

Time began - 6.10pm  
Time finished - 6.30pm

## SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE 11 OCTOBER 2005

Present: **Group A (Local Education Authority)**  
Councillors Gerrard, MacDonald and Travis

**Group B (Church of England Diocesan Board)**  
Maxine Bull

**Group C (Catholic Diocesan Board)**  
Graham Doust  
John Honey

**Group E (Schools Group)**  
David Cunningham, Paul Hassall, Carmel McKenna, S Glynne Jones,  
Carole Riley and Richard Morgan

**Group F (The Local Community)**  
George Mighty and Nirmal Pheasant

### 01/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Brown (Group B), Christopher Reynolds (Group C), and Dave Wilkinson (Group F).

### 02/05 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

The Chair agreed to admit a late item on SOC health checks.

### 03/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 04/05 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2004 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

## 05/05 Ravensdale Infants School

The Committee considered a proposal to establish a 30 place nursery unit at Ravensdale Infant School. Gurmail Nizzer, Head of Service – Asset Management and Planning, addressed the Committee advising that out of the Early Years Review came a proposal to open a 30 place nursery at Ravensdale Infant School. Statutory notices were published stating an opening date of January 2006. No objections had been received. Due to related changes required to the Infant accommodation it was necessary to defer the opening of the Nursery provision to September 2006. Guidance states that if the original proposals cannot be implemented the proposer must bring forward a second proposal, to remove the duty to implement the first proposal. The SOC will then decide whether the second proposal should be approved. Failure to reach a unanimous decision would lead to a referral to the Adjudicator.

**Resolved to alter the implementation date of the proposals to establish a 30 place nursery unit at Ravensdale Infant School to September 2006.**

## 06/05 Appointment of Nursery School Representative on the School Organisation Committee

The Committee consider a report from the Director of Corporate Services advising that due to amendments to the regulations, the SOC was required to have a representative from a maintained nursery school as part of the Schools Group from 1 February 2005. Fran Harvey from Whitecross Nursery had expressed interest in becoming the nursery school representative.

### **Resolved:**

- 1. To recommend that Council appoint Fran Harvey as the Nursery School representative on the School Organisation Committee for a three year term.**
- 2. To make the necessary amendments to the SOC's Constitution to reflect the requirement to have a maintained nursery school representative.**

## 07/04 SOC Health Checks

Robin Constable asked members if they wished to take up the offer from the Chief Schools Adjudicator to conduct a health check as discussed at the last meeting.

Graham Doust commented that he welcomed the offer but with reservations. He was a member of an SOC in another Authority. They had been given training on what was expected from members of SOC. Each member had a training folder so they could prove what training they had taken part in. Graham felt that if the SOC took up the health check then training would come out as a weakness.

Maxine Bull asked which other Authorities had taken part in these Health Checks. Councillor Travis stated that the minutes of the previous meeting stated that Stoke-on-Trent, Cambridgeshire and Darlington had taken part in the pilot. Could the SOC find out what each of these Authorities had achieved from the health checks.

**Resolved to ask the clerk to the SOC to approach the Authorities that had already taken part in the Health Checks to find out what they had achieved from them.**

MINUTES END