

## **SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE**

### **Notes of inquorate meeting held on 19 July 2006**

**ATTENDEES:**      Local Education Authority  
Councillor Miss Christine Bednell (in the Chair)  
Councillor John Cowan  
Councillor Jean Lammiman  
Councillor Jerry Miles  
Councillor Mrs Anjana Patel  
Councillor Bill Stephenson

Church of England  
Reverend P Reece

Schools (Headteachers)  
Mr D A Jones

Schools (Co-optee/Special)  
Mrs P Langon

Adviser  
Mr B Leaver (NB: The Adviser is not included in the Committee membership when determining quorum)

**APOLOGIES:**      Mr J Coyle (Roman Catholic Church)  
Mr M Murphy (Roman Catholic Church)  
Mr B A Robertson (Schools – Headteachers)

#### **1. Inquorate Meeting:**

At the start of the meeting it was noted that the meeting was inquorate and, in accordance with paragraph 10(c) of the School Organisation Committee Constitution and Procedures, should stand adjourned and not consider any of the business to be transacted.

The members of the Committee in attendance expressed a wish to continue as an informal meeting, in view of the fact that the substantive items on the agenda were for noting only, and representatives from an external organisation were in attendance to give a presentation on agenda item 12 – Voluntary Aided Hindu Primary School.

Members of the Committee noted that there were a number of vacancies in the Committee membership.

**AGREED:** (1) To continue as in informal meeting;

(2) that Councillor Miss Christine Bednell be elected as Chairman for the purposes of this informal meeting;

(3) that officers be requested to contact groups represented on the Committee with a view to filling the membership vacancies.

2. **Appointment of Chairman for the Municipal Year 2006/07:**

**AGREED:** That this item be deferred to the next quorate meeting of the Committee.

3. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

**AGREED:** (1) To note the attendance at this inquorate meeting of Councillor John Cowan reserving for Councillor Tom Weiss.

(2) that officers be requested to list the names of Council and non-Council Reserve Members on the agenda frontsheet.

4. **Declarations of Interest:**

**AGREED:** In the context of the inquorate proceedings the following personal interests were declared:

(i) Councillor Miss Christine Bednell declared an interest in that she was a member of the Governing Bodies of Whitmore School, Vaughan First and Middle School and Stanmore College.

(ii) Councillor John Cowan declared an interest in that he was a member of the Governing Body of Aylward First and Middle Schools, and that his wife was a member of the Governing Body of Belmont School.

(iii) Councillor Jean Lammiman declared an interest in that she was a member of the Governing Body of Nower Hill School. She also declared an interest in relation to agenda item 12 – Voluntary Aided Hindu Primary School, in that she was Ward Councillor for Hatch End.

(iv) Mrs P Langdon declared an interest arising from the fact that she was a member of the Governing Body of Shaftesbury School.

(v) Councillor Miles declared an interest arising from the fact that he was a member of the Governing Body of Rooks Heath School.

(vi) Councillor Anjana Patel declared an interest in that she was a member of the Governing Body of St Dominic's College.

(vii) The Reverend P Reece declared an interest arising from the fact that he was a member of the Governing Body of St John's Church of England School.

(viii) Councillor Bill Stephenson declared an interest in that he was a member of the Governing Bodies of Marlborough First and Middle Schools, Hatch End High School and Harrow College.

5. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

**AGREED:** The informal meeting considered the agenda items with the press and public present.

6. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2006/07:**

**AGREED:** That this item be deferred to the next quorate meeting of the Committee.

7. **Minutes:**

**AGREED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2006, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

[Note: This decision to be ratified at the next quorate meeting of the Committee].

8. **Public Questions:**

**AGREED:** To note that no public questions were put at the meeting under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 19.

9. **Deputations:**

**AGREED:** To note that no deputations were received at the meeting under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 17.

10. **Petitions:**

**AGREED:** To note that no petitions were received at the meeting under the provisions of Committee Procedure Rule 16.

11. **References from Council and other Committees/Panels**

(i) **Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009: Reference from the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 4 April 2006:**

The Committee received a reference from the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2006, which informed the Committee that the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee would be monitoring the Children and Young People's Plan.

**AGREED:** That the reference be noted.

12. **Pinner Wood School Update:**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (People First) which provided an update on the outcome of the statutory notice published in March 2006 to create a new combined Pinner Wood First and Middle School.

**AGREED:** That the report be noted.

13. **Voluntary Aided Hindu Primary School:**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (People First), which provided an update on proposals to establish a voluntary aided Hindu primary school in Harrow. The Committee also received a presentation from representatives of the I-Foundation, the organisation promoting the new school.

The discussions that followed the presentation included the following points:

- The Chairman noted that the site of the new school had not been decided. Once a site had been established, the Committee would consider the new school's potential impact on other schools in the vicinity.
- The I-Foundation reported that they aimed to be in a position to issue the statutory notice in September 2006. The school would initially be a one-form entry but could expand after all forms had run if there was sufficient demand.
- There was no intention on the part of the I-Foundation to link with a particular secondary school.
- The I-Foundation's Advisory Board contained representatives of many multi-faith groups. The I-Foundation had also consulted with different groups within the Hindu faith, and the school's teaching would include different denominations within Hinduism.
- A member of the Committee suggested that the school's governing body be sufficiently large to allow scope for diversity.
- Noting that the admissions criteria stated that admission would be restricted to "practising Hindus", a member of the Committee expressed the view that this criteria might be difficult to define.
- The I-Foundation advised that they had the support of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKRON) in an advisory capacity, but received no financial backing from ISKRON.

**AGREED:** That the above be noted.

(Note: The informal meeting, having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 8.25 pm).