



## MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COMMUNITY SUB COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 5.30 - 7.30 PM

CRICKHOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

### MINUTES

**Attendees / Non-attendees:** Mr A. Fryer (AF), **Cllr R. Harris (RH)**, Mr R. Jeremiah (RJ), Mr P. Lindoewood (PL), Mrs J. Parker (JP), **Mr S. Roberts (SR)**, Mr M. Rhydderch-Roberts (MRR)

**Highlighted Name – denotes Governor not attending**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Apologies were received from SR.  NB attended the meeting as a co-opted / non-voting member.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</b>  The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate representation of the meeting. All matters arising are covered in the agenda.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Community Library and Sports Centre Updates</b>  <b>Community Library:</b> NB reported as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benches have been put in for the computer stations, which has freed up space in other areas.</li><li>• We're still collating permission slips for library registration from students.</li><li>• TR is now on board as a part-time consultant to help us develop the library. This is a stop gap solution whilst we source additional funding for a Library Project Officer. She is proving a huge asset, is very thorough and is helping us to prioritize tasks.</li><li>• Our literacy project is ongoing in the local cluster of schools.</li><li>• Plans going forward include improving displays, internal décor and artwork and to increase the book stock.</li></ul> JP reported that we'll continue discussing with County the future development of the library. We're exploring projects to expand the public usage of the library. Some admin staff will be trained up as library volunteers to provide holiday cover for staff. We're reviewing the option of increasing the opening hours, possibly on a Saturday. We continue to work with community organizations, such as the Dementia Friendly Group and the Friends of Crickhowell Library.  <b>Sports Centre:</b> NB said we continue to await planning permission on the floodlights. The current status quo is that we await feedback from the BBNPA on our noise mitigation proposals, which includes a 3 metre high sound boarding adjacent to affected properties and a possible 1 metre height increase to the wall on the road side. We have paid for 3D sound modelling on our proposals to establish their	

efficacy. AF said that the only issue is whether the BBNPA will need to reconsult on the matter.

PL asked how long it would take for the floodlights to be installed once planning permission has been granted. NB said the estimate from the manufacturers is 8 weeks. PL also asked where we're at with the bat survey. JP reported that this issue has now been resolved.

NB said bookings for the Sports Centre have remained buoyant. All outside bookings were lost, due to the floodlight issue, but it is hoped that most of those will return once the evenings are lighter.

One of the Duty Managers is due to go on maternity leave and will not return so we'll need to advertise for a replacement.

NB stated that, based on parental requests, we're looking at extending the morning opening hours to 9.30 / 10.00 am. JP said the installation of Maglocks means it's now easier to close the Sports Centre off from the rest of the school during these extended hours and so ensures appropriate safeguarding.

JP reported that the work being done by AnL is excellent and we continue to look at how we can train and develop Sports Centre staff.

#### **4.0 New Budget 2017 / 2018**

**School Budget:** JP advised the meeting that the budget is still in a state of uncertainty as figures are not yet forthcoming from County. Although we continue to run a sizeable deficit, it should be stressed that it's the lowest in Powys. If we were paid on par with other schools, we'd be approximately £600k - £700k better off per annum. Further pressure is added where we're not funded for additional students outside of PLASC dates as a school with a rising roll.

RJ asked if other authorities operate this way. JP replied that they didn't. Schools are funded according to expected numbers and excess funds are taken back at the end of the academic year.

County have taken the decision that all secondary schools will remain open as will all sixth forms. The latest 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools brings a new Welsh secondary onto the Newtown campus. The number of students in most Powys secondary schools is falling. Teaching staff pay is scheduled to see a 2% increase with admin staff somewhere between 2% - 6.5%.

AF said that because school rolls are mainly falling in the north, when County puts the funds through the funding formula, the amount of money per student may actually be higher.

JP advised that the management team will continue to explore every possible opportunity to pull in revenue.

It's likely that we'll have a voluntary severance scheme in place again this year.

	<p>RJ asked how much time JP spends on the budget, whether it was onerous or even billable. JP replied that whatever it is, it just must be done.</p> <p>AF summarized by saying that we must continue to manage our educational outcomes and manage our resources as best we can.</p> <p>JP said funding / sponsorship letters will be sent out this month to local companies and parents.</p> <p>Governors will be updated regarding the budget figures as soon as they come in.</p> <p><b>Sports Centre Budget:</b> NB reported that the budget is showing a year-to-date loss of £1k, but otherwise is running to plan.</p> <p><b>Library:</b> This is a breakeven budget.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>JP / NB</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p><b>CHS Premises Upgrades</b></p> <p>NB said that premises upgrades continue to be managed on a shoestring.</p> <p>JP reported that IG is being paid as a contractor to redecorate the classrooms out of school hours. Some of our students, who are on a restorative justice programme, have expressed an interest in helping.</p> <p>We're working on organizing perimeter fencing with gates, which will be opened outside school hours.</p> <p>We're looking to develop appropriate rooming in conjunction with the development of next year's curriculum and we've asked County to provide us with mobile classrooms in September to accommodate our student numbers.</p> <p>We'll be looking to replace the school signage at the entrance and those directing people to reception, as they are now looking faded.</p> <p>AF reported that during a recent meeting with the Glanusk Estate, it emerged that their boundary line extends to the middle of the stream on our sports pitch boundary and therefore we have shared ownership of the issue of pollution and blockage of land drains. JP said the school is now very concerned about plastics pollution of the stream and is working with the Eco Committee to develop a resolution.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p><b>ICT / DCF Resources</b></p> <p>JP advised the meeting that the plan is to seek sponsorship for the hybrid devices project, potentially from County. The Digital Competency Framework states that all students must have increased access to ICT in schools, so this opens the door to source funding help either from County or the Welsh Government.</p> <p>JP said that our current issue with a corrupted shared drive has flagged up the need to revisit our ICT protocols relating to data storage and backup and what form that takes. The corrupted drive will now need to be sent to a specialist data recovery company to see what can be salvaged.</p>	

	<p>The plan is also to provide ICT training sessions for groups of staff during the day as a priority.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<p><b>Staffing Update</b></p> <p>JP said we have a new member of staff, CaG, who has joined as the Director of Learning for Welsh Bacc. She has also taken on PSE</p> <p>We have another member of staff due to go on maternity leave in July and we have a financially beneficial strategy in place to provide maternity cover.</p> <p>HOF and BE return from maternity leave this term.</p> <p>CM, who has been on sick leave for 6 weeks now with work-related stress, will be returning to work on 18<sup>th</sup> January. We've discussed and agreed a 3-week phased return to work and it has been recommended that she be referred to Occupational Health.</p>	
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>Health &amp; Safety</b></p> <p>JP stated that we're doing Prevent training with all staff and seeking permission from County to organize perimeter fencing to improve our student safeguarding during school hours.</p>	
<b>9.0</b>	<p><b>Inclusion</b></p> <p>JP reported that one student will be on a fixed day exclusion from 11<sup>th</sup> January but such exclusions continue to be low.</p> <p>Five new students joined us at the beginning of the term.</p>	

The meeting ended at 6.35 pm.