



Newnham Croft Primary School

Meeting of the Full Governing Body held on Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 6pm at school

Governors present: Dani Redhead (Chair-DR); Edward Ferguson (Head-EF); Matt Day (MD); Eleanor Toye Scott (ETS); Katy Holliday (KH); Hugh Clough (HC); Yudan Ren (YR) *from item 3*; Ave Wrigley (AW); Joseph Watts (JW).

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

The meeting was quorate.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed members. New Governor JW was introduced and gave a brief introduction of himself. The Chair will identify a mentor for him. Apologies received from ES, RM, AH, NW, SH. LN has resigned from her LA governor role. She was formally thanked (in her absence) for her long standing and vital contribution to the school and the governing body.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

The current Chair said she was not going to stand again, and expressed her enjoyment of the role, saying it had been an absolute privilege and pleasure to be Chair and she couldn't have done it without all other members. One member had expressed an interest in the position. The Clerk asked for nominations for the appointment. AW nominated MD, seconded by ETS. All were in favour. MD was not present during voting.

Three members had expressed interest in the Vice Chair position – ETS, AW and YR. The two members present left the meeting. Members were asked their thoughts on a shared Vice Chair role and it was agreed that sharing the role would be good for succession planning, and a more distributed model of leadership would be beneficial. DR nominated AW and ETS as joint Vice Chairs, seconded by EF. All were in favour. Responsibilities will be worked out, which will involve looking at the Chair role, school needs and how to share roles.

The HT acknowledged that DR had done an enormous amount of work in setting up policy reviews and monitoring visits, and the level of challenge and expertise had improved hugely during her tenure.

Governor SH's tenure expires in October. Members voted unanimously to re-co-opt him, nominated by HC and seconded by MD.

3. Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda

None.

4. Review and acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2024

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

5. Matters arising and review of actions from the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2024

- F0612:03 – Ongoing
- F2404:01 – Ongoing
- F2404:02 – Closed
- F2404:03 – Closed
- F2404:04 – Closed
- F2424:05 - Ongoing

6. Governance documents 2024/25

- **Standing Orders** – with some minor amendments, the document was agreed.
- **Governor Code of Practice, KCSIE and Safeguarding and CP Policy** had been previously circulated. Governors to sign to declare they have read and understood them. EF will lead a safeguarding session at 5.30pm before the next FGB for those governors not present on 4 September 2024.
- **Individual pecuniary interest forms** were circulated during the meeting and returned to the Clerk. Members absent from the meeting will complete at the next FGB.
- **Structure of the Governing Body** – circulated for information. There are some Committee vacancies to be filled. There is a vacancy for the LA Governor role – DR nominated HC, seconded by EF, agreed unanimously. There are 3 co-opted spaces on the governing body; skills required are in the areas of HR, legal and teaching.

A governor raised a GDPR question relating to MyConcern – Because the reports are shared with other schools and sometimes with the parents of the child in the report, what should the school do about redacting names etc. This safeguarding issue will be discussed at PFC.

ACTION F1124:01 – PFC to discuss GDPR issues relating to sharing of MyConcern reports between parents/schools.

7. Reports from Committees

- **Teaching and Learning** – The June 2024 minutes were approved.
- **Personnel and Finance** – nothing to report.
- **Eco and Premises** – nothing to report.

8. Policies for Review:

- **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy:** Other than some re-wording, the policy has not changed. Approved unanimously.

9. Headteacher's Verbal Report

- Management structure unchanged.
- 223 children on role.
- Finance Officer is now attending SLT meetings.
- New LSA supporting Rec and Y1.
- 2 children in Reception with needs, but unsure as yet what their requirements will be.
- 1 member of teaching staff with long term medical condition.
- Generally, staff seem happy to be back at school and LSAs positive about their new roles.
- The school has stepped back one level of LA support. Maths and English support reduced to 1 visit per year.
- New Improvement Advisor this year.
- New female PE teacher; very positive to have a female teacher in terms of role model.
- The SENCo qualifies in November. CPD – staff looked at extension challenge across all subjects. General thinking is to develop children's thinking skills, and encourage them to be creative about what they are doing. Methods will develop over the year and good practice shared.

- English and maths briefings have been booked up.
- Attendance is 97.7%. There will be a focus on good attendance from the start.

Safeguarding:

- Safeguarding files have been transferred to secondary schools via MyConcern.
- A single agency S47 has been issued for one child following a disclosure made by one parent.
- The SENCo is to join the safeguarding team.

Finance:

- Looking at around a £20000 carry forward.
- 5.5% teacher pay award will be fully funded.

Premises:

- Improvements to the Year 3 fire door have been completed.
- The hall curtains have been mended and new rails attached.
- The Community room and AH/SENCo office has been repainted.
- Trees have been pruned.
- Flower beds are being maintained by a gardener, funded by the PTA.
- Quotes for the refurbishment of the front of the school are £5500 and £6500. Planting will be extra. The PTA to fundraise for this.

SDP: will be emailed to the FGB.

The following questions were raised:

What sort of things was the school encouraged to try out by Ofsted? Extended provision in Y1 and recording in children's books, ie less recording and more about what the children discuss. The LA working in school has also influenced a lot of reflection on practice.

Is the Get Set Club resuming this term? Yes, and maybe in 6 week blocks. Good to have a break so the club has more impact and meaning.

What is happening about the breakfast club? A reading club has been set up in the library every morning. The cost is £4 per child and rather than paying a staff member, the children are monitored by all staff. This should raise about £5000 per year.

With regards to the S47 case, was there any indication that the school should have been aware?
The concern was directed at the other parent, so the school could not have done anything further. The HT was reassured by the speed at which the agencies jointly cooperated. The child did not make any disclosures to social workers when interviewed. The class teacher is fully aware of the case.

10. Teacher 23-24 assessment data

Discussed below.

11. The Ofsted inspector's notes have been circulated for information.

12. Monitoring visits will resume. Committee Chairs and the clerk will circulate reports to relevant Committee meetings.

13. **Governor Training** – governors are committed to at least one session per term.

Teacher 23-24 assessment data

- Teachers are looking at areas/gaps where extra support is needed.
- Y4 has some new SEN children, who made amazing progress in Y3. Need to keep the LW focus in Y4, and maths interventions.
- Writing is a focus for the school. Some percentages were slightly inflated; now there is more robust moderation for accurate assessments. It was noted that it is harder to achieve higher

standards in Y6. Writing moderations will be carried out every fortnight during teacher meetings.

- Reading – quite confident with SEN/PP children. Report on effective interventions – the SENCo will trial a number of these this year.
- Maths – the difference between the achievement of girls and boys remains; it is somewhat cohort dependent, but across the school this is the trend.

The following questions were raised:

In maths, do you feel there are positive results that are yet to filter through? There has not been a breakthrough yet. The plan is to make classrooms more suitable for active children and to find a way to make maths more accessible to girls ie more play based. Talks from females who are mathematicians or who studied maths will also continue. As is well documented, this is an international level problem, but the school won't stop trying, though it acknowledges that it is a big task for a small primary school. A governor agreed that it is important to keep talking about it and to try to find out what is feeding into this situation.

Is it true that the national test results for SEN students in science was better than in reading and writing? Yes. The school has a number of SEN children who are very good at science, and can demonstrate that without having to record it in any way.

14. Any other business

A request had been received from the Queens' bursar asking whether Morgan Sindall could conduct an assembly. It was agreed to decline this proposal.

With the Chair retiring from the post, the HT thanked her for doing an incredible job. He talked about the amount of work she had put in and the amazing difference it had made. He said that her support to him personally and the rigour in meetings was really appreciated.

With there being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

ACTION LOG:

Minute Item no.	Action ref	Action	Owner	Deadline	Status
18. AOB	F0612:03	EPC to explore funding applications for a school decarbonisation plan.	JG/EF	Jan 2024 Nov 2024	Ongoing
5. Reports from committees	F2404:01	EPC to review risk assessment of low bar equipment	NW	Sep 2024	Ongoing
5. Parent survey	F2404:05	A letter/survey re school meals be go to all parents in the autumn term.	HT/DR	Oct 24	Ongoing
5. Matters arising	F1124:01	Clerk to upload Ofsted inspector's notes to the website	Clerk	Sep 24	Open
6. Governance	F1124:02	PFC to discuss GDPR issues relating to sharing MyConcern reports between parents/ schools.	PFC	Sep 24	Open

Signed: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____