



Finance & Premises Committee

17 September 2020, 5 pm [by Zoom]

Minutes

Present: Jane Keenan (committee chair), Camilla Argyle, Adam Breakwell, Lyn Broom, Matthew Burns, Kerry Martin, Emma Morgan, Sallie Peacock, Lucy Rossiter, Emma Jenkins (up to and including item 3), Mark Simmons (clerk)

1. Apologies

None. School business manager Emma Jenkins was welcomed to the meeting to present the current budget position.

2. Current budget position

Emma Jenkins presented the revenue and capital accounts to the end of August (period 5) and responded to governors' questions on the detail. Governors noted that current expenditure is at around 38% of the year (period 5 is 41.7% through the financial year, although includes the slightly reduced expenditure during the summer holiday period). There is also a nominal credit balance in the capital account.

Governors discussed the potential capital scheme, given problems with the roof and with the two mobile classrooms which are deteriorating badly. Karen Knight at the Local Authority has confirmed that £500k has been earmarked for this. Karen is also committed to reviving the plan to build a new pre-school building, but – considering also the impact of Covid-19 expenditure rises – this has still not gained sufficient traction with the LA. Nonetheless, the significant financial contribution which school and pre-school can make, bearing in mind both the pre-school's reserve level, and the opportunity to borrow, could help to lead to a positive result.

Governors agreed in principle that it would make sense to go ahead with the larger project in the context of an SLA with the pre-school over ten years.

In addition, there is a plan to extend and reconfigure the Reception classroom to make the classroom rectangular and to provide more inside and outside space for the school food company, for which Liz Mackay is looking for grant funding.

3. Potential impact of Covid-19 on income & expenditure

Governors noted that as expected, cleaning and agency staff costs are increased due to Covid-19, and although some government funding is claimable for increased Covid-19-related costs

4. Numbers in school

Governors noted that after some unexpected joiners the current number on roll is 184.

5. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting on 14 May were unanimously approved.

6. Matters arising

No matters arising not mentioned above.

7. Any other business

Governors agreed to give the kitchen equipment to the Orleton School Food Community Interest Company with an agreement that the school could continue to use the equipment and could buy it back at 50% of market value if necessary. The CIC continues to be responsible for maintaining the equipment.

8. Date of next meeting

Spring term committee meetings are yet to be confirmed given the Covid-19 situation; the next full governing body meeting is on Thursday 19 November at 4:30pm.