

FILEY TOWN COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 26 JANUARY 2015 at 6.30pm

Present : Councillor John Shackleton (Chairman) and Councillors Susan Bosomworth, John Casey, John Haxby, Jeff Meek, John Thurston, Richard Walker, Kevin Wilkie, Tony Willis and Marion Wright.

Also present : Boro Cllr Mike Cockerill, Cty Cllr Sam Cross, Mr Richard Ludlow Executive Headteacher Ebor Academy Alliance and Mrs Maureen Prentice Deputy Town Clerk.

NOTICE OF MEETING

RESOLVED : That Public Notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with Schedule 12, para 10(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. 069/015

APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Kerry Burton (personal), Diane Glanvill (family commitment), Eddie Holden (ill health) and Mrs Gina Robinson Town Clerk (ill health)

RESOLVED : That the above apologies be accepted. 070/015

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman reminded members of the need to consider whether they needed to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) or personal interest, as detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B of the Town Council's Code of Conduct.

Cllr John Casey declared a personal interest as his daughter worked at Filey School.

Cllr John Haxby declared a pecuniary interest as a Parent Governor at Filey School, his wife is employed at Filey School and his son is a pupil at Filey School.

RESOLVED : That Cllr Casey and Cllr Haxby's interests be duly noted. 071/015

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

RESOLVED : It be noted no public were present at the meeting. 072/015

FILEY SCHOOL

Cllr Shackleton welcomed Mr Richard Ludlow to the meeting who stated that the Ebor Academy Alliance were custodians of Filey School for the next eighteen months and he enjoyed working with people who were ready for change. He had held a Parents Open evening and had been visiting other schools in the area who feed into Filey School such as the Filey Infants & Nursery School and the Hertford Vale School at Staxton, he was also to visit Hunmanby School and the Filey Junior School as he needed to listen to what the community wanted. He went on to give details of himself stating that two years ago he and a colleague formed a teaching school which had been accredited, this is only awarded if outstanding. They worked with various partners such as Huntington School, York St John's University, Yorvik Archaeological Trust etc. As a Teaching School they had taken a lead role in developing new teachers through their Schools Direct programme in partnership with the University. Mr Ludlow stated that the Haxby Road Primary School had been placed in special measures and had asked if they could join with the Ebor Academy Alliance and become an Academy which had proved to be the best solution for that school and transformed it. He stated that he could bring in outside practitioners to assist if required.

Mr Ludlow stated that the Filey School would close and then re-open as a new School on the 1 June 2015, he considered that the children deserved change but have to engage in the community. Consideration had to be given to how resources are used, the School should be a community resource and be used by the community. He stated that his school was used every night and weekend.

FILEY SCHOOL (cont)

Mr Ludlow went on to state that change came with pain but this was an opportunity and the work needed to start now and not wait until June. The top 5 practitioners (teachers) will receive additional training. The bottom 4 would be sent on more intensive programme of training for 6 weeks and if necessary a further 6 weeks following which if no improvement they would be dismissed. They needed to have a willingness to succeed and will be given the opportunity. He commented that the school numbers had dropped as some pupils go to other schools but considered that parents deserved a real choice. Filey School needed to strive for greatness and he believed that the school could change.

Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions of Mr Ludlow and Cllr Casey enquired about the top 5 and bottom 4 receiving additional training but what about the others in between. Mr Ludlow stated that the top 5 would be joined by 4 others after half term. He went on to state that there were too many part-time (temporary) staff and the school was not financially viable at the present time.

Cllr Haxby commented that the school had always been the centre of the community in the past.

Mr Ludlow stated that the facilities in Filey school were not elaborate and in fact he had better facilities at his primary school, including a swimming pool! He went on to state that he aimed high such as an outdoor multi-use sports area with flood lights. Sports Centres cost money but if the community was behind them then a Sports England bid could be submitted, this could be an aspiration for the future. He could commission someone to do the bids but he needed to listen to what people wanted as there was no big pots of money out there. Cllr Haxby stated that a Sports Centre was desirable not aspirational. Mr Ludlow enquired whether there was a need for a Sports Centre and was informed that there was. He stated that it was necessary to be realistic but he would try and get something.

Boro Cllr Cockerill stated that since 1983 the town had wanted indoor sports facilities as Filey had a lot of young people as well as a high number of elderly who would all benefit from these facilities and he would welcome working with Mr Ludlow in the future.

Cllr Wilkie enquired what the timescale for improvement of the teaching staff was to which Mr Ludlow replied that the challenge was 18 months.

Mr Ludlow went on to state that he hoped to mothball the outside classrooms by Easter, decommission the technology rooms and get rid of the equipment. He considered that the School needed to be seen as a different school so perhaps a name change and possibly uniform in the future.

Cllr Wilkie enquired whether the Filey Infants and Junior Schools would join with them but was informed not at the moment.

Cllr Walker enquired whether the special needs classes would continue and Mr Ludlow stated that he hoped to continue these and was in discussions with the County Council on how to develop this. He went on to state that there would be enhanced provision for speech and language.

Cllr Walker went on to state that the Filey School choir was excellent and hoped it would continue to which Mr Ludlow stated that this would carry on and could become a centre of excellence for the arts.

Cllr Bosomworth enquired about him working with the catchment schools and he stated that he was working round these at the present time and had in fact been invited to attend the forthcoming Cluster meeting at Cayton.

Cllr Wright commented that the school introduced a new uniform some 4-5 years ago but the pupils did not wear it well and considered that discipline was what was needed. Mr Ludlow stated that the pupils needed a clear expectation as to what was acceptable.

Cty Cllr Cross commented that the name could be Ebor Academy Filey.

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Cty Cllr Cross then went on to ask what would happen in 18 months time to which Mr Ludlow stated that hopefully the School would then have made great progress and would be able to continue without assistance as it was Ofsted which set the 18 month target.

At this point Mr Ludlow was requested to return to speak to the Town Council approx six months into his term to give a progress report which he readily accepted and looked forward to.

Mr Ludlow commented that the County Council had been very supportive although his task was a challenge.

At this point Cllr Shackleton thanked Mr Ludlow who then left the meeting.

RESOLVED : That Mr Ludlow be thanked for his most informative presentation and members looked forward to receiving an update on progress in the future.

073/015

REQUESTS TO OBTAIN OR PRESENT INFORMATION

RESOLED : That no requests had been received.

074/015

Under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 members considered that none of the above decisions would impact on crime and disorder

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

Councillor John Shackleton
Town Mayor & Chairman