

**HILLS ROAD SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
Corporation**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 February 2016

Present:

Corporation Members Edna Murphy (Acting Chair), Peter Brindle, Edmund Brookes, Ian Harvey, Dinesh Jacob, Tony Minson (agenda 6-13 only) Anna Moore, David Secher (agenda 6-13 only), Linda Sinclair (Principal), Julie Taylor.

Clerk to the Corporation Robert Smith.

Observers Jill Aberdour (Assistant Principal: Resources), Dave Jones (Assistant Principal: Planning and Quality), Jo Trump (Deputy Principal).

1 Apologies for Absence and Quoracy

The Clerk to the Corporation reported that apologies for absence had been received from the following members of the Corporation: Jonathan Culpin, Uvini Edirisinghe, Johnnie Sam, Peter Southwick, Frankie Williams.

The meeting was quorate.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made in relation to the business to be transacted.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 16 December 2015

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the business transacted, and *prima facie* evidence of the proceedings to which they relate.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

5 Appointment of Member of the Corporation: Tony Minson

Members approved the following resolution:

THAT, on the recommendation of the Search and Governance Committee, Tony Minson be appointed to serve as a Member of the Corporation for the period from 10 February 2016 to 9 February 2020.

Members approved his appointment to the Audit Committee.

6 Area Review

A paper prepared and presented by the Clerk to the Corporation setting out considerations concerning the College's potential institutional relationships and legal status, together with a consideration of the responsibilities of members of the Corporation, was received and discussed.

It was noted that:

- in terms of its institutional relationships the College's possible options fall into three broad categories, namely to continue as an independent institution, become part of a federation or part of a merged larger institution;
- in terms of its legal status the College's possible options are to remain as a sixth form college corporation or become an academy (either a single academy trust – SAT, or a multi-academy trust – MAT); *and*
- members of the Corporation, having a duty to exercise skill and care in the governance of the College, need, in addition to considering the strictly educational merits of various options, to also give heed to their financial implications (notably in relation to existing loan facilities and pension liabilities).

The Clerk to the Corporation drew attention to the following matters which had arisen in the period following the writing of the paper, namely:

- the outcome of the Birmingham area review had included the recommendation that a high performing sixth form college remain as an independent institution; *and*
- present market turbulence influencing the price of bank shares might impact on the view taken by banks concerning their realisable debts with adverse consequences for the College were it to become an academy – this is highly speculative but is outside the power of a government department to regulate.

Issues arising from the paper received a broad discussion but no decisions could be made at this stage of the process. In the course of the discussions it was noted that:

- the Cambridge Area Partnership had to some extent anticipated the area review process in that it encourages collaboration between institutions; *and*
- the problem of access to higher education for students from relatively deprived backgrounds, identified in a report by The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, might in the instance of South and East Cambridgeshire be related to difficulties attending transportation across the city and lower subsidies for public transport.

An update on the post-16 area based review prepared by the Principal was also received for information.

A more substantial discussion in the light of updated information will be held at the 20 April Corporation meeting.

7 Response to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review

A paper prepared by the Assistant Principal (Resources) was received for information and consideration.

It was noted that:

- the Spending Review had produced a better outcome than had been expected largely due to the maintenance of the national funding rate and re-phasing of Formula Protection Funding (FPF) - the letter confirming the outcomes of the Spending Review does not completely rule out further reductions to non-core funding over the Review period (Financial Year 2019 to 2020) but states that a significant proportion of the £160m which will need to be found by the end of the period will be realised by phasing out FPF;
- the national base rate of £4,000 for full time 16 to 17 year olds is being maintained over the Spending Review period - 99% of the College's students are funded at this rate with the remaining 1% funded at the 18 year old (third year) rate of £3,300;
- FPF level for 2016-17 will be reduced to £270,000;
- the FPF level for 2017-18 will be circa £80,000 - this will be the final tranche of FPF funding; *and*
- the College has received its funding factors and student numbers from the EFA and can therefore project its funding for 2016-17 with some confidence.

8 Risk Management Registers

The College Risk Register previously considered by the Audit Committee on 11 November 2015 was received for information.

9 Risk Management Annual Report

The Risk Management Annual Report previously approved by the Audit Committee on 11 November 2015 was received for information.

10 College Policy: Pay

A paper setting out changes to the College's Pay policy was received, and its proposals approved.

11 Phase V Update

A paper prepared by the Estates Bursar was received for information.

12 Any Other Competent Business

It was noted that David Secher's term of office as a member of the Corporation expires on 11 March 2016 and that he was therefore attending his final Corporation meeting. Members expressed their appreciation for his contributions to the Corporation's discussions and wished him well.

13 Dates and Times of Future Meetings

Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 6.30pm

Wednesday 8 June 2016 at 6.30pm

Monday 18 July 2016 at 6.30pm