

PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the **PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE**, held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 6TH JULY 2022 at 6.00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Eddy Adam, Tony Armstrong, Martin Ashcroft, Lindsey Aston, Arun M Chandran, Bob Fleming, Sandra Haigh, Phillip Hawkins and Joanne Jones.

OFFICERS

Mr Dan Austin (Town Clerk)
Mrs Julie Gale (Pre-School Manager)
Mrs Julie Walton (Corporate Assistant)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr Kieran Pavey - Executive Headteacher – Archway Federation
Mr Dave Wallace – Chairman of Governors – Archway Federation

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Phillip Hawkins, seconded by Councillor Arun Chandran, that Cllr Bob Fleming be appointed as Chairman of the Pre-School Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Bob Fleming be appointed as Chairman of the Pre-School Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

Cllr Bob Fleming took the Chair for the Meeting

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft and seconded by Councillor Arun Chandran that Councillor Sandra Haigh be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Pre-School Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Sandra Haigh be appointed Vice Chairman of the Pre-School Sub Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Neville Jones and Councillor Ken Robson.

4. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS

No applications for dispensations had been received.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Eddy Adam declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 as a Governor at Woodham Burn Primary School.

Councillor Tony Armstrong declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item No 6 due to his wife being a teacher at Vane Road School.

6. GUEST SPEAKER – MR KIERAN PAVEY, EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER FROM THE ARCHWAY FEDERATION

Mr Kieran Pavey, the Executive Head Teacher from the Archway Federation gave a presentation to Members about the Federation and setting out options for how the Federation could work more closely with St Oswald's Pre-School to improve outcomes for children.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentation at which members asked a number of questions of Mr Pavey and Mr Wallace.

Mr Kieran Pavey and Mr Dave Wallace left the meeting

Councillor M Ashcroft moved that the meeting be adjourned to allow Councillor Arun Chandran to clarify the rules on pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests with the Town Clerk.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.55pm

The meeting was reconvened at 6.58pm

Councillor Tony Armstrong remained in the meeting but agreed not to take part in any debate.

Councillor Eddy Adam left the Meeting for the duration of the debate.

A lengthy debate was held around the information received during the presentation with a number of Members expressing concern at entering into a formal partnership with the Archway Federation and that any further collaboration should be an informal basis.

The Town Clerk and Pre-School Manager both expressed their opinions on the issues raised in the presentation.

Councillor Arun Chandran spoke in support of the comments made by the Town Clerk stating that the Town Council is very proud of St Oswald's Pre-School with it being one of the best services provided by the Council. The bottom line in relation to any further collaboration with the Archway Federation is that the pre-school remains completely under the Town Council's control and management including the employment of the staff, oversight and governance, and control of the budget. It is recognised that there may be some benefits that further collaboration could bring such as sharing resources such as training and learning materials, staffing support and parents being able to access the after-school club and holiday clubs at the schools, and that these could be explored on an informal basis without entering into any kind of formal partnership agreement with the Federation.

It was proposed by Councillor Arun Chandran, seconded by Councillor Bob Fleming and

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i) No formal partnership agreement is pursued between the Archway Federation and St Oswald's Pre-School but that further informal discussions are held with a view to exploring how to improve collaboration and the transition of children from St Oswald's Pre-School into the primary schools.
- ii) Thanks be recorded to the Town Clerk and Pre-School Manager for their responses to the issues raised in the presentation.

Councillor Eddy Adam re-joined the Meeting

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

8. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Martin Ashcroft, and seconded by Councillor Eddy Adam and

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Pre-School Sub-Committee, held on the 9th February 2022, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRE UPDATE

The Pre-School Manager submitted a report updating members on Pre-School attendance figures, staffing, activities, and events.

RESOLVED – that it be recommended that

- i. the report be received;
- ii. the work undertaken and the progress made by the pre-school staff in running and improving the pre-school be acknowledged; and
- iii. a letter be sent to all staff acknowledging their hard work and dedication.

CHAIRMAN