

Title of Meeting: Comely Park Parent Council Meeting	
Venue of meeting: Staff Room, Comely Park School	
Date of meeting: 10 September 2008	
Attendees: Mr Watkinson, Dougie Kennedy, Mel Brookes, David Henderson, Stuart Duncan, Mrs Simpson, Finn Goddard, Dawn Anderson, Brian Cassidy, Sheila Ferguson	
Apologies: Barry Smart, Nicola Morton	
1	<p>Welcome Dougie welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
2	<p>Minutes from last meeting Dougie ran through the action points arising from the last meeting. Those present updated the meeting with action taken: -</p> <p>Waterproof noticeboards: Mr Watkinson will chase this up with the Clerk of Works.</p> <p>e-mail addresses: Dougie has now rectified the problem with these and will distribute electronic information to the relevant addresses soon.</p> <p>Playground design competition: Barry still needs to buy the prizes for the competition winners, which can then be presented at a Monday morning assembly (Monday 29 September at 9.45am).</p> <p>Grounds for Learning (GfL) report: As yet, we have not had feedback from Penny at GfL with her report on the playground design ideas. Mel will check with Barry what the latest position is. Mel will also check with Barry to see if we still owe any fees to GfL.</p> <p>Cars/other traffic issues: Formula 1 is still using the school playground as an overflow forecourt at weekends and in the holidays. If necessary, Falkirk Council can take Formula 1 to court to prevent further use of the playground. We can also lock the big double gates at weekends, to avoid any future parking issues, as there are no health & safety issues involved in doing this. Could/should we lock the gates at other times e.g. before/after school, playtime etc? Mr Watkinson will discuss with Brian (janitor) re: appropriate/practical times to lock gates. Parents have also reported problems with other parents parking in the bus stop in the mornings, meaning the school bus has to stop on the road and the children cannot safely get off the bus and straight onto the pavement. There are also issues with parents parking on the zig zag lines on Rennie Street, which is also a safety hazard. Dougie will get in touch with the Community Police Officer, to ask her to come and "spot check" parking around the school generally at peak times and to enforce as required.</p> <p>Playground security: All gates have now been fitted with the agreed signage, but gates are still difficult to close, meaning they tend to be left open. There is still an additional safety barrier to be put up outside the gate by the bus stop on the Cow Wynd.</p> <p>Dedicated e-mail address: Barry has now set this up, as well as the Parent Council website.</p> <p>Asymmetric school week: this was voted against by a large majority of parents and teachers and so will not now go ahead.</p> <p>P1 intake 2009: Dougie will follow this up with Richard Teed in due course (new enrolments commence in January 2009).</p>

3	<p>Topics for 2008/09</p> <p>Stuart put forward 2 topics he would like to discuss: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education/curriculum (constraints/potential flexibility), which should be an important part of Parent Council discussions - Pupils with English as a second language: Comely Park School has 34 children with English as a second language, but only gets teaching support equivalent to ½ day per week to assist these pupils. How does this impact on both these 34 children and the other children in the school? <p>Sheila: One of our key aims was to communicate with the wider Parent Forum. How successful have we been in doing this?</p> <p>Could we have a stall at the next school Open Evening on 1 October? Dougie, Sheila and Stuart said they would be happy to man the stall on the night.</p> <p>Could we also have a stall at the PTA Christmas Fayre on 6 December (as our presence at the Spring Fayre went down very well)?</p>
4	<p>Parent Council posts</p> <p>The Treasurer's post is now vacant, as Colin Gordon's son has left CPS and is now at High School.</p> <p>There is nothing in the Parent Council constitution to say how long the Chair/Vice Chair should serve for – did anyone have any objections to Dougie & Mel continuing in post? No-one objected and so they will remain in post for the coming year.</p>
5	<p>AOB</p> <p>Dougie and the Chairs from Bantaskin Primary and Falkirk High will meet at the beginning of October to share best practice. Any other Parent Council member is welcome to come along.</p>
6	<p>Dates of next meetings</p> <p>Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 29 October at 7.30pm in the staff room. Subsequent meetings will be on 21 January, 25 March (AGM) and 6 May.</p>

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