

# Notes of School & Community Room Meeting Tattenhall Park Primary School 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

## **PRESENT**

### School Governors

Lisa Andrews, Freda Davies, Sam Evans, Louise Gibson (note taker for Governors), Jo Hawkins (Head Teacher), Elizabeth Oates (Chair of Governors), Leanne Wheeler

### Parish Council

Pat Black, Iain Keeping (Chairman of Parish Council), Ann Wright (Clerk)

### Other

Bob Blackhurst (Community Member asked by Parish Council)

Mike Jones (CW&C Ward Councillor)

Janine Smart (Capital Development Manager, CW&C Education Services)

## **DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The following interests were declared:

Bob Blackhurst – member of Committee which run the Vault community room at St. Alban's Church.

Cllr. Mike Jones – Trustee of Barbour Institute (BI)

Cllr. Pat Black – Trustee of Barbour Institute

*All those in attendance were given a tour of the school including the community room by the Jo Hawkins.*

## **UPDATE FROM SCHOOL GOVERNORS ON SCHOOL EXTENSION PROJECT**

It was noted that the extension project is not yet complete which is highly frustrating for the Governors and school staff who are working hard to manage the process and cause as little disruption as possible. It was noted that the project is over twenty weeks behind schedule partly due to the weather and issues arising from the steel framework in the original building which had to be engineered out to prevent columns obstructing classrooms. Staff have been working extra hours including during holidays to reduce disruption which includes dust and debris. CW&C Health and Safety officers have attended the school on a number of occasions to provide advice and reassurance to staff and parents during the building process. The renovations are expected to be complete by the end of August and the priority at the moment is that the works are completed for the start of the new school year. CW&C officers are continuing to support the school and review the building process.

It was noted that the renovations and changes to the school although not complete are looking very good.

## **UPDATE FROM SCHOOL GOVERNORS ON ACTIONS & PLANS FOR THE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ROOM**

It was reported that Governor's Community Engagement Committee were intending to advertise for expressions of interest from those who wish to hire the community room and outdoor space and to see how these potential bookings could work around school use which includes the afterschool club which runs to 6pm.

A query was voiced regarding the use of the community room and it was stated that originally it had been understood its use would be two thirds community and one third school use. It was noted that the wraparound care provided by the after school club does provide a community service. It was also noted that the Governors before the renovations had agreed not to extend the school hall due to a lack of funding and had agreed that the new room would be used instead.

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Key questions raised included how will the room be managed? Who will manage it, will it be the school? What will the charges be?

It was noted that the rate charged had to cover the costs of the room as school funds for education could not be used. It was noted that CW&C room hire rates are too expensive but there was also a need not to be 'too competitive' and take business from other venues in Tattenhall. It was noted when the church had set its hire rates it had done so in consultation with the BI.

It was emphasised that the benefits of community involvement to the school by different people will be of great value to the school needs and needs to be considered in addition to financial benefits.

Concerns were raised regarding how the room will be accessed by users while keeping the school secure and safeguarding the pupils. It was suggested that a computerised keypad entry system could overcome some of these issues.

It was noted possible users for the room would be a holiday club which is much needed in the village, also uniform groups including Brownies and Guides and a martial arts class has expressed an interest in using the facility.

The question was raised regarding ownership of the facility, whether it is a school or shared facility. It was noted if the Parish Council was to have shared ownership it would also have shared responsibility for the finances etc.

Cllr Mike Jones provided the following back ground to the funding for the room: He stated that that £220k had be raised through the sale of land by CW&C to a developer and that the money was to provide facilities for the youth of Tattenhall, initially the intention had been to build an extension on the BI which had been an action in the Parish Plan approximately 12 years ago. The room was for use by the school and the community and as such a joint agreement with joint responsibility for the room needed to be drawn up and agreed which was equitable and prevented one party from vetoing the other. The agreement would identify when the facility is to be used by the school and community.

It was asked if the Parish Council would represent the 'community' part of the agreement and take joint responsibility for the room including its finances.

It was agreed by all that the facility would have to be self-financing. To that end schools use of the room will need to be funded.

It was noted that the Bishops Blue Coat School has previously established a joint use facility which maybe a model which can be copied known as the Great Boughton District Community Group.

It was suggested that the Parish Council as directly elected representatives of the community and the Governors as elected representatives of the school would best placed to form the agreement.

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It was asked if a viability study had been undertaken before the room was built, and it was said not. It was suggested that although there was a need for running costs to be identified that based on BI rates and the fact that the building is new and energy efficient it should be viable to run.

It was confirmed that CW&C estates officers would be able to provide advice and support in this area.

It was stated by the governing body that they had been criticised for delaying the process of establishing the community room however it was confirmed that they had made comment on possible community agreements in December 2018 and returned these comments to CW&C and had received no response. Cllr Jones confirmed he had challenged the process as it had been one sided. It was stated that Governors had been subjected to a large amount of criticism particularly in reports of Parish Council meetings on Tattenhall-On-Line. It was noted that the Council was not responsible for the content of Tattenhall-On-Line.

It was agreed there was a need to identify people to form a small working group to take this project forward and establish an agreement to manage the room. It was agreed the Council would confirm 2 to 3 three representatives at its August meeting and that the names would be submitted to CW&C (Janine Smart to confirm the contact) to form a small working group. The Governors agreed that they will also nominate representatives.

It was noted that the Bishop Heber High School had a joint agreement in place for its community sports provision which may provide a model for consideration.

Cllr. Jones confirmed he would be happy to facilitate any future meetings.

It was agreed that CW&C officers would draft a terms of reference for the working group which would be available for consideration by the governors and the Parish Council at the Council's August meeting.

All those attending were asked to remember that community involvement with the school is of genuine benefit to both the community and the school and should be regarded as a two-way street.

It was agreed that the working group would seek to have a draft joint management agreement formed by the end of September 2018.

The following actions were agreed for the working group:

- To agree a joint press release/statement explaining that the school and Parish Council are working together to establish the community room. It was agreed that Laura Johnson, CW&C PR officer would be asked to provide a draft.
- To develop a heads of terms to develop into the management agreement.

It was agreed a representative of the CW&C estates team would attend the meetings to provide support although it was stated they would not be able to provide model documents for the group to consider.

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'The Link' was suggested as a name for the room, it was suggested this could be extended to The Link @ Tattenhall.

Mrs Hawkins stated she would like to hold an open or community day to show off the new facilities, this was welcomed by all.

It was noted that CW&C would not provide administrative support for the meeting although council representatives confirmed that the Clerk to the Council could offer support.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Ann Wright 18/07/2018