

**SHILLINGSTONE CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Minutes of extraordinary FGB meeting**

**held on Thursday 4th January 2018 at Shillingstone Church Centre**

**Present:**

Mrs S Weedon, Chairman (SWe)	Mrs J Whitehouse-Sharpe, Headteacher (JWS)
Mrs S Baines (SB)	Mrs J Barlow (JB)
Mr P Clark (PC)	Mrs R Oakley (RO)
Mr K Pitt-Kerby (KPK)	Mrs A Powell (AP)
Mrs K Willey (KW)	

**In attendance:** Mr C Whitfeld, Clerk (CW)

1.	Welcome by SWe, prayer by AP.	
2.	<b>Apologies:</b> Mrs S White (SWh); Mrs S Vail (SV); Mrs K Drake (KD). Apologies accepted.	
3.	<b>Declarations of interest for this meeting:</b> AP in her capacity as SCC Bookings Manager.	
4.	<p><b>Complaint re trees:</b></p> <p>Tree Officer consulted and no objection to felling of five trees along school boundary close to Schelin Way affecting light of a neighbour there.</p> <p>JWS: These trees of no particular benefit to school in terms of either providing shade for children or “safeguarding.” Hate felling any trees, but agree to felling these “to keep our neighbours happy” – but not at any cost to school.</p> <p>SWh’s husband has offered to remove the trees voluntarily.</p> <p><b>SWe to arrange with SWh for the felling to be undertaken. Also to write to the neighbours informing them of this action and suggesting they might consider donating a replacement ornamental tree to be planted elsewhere in the school grounds.</b></p>	SWe
5.	<p><b>School’s financial situation:</b></p> <p><i>During the course of these discussions, Governors led by SWe and AP lobbied Parish Councillors at their own meeting to raise their awareness of the situation and seek their support in approaches to County Councillor Deborah Croney, MP Simon Hoare and others.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council requested detailed information about the school’s funding and deficit forecasts, particularly relating to SEND.</i></p> <p>AP reported from discussions with School Finance Officer Mrs J Weeden, forecast for current year less bad than feared, but worse over five-year period. Variety of staff cutback scenarios considered, but none would go anywhere near eliminating the deficit.</p> <p>Furthermore, school would be unable to meet requirements for SEND pupils.</p>	SWe, AP, JWS

	<p>JWS stressed “recovery plan” required in case of deficit budget, but unsure of time allowable for such “recovery.” Would need to seek advice from Vanessa Eddey, LA’s Head of Finance for Schools.</p> <p><i>(PC arrived at 7.30pm)</i></p> <p>SB stressed need to put most powerful case to Dorset County Council. Important therefore to engage with Deborah Croney (representing Shillingstone on DCC and also that Council’s Education portfolio holder), invite her to a meeting in school and brief her thoroughly with facts and figures – including explanation as to why DfE budget figures for Shillingstone School look better than school’s own forecast (referred to by Parish Council Chairman Malcolm Webberley in his “devil’s advocate” role).</p> <p>SWe reported failure so far to make contact with Salisbury Diocesan adviser Neil Revell, seeking support from Diocese. He had failed to respond to phone calls and emails. Agreed need to continue to press them for help.</p> <p>KPK suggested need to “start from zero” with budget, look at most basic needs and then consider what additions can be afforded. He also urged lobbying of MP Simon Hoare to put Government pressure on County Council.</p> <p>Fundraising ideas on hold, at least until more budget information received from County (probably not till February) and whole situation much clearer.</p>	<p><b>JWS</b></p> <p><b>SWe, AP, JWS, PC</b></p> <p><b>SWe</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Actions to be taken:</b> Detailed briefing for Parish Council <i>(see above)</i>.</p> <p>Invitation to, and briefing of Deborah Croney <i>(see above)</i>.</p> <p>Further, updating letter to parents.</p> <p>Parish Magazine article explaining situation, and seeking volunteer helpers.</p> <p>Chairman’s briefing of Governors’ discussions/actions to a staff meeting.</p> <p>Investigation of income-raising by hiring out school facilities during holidays.</p> <p>Ideas group, with very clear remit and Terms of Reference, to seek sponsorship, for example, for specific aspects of school. With feedback to JWS/SWe.</p>	<p><b>PC</b></p> <p><b>JB</b></p> <p><b>SWe</b></p> <p><b>SB</b></p> <p><b>KW (+KD if willing)</b></p>
	<p><b>Next meeting:</b> Follow-up meeting <b>Thursday 1st February 2018 in School at 7pm.</b></p>	<p><b>All Governors</b></p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.05pm.</p>	

## Action table – 4th January 2018

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Action required</u>	<u>Nominated Governors</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
4	Tree felling arrangement; feedback to neighbours; donation request	SWe	a.s.a.p.
5	Financial information to Parish Council	SWe, AP, JWS	By 1st Feb
5	Contact Vanessa Eddey for advice for DCC.	JWS	a.s.a.p.
5	Invitation to Deborah Croney	PC	Urgent
5	Briefing information for Deborah Croney	SWe, AP, JWS	Urgent
5	Seek support from Diocese	SWe	Urgent
6	Updating letter to parents	PC, JWS	a.s.a.p.
6	Parish Magazine article	JB	By 24th Jan
6	Staff meeting briefing	SWe	a.s.a.p.
6	Investigation of hiring out school facilities	SB	a.s.a.p.
6	Sponsorship etc research	KW	a.s.a.p.