



## **Newnham Croft Primary School**

### **Meeting of the Full Governing Body held on Wednesday 7 July 2021 at 6pm via Zoom**

**Governors present:** Lucy Nethsingha (Chair –LN) ; Andy Matthews (Headteacher – AM); Dani Redhead (DR); Edward Ferguson (EF); Kirsty McDougall (KM); Hugh Clough (HC); Kate Fry (KF); Keren Sayir-Uziyel (KSU); Jason Palmer (JP); Simon Hill (SH); Jean Glasberg (JG); Matt Day (MD); Eleanor Toye Scott (ETS - *from item 5*)

**Also in attendance:** Helen Bracey (Clerk - HB)

The meeting was quorate.

#### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

The Chair welcomed members. Apologies were received from Rachel Rosborough (RR) and Tom Kendon (TK).

#### **2. Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**

None declared.

#### **3. Review and acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2021**

The minutes were accepted as a true record and will be signed later by the Chair.

#### **4. Matters arising and review of actions from the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2021**

- F0710:03 – Closed
- F1710:04 – Closed
- F0212:02 – Closed
- F2804:01 – Closed
- F2804:02 – Closed
- F2804:03 – Closed
- F2804:04 – Closed

#### **5. Governance Matters**

- Co-option of Eleanor Toye Scott to the governing body – governors unanimously co-opted ETS.
- Approval of Aleks Jach as support staff governor – AJ was approved unanimously.
- Meeting dates 2021/22 – governors supported the proposal to continue with 5 FGB meetings and 5 meetings each for sub-committees TLC, EPC and PFC. HB to circulate the dates.
- Committee Membership – members were asked to email the chair with details of which committee they would like to join/stay on.

## **6. Headteacher's Report – report previously circulated**

2 main points were raised:

Covid - From September, all bubbles and staggered start times will be removed. Ventilation will be kept up. If a large outbreak were to occur, the school will have a plan in place which will contain elements of the Covid risk assessment.

Sports Premium – The spend date has been extended to July 2022.

The following questions were raised:

***A governor asked if the school has a sense of how many children will be on roll in September.***

School numbers look to be around 229.

***A governor enquired about the change in hours for support staff.*** There will be an additional half day of PP support, subject leader cover and job shares amongst support staff.

***A governor queried whether there would be any implication on school management with AM teaching in Year 4.*** AM responded that he has been teaching half a day per week this term which has worked fine.

Following the LA visit, the Chair flagged up to governors that there were some issues to come out of the monitoring visit – some to do with governors. The LA adviser is supporting and has encouraged the school to sign up with the National College for staff and governor training courses.

## Health and Safety

- A full Health and Safety site inspection was carried out by NW on 5 July.

## Safeguarding

- 3 incidents of CP concerns since the last FGB
- 1 prevent
- No exclusions

## Pupil Premium

- Currently on LAC.
- 14 children eligible for PP ad FSM.

## **13. Item brought forward - discussion about replacement boilers**

Newnham Croft has been flagged up by the LA as one of 11 schools in the county where the school boilers are in need of replacement. Some companies have surveyed for like for like replacements, however there is a drive to look for greener solutions. As part of the LA decarbonisation scheme, the LA has received a pot of money sufficient for 3 schools to be fitted with air source heat pumps.

There would be a cost implication to the school, as follows:

- 10% increase in fuel costs, which would probably rise for a less thermally efficient building like Newnham Croft.
- The LA will contribute £90000 and schools would need a £25-30K loan to cover the total £120-£130000 total cost.
- The LA would try to offset the cost of installation by installing more solar panels and LED lights.

The Eco and Premises committee have explored the options of ground source and heat source pumps and were advised by the LA that a ground source heat pump would not be suitable or affordable to the school. A decision on the type of replacement boiler needs to be made urgently as the deadline for an expression of interest for the decarbonisation scheme is imminent. The following pros and cons to a replacement gas boiler vs a ground source option were raised:

- Need to consider that fuel costs will change over the next 20 years, with gas becoming more expensive and comparative fuels less expensive.
- The school could ask the school community and wider community to contribute funds.
- If the school proceed with the like for like boiler option, they will be fitted this summer, but the heat pump would not be fitted until March 2022. There is a risk the current boilers might fail next year.
- An alternative option is to proceed with the gas boiler replacement but invest in increasing thermal efficiency.
- The school should not risk having to close the school if the boilers fail; governors' duty of care is to the children. Fuel costs may fall but in case they don't the costs should be judged on current costs.
- Governors should question whether it is good practice to take out a loan when there is no certainty that money will be raised/donated.
- Carbon dioxide emissions could reduce by two thirds.
- Nitrous oxide emissions from the boiler are currently affecting local air quality, but these emissions would be avoided by installing an electric heat pump. A governor with expertise in the field of green heating systems noted that there is an alternative hybrid solution - a slightly smaller heat pump, 80% and 20% gas boiler.
- The school's focus should not be the issue of climate change, but on resources for the school.
- Governors agreed that school parents should be canvassed and asked whether they would be prepared to donate funds to support the boiler replacement, as well as improving insulation in the school. LN and JP to draft a letter.

## 6. Reports from Committees

- **Personnel and Finance** – Minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated.  
The following was highlighted:
  - The star rating of the kitchen has reduced to 2 stars.
  - The outturn forecast will be available in September.
  - A useful and informative detailed PP report has been produced.
  - The committee are looking at producing Licencing Agreements for out of hours users of the school grounds ie Scouts and Guides.
- **Eco and Premises** – Minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated.  
The following was highlighted:
  - New boiler alternatives.
  - Rainwater harvesting.
- **Teaching and Learning** – Minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated.  
The following was highlighted:
  - The disparity in assessment results between girls' and boys' achievements in maths.

***A governor enquired whether the National Tutoring Programme had been taken up, and what the impact of home schooling last year had been on children.*** AM responded that it hadn't been accessed this year, but might be next year. A teacher is being taken on to provide support from September. There are small groups of children who have not made as much progress as hoped. The end of term assessments will be analysed and support given as necessary. The provision for these children will form part of teachers' performance management.

The Maths monitoring visit report had been circulated. The monitoring governor enquired whether additional strategies could include: the re-introduction of The Lees school mentoring; an after school club from Newnham College and the Y6 maths extension group with a local resident.

#### **8. Staff Wellbeing Survey**

Respondents complained that communication is still poor. There were negative responses from some individuals. No TA's self-identified their responses. Governors to discuss this further as a priority.

#### **9. School Development Plan – document previously circulated**

- A lot of items that weren't covered last year reappear in this year's SDP.
- With advice from Sue Bowman, the document has been re-stylised – priorities have been highlighted and made time bound and with named responsibility. The final version will be published in September.

***A governor enquired of there are any aspects of next year's SDP that address the educational impact of Covid.*** AM responded that a key priority is the catch up target.

***A governor asked how collaborative the document is. If staff are asked what their priorities would be, it would be interesting to see if the list is similar without them having seen a drafted document.*** SLT looked back at the old version and reviewed subject leader areas, but this first draft has not been to all staff yet. The deputy head said teachers would see the document at a teacher meeting and support staff would be consulted too.

#### **10. School vision statement**

AM circulated the re-written vision statement formulated from words submitted by governors, staff and parents that they felt best represent the ethos and values of the school. The vision statement will be on the home page of the website and the statement of intent at the end of the SDP as the ultimate aim. Ofsted will also look at the statement and judge the school against it at an inspection. Governors were asked to send comments to AM.

#### **11. National College training opportunities**

With a recommendation from the LA adviser, the school has subscribed to this training scheme to support governors and staff in their professional development. Governors should see this as an add on to the Cambridge governance training and were encouraged to access courses suitable to their role as Ofsted can fail a school if governors are not aware of what is going on. A record of training is maintained by the Clerk and governors should update her on training courses taken.

#### **12. Standing item – safeguarding updates** *The following documents had been previously circulated:*

- Safeguarding Annual Report to Governors
- Report from Safeguarding audit from the LA
- Safeguarding governor monitoring report

#### **13. Replacement of school boilers – discussed above.**

#### **14. Governor monitoring of Covid-19 catch up programme**

Children requiring catch up support has been made a priority for next year. AM would like a governor appointed with responsibility for the development programme. Clerk to send out the list of governor responsibilities, for review in September.

**F0707:01 - Clerk to send out the list of governor responsibilities, for review in September.**

**15. Policies for Review:** *the following had been previously circulated:*

- Relationships and Sex Education – Governors unanimously approved the policy.
- PSHCE – circulated for information only.

**16. Any other business**

With no further business, the Chair thanked governors for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

**ACTION LOG:**

Minute Item no.	Action ref	Action	Owner	Deadline	Status
14. Governor monitoring	F0707:01	Clerk to send out the list of governor responsibilities, to be reviewed in September.	HB	Sep 2021	Open

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_