statements continue to be sent to school.</p>
7.	<p><b>Events - All</b></p> <p>The book swap was organised and ready to be held on the 28<sup>th</sup></p> <p>The careers fair will be held next term. The date will be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Science week will be held week of 17<sup>th</sup> March. James Packham will discuss approaching local companies to with Julie Malhern.</p> <p>Global Citizen is proceeding well with Frank working with P1-3. There will be a focus on Commonwealth countries next to tie in with the 2014 games. Wood Group is also planning to send speakers to the school.</p>
8.	<p><b>Estate Review – Alex Nicol</b></p> <p>There was a low turnout at the consultation with 3 members of the MEPC and 3 representatives from the hospital. It was agreed to email parents and request that they do respond to the consultation, pointing out that the proposal is a preferred option for the school and if not accepted then other changes may be brought forward.</p>
9.	<p><b>Floodlights – Alex Nicol</b></p> <p>Alex Nicol has spoken with Jo Hall at ACC and discussed approaching Robertsons, who hold the maintenance contact for the school, about the floodlights, PTA play equipment and the sensory garden. Discussing all changes together in an effort to simplify the process of agreeing the future maintenance responsibilities. It was noted that although those householders bordering the school were generally supportive this might change should the pitch be let out to adult teams later in the evening. Jo Hall is preparing a paper for the education committee who will discuss providing funding and arranging maintenance for all those Primary schools with an all-weather pitch facility.</p>
10.	<p><b>PTA – Freddie Stephens</b></p>

	<p>The Christmas fair is to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December with all help gratefully received. The committee is looking at updating the constitution in respect of which advice is being obtained, in particular the position of the PTA as a subcommittee of the PC. In addition the PTA hopes to close out the late historical accounts soon.</p>
<p><b>11. Communications – Luke Halliday</b></p>	<p>LH has found someone who would write a phone App. A number of MEPC members will meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> December to agree the requirements.</p>
<p><b>12. AOB</b></p>	<p>Bill notes that the school was taking part in the bulb planting again this year. This programme has seen over 66,000 bulbs planted in the local area.</p> <p>A concern was raised that Golden Time lacked some of the education value it had had previously, with children often playing on iPods or tablets or watching films. This also created a demand for children to have their own tablet and to take it to school. Eleanor explained that the changes had been driven by the children who perceived Golden Time to be less desirable and so not a reason to behave sufficiently well so as not to lose it.</p>

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