

Shap C of E School
Full Governing Body Budget Approval Meeting Minutes
21 May 2024 at 5.30pm

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened at 17.33

2. Attendance

In person: Steve Gee, Julie Graham, Katie Chappell, Simon Bullock
Online via Teams: Fran Parkinson, Becky Redmayne, Becky Grace

Present:

Siobhan Beck (Clerk)

3. Apologies for Absence

Pauline Harron, Sarah Bruce

Absent

Rib Williams

4. Declaration of Interests

KC and JG declared an interest in Item 7

5. Approval of the minutes of the last Full Governing Body Meeting 26 March 2024

The Approval of the Minutes for the Full Governing Body Meeting 26 March 2024 was deferred to the Full Governing Body Meeting 19 June 2024

6. Matters arising from the last Full Governing Body Meeting 26 March 2024

The Matters arising of the Minutes for the Full Governing Body Meeting 26 March 2024 was deferred to the Full Governing Body Meeting 19 June 2024

7. Three Year Budget Approval

A paper was shared with governors before the meeting. The budget figures were circulated as a paper to the governors present during the prior Resources meeting which was held before this meeting.



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It was noted that period 13 tabs are not available yet, waiting on the Local Authority to provide, the effect on the budget is such that it is not possible to calculate exact figures as a result of this delay the budget does not have to be submitted until the 13 June. The budget has been calculated using predicted period 13 tabs, it was noted that these are likely to be pretty accurate as JH is so meticulous.

KC summarised figures for those online and not able to look at the figures , catering is now in house, cleaning contractor has been changed and is greatly reducing costs, firmed up gas usage. The predicted year end balances for the three years were not good with deficits each year.

The first meeting with bursar did not allow enough time to go through everything, this enabled an opportunity to think had a think about it and what are the priorities for reducing costs it must be sustainable whatever is considered. KC went through the changes in the last decade which have reduced the budget but this has increased her work load.

It was noted that the EHCP hours should not have been in the third year and had been left in the budget, current EHCP cover is contracted to three members of staff, the child gets on well with all three adults, one of those has a contract that ends in august this year, they will see a reduction of hours rather than no hours.

It was noted that there are now only two areas where savings could be made staffing and electricity. Combining classes in 25-26 (year two of the budget) to reduce teaching staff costs was considered but the numbers in each cohort don't allow for this, restructuring support staff is now the only option, this will be explored along with changes to management structure such as becoming an academy.

JG has felt like the tough budget it is always difficult to predict numbers as the nursery is based on children who are not born yet. Nursery numbers are currently very low for 27-28. KC mentioned marketing possibilities and how the resources committee will take that forward.

JG explained why she put together governor questions, to provide governor scrutiny, Period 13 tabs and why they weren't released, financial constraints and the effects of those, particularly the loss of the tutoring schemes as there will be no more funding for them, restructuring support staff and the pressure on teachers work load and well being, doesn't a line with school values and vision. can we look at again at a later date before firm decisions are made, can look again in October but have to look at options now. KC added that hard decisions can be made in line with the values and vision. JG responded that Governors will support and address in the most kind and supportive way.

JG continued that the school had a reserve of 9.5% last year and this has all gone, but has meant that there is no need for restructuring this year. Academisation is not aligned with the vision and values of the school, would not be able to hold on to its individuality.



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KC is doing an executive leader qualification to see what that academisation involves. A change of government might mean change of funding. Governors need to be aware of the process and costs of redundancies for 2025.

FP asked about the cost of cleaning contract? KC responded that the new one is a big reduction on the previous contract, this could have been taken inhouse but KC did not feel that she could take that on as well. JG responded that it is important to be mindful of all the current pressures of the management role. KC the contract includes an increase in hours caretaker to one hour a week and includes all the checks that have to be completed by the school.

JG added that the bursar stated the school is more cautious about figures than some schools and that it has to be a sustainable budget money to cover supply and other such costs that you cannot know at this stage. JG finished by saying that the school is retaining staff are we are so grateful that they are so committed to the school.

FP thanked all the hard work involved by all who have put the budget together.

The budget was accepted by the governor's present

The meeting closed 18.00



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