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International Pupil Council **Meeting 7: Minutes**

Venue: Stepney Primary School

Date: Tuesday 29th November 2011

1. Present:

Mr P Browning (Chair & Secretary, Head at Stepney PS), Mr B Waudby (Hull City Council), Charlie & Lewis (Pearson PS), Zahaib & Kayleigh (Collingwood PS), Charlie & Samia (Thanet PS), Casey & Tommy (Dorchester PS), Thomas & Amelia (Stepney PS), Rebecca & Chloe (St. Richards PS), Tommy and Amy (Bellfield PS)

2. Apologies:

Mrs Rule, Thomas (Winifred Holtby), Chiltern PS, Ings PS

3. Minutes from Last Meeting

These were accepted as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

Mr Ben Waudby addressed the children with an informative presentation about the work that Hull City Council has been undertaking with Freetown City Council. He outlined the 'Good Practice Scheme' that the council has been involved in.

The main elements of the Waste Strategy are:

- Procurement – which means buying things;
- Asset Management – this is about looking after things;
- Contract Management – make sure that companies do what the contract says they should do;
- Performance Management – think about what has happened. Can it be done better next time?

Ben gave us statistics, which explained the problems that the Freetown city council faced. While there are 250,000 people in Hull, there are 2.5 million in Freetown. There are 60 vehicles which deal with waste in Hull, but only 12 in Freetown. In Hull, £17million is spent each year of managing waste while only £616,000 is spent in Freetown.

Ben asked the IPC pupils what happens to our rubbish. He told us that it goes to a recycling plant in Derbyshire. In Freetown, there are two massive landfill sites, the size of East Park. These are, in

fact, very fertile, due to the amount of organic waste, which is tipped in them. There are problems though: the bulldozers that are used to clearing the roadways into the sites are often broken down so the sites become clogged up with more rubbish.

For medical waste, including syringes, our waste is taken from the hospitals and surgeries by companies and incinerated but this doesn't happen in Sierra Leone. Medical waste, along with sewage and trade waste finds its way into the water supply. Whilst Ben was in Freetown a few weeks ago, he saw this type of waste being washed up onto a beach he was walking along!

Ben explained that Freetown needs to:

- Sort the waste at source – plastic, metal, organic
- There needs to be a properly engineered and managed dispersal of waste
- Have more vehicles and equipment.

Hull City Council have had £80,000 over 18 months to send bins, tool boxes, boot, computers, waders, gloves, tyres, jet-vacs, 1 cess pit emptier and 6 rubbish lorries (which are unfortunately still stuck on the dock side in Freetown). Ben went on to explain that although they can get petrol and diesel, they have problems getting quality oil to put in the machines and vehicles.

We all thanked Ben for his comprehensive presentation as it gave us a clear picture of the issues connected with waste management.

We then thought about the other matters arising from the last meeting:

- Kayleigh and Zahaib from Collingwood reported back on the visit that two teachers from their school had made. They showed us paper copies of the powerpoint show that their teachers had shown to the school. As well as showing us what their partner school was like, it highlighted the waste issue and the joint work that the Hull school and Freetown school had done;
They also had photos prepared for the autumn section of 'A Year in the life of...' book.
- Charlie & Samia from Thanet showed us their scrap book and letters;
- Bellfield showed us the beautiful book that they had prepared to give to their visiting partner head teacher after Christmas and Tommy and Amy invited us to our special event at their school on 8th February 2012. Mr Browning will find out more details and circulate it to IPC schools

5. Actions

- To continue with the work on the books "A Year in the Life of..."

6. Priorities for Next Meeting

- Mr Browning to find out and circulate further details about the Bellfield event.

7. Any Other Business (A.O.B.)

Mr Browning reported that the Hastings Schools' branch of the IPC has started up.

10. Dates for the Next Meeting

8th February at Bellfield Primary School