



MEETING OF THE FINANCE & COMMUNITY SUB COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2017 AT 5.30 - 7.30 PM

CRICKHOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES

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

Name – denotes Governor not attending

1.0	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from RH, HJ and MRR.	
2.0	Election of Chair and Vice Chair JP chaired the meeting for this section and asked the meeting for volunteers to be Chair. None were forthcoming so it was agreed to look to the community for the appropriate skill set, as we also have a vacancy for a Community Governor. JP nominated PL to be Vice Chair and NB seconded. PL took over chairing the meeting.	
3.0	Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising The minutes were accepted and there were no matters arising.	
4.0	Community Library and Sports Centre Updates Community Library: NB reported that the new signage has been delivered. The Friends of Crickhowell Library continue to upgrade the garden. We're liaising with the English Department to encourage more students to join the library and letters have been sent out to parents. We're increasing the number of ICT stations available and adding some iPad stations for younger members. JP reported that someone will be taking over the project management work. A meeting has been held with MC regarding line management and there will be a meeting with KS next week to discuss Powys Library Services input. Sports Centre: AF said there have been two residential objections to the planning application for floodlighting, both of which are weak. An Acoustic Survey is to be carried out.	
5.0	New Budget 2017 / 2018 School Budget: JP advised the meeting that since the Fair Funding Formula is still being reviewed, the two versions of the budget being tabled today are not definitive.	

The first version is a worst-case scenario and shows a potential budget deficit of £500k+ within three years. The reasons for the deficit include increased exam, supply and Welsh Bacc costs and some ALN funding still not received.

We're exploring the possibility of securing sponsorship from local companies and we'll be asking parents to contribute £20 per year in PTFA funding. We'll also apply to be an IET school, which should bring in extra funds.

Guidance from the Welsh Government on early exam entry has changed so exam costs should remain static.

The second budget version assumes a reduction in staff numbers resulting in a £150k reduction in the budget deficit.

The aim now is to do all we can to reduce the budget deficit in January, to pull in sponsorship where possible and to put a detailed discussion paper into the Powys cabinet and the Welsh Government about school funding.

Sports Centre: NB reported that the sports hall and dance studio are very busy with new classes being offered.

NB tabled a file which showed what the bookings for the 3G and astroturf would be if the floodlights were in.

JP reported that we're now focusing on adult education classes / bookings for other rooms to supplement the lack of revenue from the external grounds.

NB said the Sports Centre budget is currently showing a £4k deficit. The hope is to break even by April, but again this is all dependant on the floodlights being awarded planning permission.

We're also investigating having the gym open for extra hours in the school days, safeguarding and student access issues notwithstanding.

Library: NB said library will operate at a breakeven budget. The school will match and exceed the funding from Powys Library Services to ensure the budget remains breakeven and has some leeway in it.

6.0 CHS Premises Upgrades

Playing Field Litter: JP reported that a member of the public living close to the school, who is also a Councillor, has been making complaints to the Town Council. We now have a group of sixth formers monitoring the site as part of their community volunteering activities. The Eco Committee and the Leadership Team are also working together to come up with a full project plan to resolve future litter issues.

We already have extra bins on site and the PTFA may have some funds for more.

Perimeter Security Fence Proposals: GJ has said that a perimeter fence will be put in between the school and Bullpitt Meadow, complete with gates for access. We're also reviewing our CCTV protocols.

	<p>We're preparing a case to increase the size of the new build extension and are querying when this will be done.</p>	
6.0	<p>Hybrid Devices</p> <p>JP said we're awaiting a response from County as to whether we can have a loan for this and we're also looking at sponsorship. We're exploring whether this will be classed as capital expenditure and therefore could come out of the County ICT fund.</p> <p>AF recommended that this issue be raised at Welsh Government level in relation to the Donaldson recommendations.</p>	
7.0	<p>Staffing Update</p> <p>JP reported that JeM is now on paternity leave, HOF is already on maternity leave and HB is expected to go on paternity leave at any moment.</p> <p>We're shortlisting applicants for the Welsh Bacc post and will be interviewing them on Thursday 26th October.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Officer is now on board and proving a huge asset.</p>	
8.0	<p>Health & Safety</p> <p>NB reported that one of the rugby posts was pushed over by students. It transpired that the post had rusted through. No one was hurt. The post will be replaced over the next week or so. AF pointed out that referees are supposed to check the posts before each game and this is clearly not being done. JP stated that a meeting will be held with the WRU about this and we'll be seeking their guidance on how this can be prevented from happening in the future.</p> <p>NB reported that information has been sent out to parents now regarding the new Maglocks in place on all the external doors.</p>	
9.0	<p>Inclusion</p> <p>JP reported that there are now 895 students on roll and this is increasing.</p> <p>We had a huge level of interest during our Open Evening, more so than ever before. The additional open evening held for Gilwern primary school parents was also very busy.</p> <p>We continue to pursue ALN funding for a student who joined us in September. A discussion ensued.</p> <p>New students have settled in well.</p>	

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm.