

EAST AYTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Minutes of a meeting of the Full Governing Body held at the school on
Tuesday 4th April 2017 at 7pm

Present	Chair	Samantha Hay (SH)	Co-opted Governor
	Head Teacher	Derek Johnson (DJ)	Headteacher
		Rabia Firfirey (RF)	Parent Governor
		Christine Robson (CR)	Parent Governor
		Helen Cass (HC)	Parent Governor
		Eileen Race (ER)	Co-opted Governor
		Tim Watts (TW)	Co-opted Governor
		David Tomlinson (DT)	LA Governor
		Paul Wilson (PW)	Staff Governor
		Caroline Reddish (CR)	Staff Governor
	Apologies	Greg Harper	Co-opted Governor
	Clerk	Helen Evans (HE)	

Item	Minute	Action
1	Welcome and introductions The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Two new parent governors were introduced	
2	Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Greg Harper who was away on a training course, this apology were consented to.	
3	Declaration of interests and reminder of governor protocol. The Chair invited governors to declare any interest in matters which are the subject of, or are connected with, any item of business on the agenda. There were no declarations of interest. The Chair reminded governors of their responsibility to the school and the need for discussions in the meeting to be treated with confidentiality. Governors should act as a "critical friend" to the school. Decisions made by the Governing Body will have an impact on the school and it is important that discussions within the Governing Body remain confidential until the minutes are published.	
4	To determine whether any part of the proceedings should be treated as confidential and excluded from the minutes to be made available for public inspection. None	
5	Notification of urgent other business. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School trips • Car parking 	
6	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24th January 2017 Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair	
7	To consider matters arising from the minutes and for which there is no separate agenda item. None	
8	Matt George Chief Planning Officer from NYCC Strategic Planning Department to update Governors on building planning in East Ayton.	

	<p>Matt started by explaining to Governors how NYCC work out planning in the local area. There are currently plans for around 263 new residential houses in the East Ayton, planning permission has been granted for 130 houses in the first phase. The knock on effect for the school would be that NYCC would look at the existing provision to decide how to accommodate the increased number of school places required. NYCC would look at whether the existing school site could be expanded, in this case that would not be possible as the site is landlocked. He pointed out that there were no immediate plans for expansion and that a feasibility study would need to be carried out.</p> <p>Governor question: what about funding and is the school expected to contribute? Matt George explained that there is ring-fencing around funding for education and there is also basic need funding, the school would not be expected to contribute financially.</p> <p>Governor question: what are the possibilities for expansion based on how things look at the moment? The site is limited and an extra complication of planning permission from North Yorkshire Moors would be required. There would possibly be a need for two or three extra classrooms and a feasibility study would be required. There would be a lead in period needed.</p> <p>There was some discussion around the fact that the school is currently full, as are some of the neighbouring schools. Matt pointed out that forecasting pupil numbers is never an exact science but that in-year numbers would continue to be taken into account and it was essential to structure any future changes appropriately.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Matt for the information he had given to the meeting and he said that he would keep the committee informed of progress at each stage of the process. Matt left the meeting at this point.</p>	
9	<p>Report from Finance Committee Meeting held on 23rd March 2017</p> <p>The Chair of the Finance Committee gave an overview of the meeting based on the draft minutes. There was a deficit in the current year but there was a plan in place to balance the books during the next 2 years and then have a small surplus in year 3. This plan has been submitted to NYCC and the Bursar was waiting for approval, although it was felt that approval was just a formality.</p> <p>Governor comment: there had been some unusual one-off costs included in the deficit, such as the IT expenditure and the unexpected staff cost. There was a strong plan for moving forward to regain a small surplus.</p> <p>Governor question: what is the impact of the new funding formula? There is a lot of speculation, but the situation is still unclear due to there being a national formula and then a local formula will be applied by NYCC.</p>	
10	<p>To review Head Teachers Report including an Update on the School Development Plan and Pupil Progress and year end results</p> <p>The Head Teacher had circulated Head Teacher's Report prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Chris Keeler has been a School Inspector and NYCC are encouraging schools with an imminent inspection to use his experience to support them through the process. Governor question: how did that relationship come about. Head teacher had heard of his work and has asked for his assistance.</p> <p>There had been some excellent sporting achievements in athletics, gymnastics,</p>	

	<p>tag rugby and cross country events. The Chair asked the Head Teacher to pass on the congratulations of the Governors to all the pupils concerned for their achievements and for their conduct in representing the school so successfully.</p> <p>The Head Teacher talked through the school inspection dashboard in the attached report. Governor question: why don't pupils bring home weekly spellings now? There is no proof to show that spelling tests help pupils to learn how to spell. Learning how to spell needs to be done in the context of the sentence. Governor comment: parents need to know that information then. There was a discussion about how to communicate effectively with parents, as the previous attempts via 'curriculum events' had not been well attended. Governors agreed that the school needed to look at how to use technology to engage parents with up to date information, such as a homework app. Governor comment: if a school inspector knew that parents were asking about things like spellings, would there be an answer? Governor comment: we need to discuss with staff a coherent homework policy. The Head Teacher commented that teachers had autonomy to set homework to meet the needs of the lesson. The Chair suggested and it was agreed that this issue be discussed at a staff meeting as communication with parents was essential around homework.</p> <p>The Head Teacher talked through the School Development Plan. Governor question: does the HMI advisor agree with this self evaluation? The Head Teacher said that he had been given points to consider by the advisor prior to updating the plan.</p>	DJ
11	<p>School Improvement Committee</p> <p>The Chair explained that on advice from the HMI inspector it was felt that the committee had served its purpose and a better use of time would be to slim it down to a much smaller committee that could report to the full Governing Body.</p> <p>After a discussion it was unanimously agreed that this committee would be made up of three experienced Governors who could act as a task force. It was also agreed that the date of the next meeting of this committee would be Thursday 27th April 2017 and this meeting did not need to be Clerked.</p>	
12	<p>Governor Training</p> <p>The Chair suggested that each Governor critically assess how the Governing Body is working and what it could do better. It was agreed that Governors would consider how other successful schools operated by looking at various websites and reporting back to the next meeting.</p>	
13	<p>Governor Visits to School</p> <p>A governor had made a recent visit to school particularly looking at IT. This report would be circulated to Governors and discussed at a future meeting.</p>	
14	<p>Urgent other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School trips – The Chair reported that the usual year 6 trip to Bewerley Park was becoming less relevant and less popular and the suggestion was that this trip was replaced by a trip to London. Despite the recent security situation NYCC would support a London Trip and 21 out of 24 families were happy to support the trip. The cost would be slightly less than the previous cost as it was 4 days rather than 5. The accommodation would be a Youth Hostel. The Governors unanimously agreed to the London trip and the Chair thanked the staff who give up 	

	<p>their time to make these trips happen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Parking – the issue around the dangers of the cars parked at school pick up and drop off times was raised by a parent governor. The issue was discussed at length. The Chair reiterated that car parking was beyond the control of the school. It was agreed that road safety would be revisited with the pupils. 	
15	<p>Pairing with other Governing Bodies The Chair reported that reciprocal visits to other Governing Bodies would now be arranged.</p>	
16	<p>Date and time of next meetings 27th April 2017 – School Improvements Committee (to be arranged among members) 25th May 2017 – Finance Committee Meeting @ 3pm 18th July 2017 – Full Governing Body Meeting @ 7pm</p>	

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Date: