

BOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 2nd December 2013 at 7.00 p.m. in Boughton Village Hall, Butchers Lane, Boughton

Present: Councillors: J Clarke (Chairman), K Greatorex (Vice-Chairman),
A Dale, Mrs G Kingston, J Parker, S Potter,
Mrs J Shephard, R Wilson

In Attendance: Mr P Archer – Head Teacher Boughton Primary School
Mrs D Bott – Deputy Head Teacher Boughton Primary School
Mrs I McQuillan – Community Governor Boughton Primary School
District Councillor John Shephard
Mrs J Bunting – Parish Clerk

Other Attendees: None

13/1137 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Greener.

13/1138 Members Declaration of Interest (on Agenda Items Only)

Cllr S Potter declared a personal interest as a Governor of Boughton Primary School. Cllr Mrs Judy Shephard declared a disclosable interest as a member of Northamptonshire County Council Development Control Committee.

13/1139 Public Open Forum Session

There were no questions from members of the public.

13/1140 Further Development for Boughton Primary School – Presentation by Mr Paul Archer Head Teacher, Mrs D Bott Deputy Head Teacher and Mrs I McQuillan Community Governor

- a. A short written copy of the report was made available to Councillors. Mrs Bott thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to speak at the meeting.
- b. Mrs Bott explained that Ofsted had recently graded the Boughton Primary School good with outstanding features and they were in the top 10% in the county for academic results at KS1 and 2. The school was one of the first primary schools in the county to convert to academy status and feedback had been good from parents. In the last 20 years the school had grown from 70 pupils to 140 plus. Mrs Bott stated that the school was now full to capacity and that the current facilities had been designed for considerably lower numbers. One classroom is a converted cloakroom and 80% of the classes have 30 plus children in each of them which are overcrowded and there is a real potential for a decline from the current high level educational performance. There was also an additional concern in retaining the high quality of teaching staff in these working conditions. There were health and safety issues in

terms of cloakroom space, toilets and Hall space. The Hall was designed for 120 but was now accommodating 160 pupils plus Teachers.

- c. In the last 6 years there had been a 22% population shift into the school from the Village and the Whitehills area and it was more of a local school.
- d. Mr Archer stated that doing nothing now to resolve these problems was not an option and the School would like to increase facilities to two new classrooms (bringing the total to 7 classes) with a year group per class. At the moment arrangements are two year groups in one class and that means that there is a vast difference in pupil age and ability. There is proven enhanced educational benefit from one year one class and this would remove some of the current Health and Safety issues due to over capacity. Improving the Hall to accommodate the full School population and enhanced traffic management were part of the proposals.
- e. It was acknowledged that there are continuing traffic problems in the village and the school is starting to name and shame parents in the school newsletter who abuse parking at the school. A "Park & Stride" initiative from the Whyte Melville Public House and encouraging parents to car share had been encouraging. To alleviate some of the traffic problem part of the alterations would include turning the car park at the front of the School into a drop-off area and staggering times at the start and end of the school day. This alteration would be the only difference at the front of the school. There was also additional space for car parking on a unused area behind the Hall.
- f. The Chairman thanked Mr Archer, Mrs Bott and Mrs McQuillan for attending the meeting and a question and answer session followed. Councillors felt that absolute clarity was needed in the planning application on highways issues. Mr Archer stated that traffic issues could be explored and the School was keen to work with the Parish Council as a Team.
- g. District Councillor John Shephard joined the meeting at 7.35 p.m.
- h. The Chairman stated that it was important that families moving into the village should get an automatic place at the School. Following a question from District Councillor John Shephard Mr Archer gave a firm assurance that as part of the process there will be a change in the admissions criteria and the aim is to be able to offer a place to all children living in the village.
- i. Following a question from Cllr Mrs Kingston about a limit of pupil numbers and whether it would not increase again once they had the new class rooms, Mr Archer confirmed that pupil numbers would be capped at 170.
- j. Mr Archer confirmed that they now had six weeks to submit an application for grant monies to the Department for Education to fund the project. The School would know by mid April 2014 if that bid has been successful. A planning application would follow and work would commence as soon as possible after planning approval and

work would have to be completed to take pupils from September 2015. Some concern was raised regarding construction traffic and Mr Archer confirmed that there would be no demolition works involved as it was all new build. Cllr Mrs Shephard confirmed that Highways would be a statutory consultee. However, Mr Archer stated that they had consulted with Highways at strategic level and they had indicated no view as the School was an Academy. This had not been helpful.

- k. Cllr Dale left the meeting at 7.45 p.m.
- l. Mr Archer invited the Parish Council to visit the School and the Chairman suggested appointing a sub-committee of the Parish Council. It was resolved that the sub-committee would comprise of Cllrs J Clarke, K Greatorex, Mrs G Kingston, Mrs J Shephard and R Wilson. Cllr Greatorex agreed to Chair.
- m. As part of their bid Mr Archer stated that the School was looking for outline support from the Parish Council as a stakeholder. Cllr Mrs Shephard proposed Parish Council support of the bid and this was seconded by Cllr Mrs Kingston.
- n. Cllr Wilson suggested an amendment to the proposal that before a decision was made that the Parish Council should discuss in more detail. This was seconded by Cllr Parker and Cllr Mrs Shephard withdrew her original proposal. Cllrs resolved to discuss the proposals in more detail before making a final decision.
- o. Mr Archer, Mrs Bott and Mrs McQuillan were thanked by the Chairman for attending and left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.
- p. Following detailed discussion Cllr Mrs Shephard proposed the support, in principle, of expanding Boughton Primary School in outline and the Parish Council would appoint a sub-committee to liaise on matters with the School. This was seconded by Cllr Greatorex and agreed by Councillors. However, it was acknowledged that the School must come up with some solid proposals to resolve traffic issues and that there were many details to sort out within the planning application. It was felt that striving to resolve some of the existing traffic problems was crucial.
- q. District Councillor John Shephard suggested that these could be made conditions as part of the planning application.
- r. Cllr Potter abstained from the vote as a Governor of Boughton Primary School.

13/1141 Date of Next Meeting

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 13th January 2014 in Boughton Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting

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Cllr J Clarke (Chairman)

Dated this 13th day of January 2014