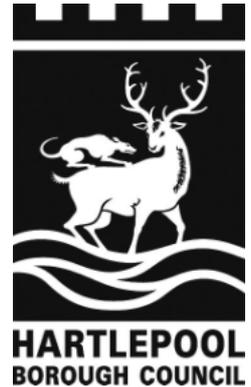


GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday 5 February 2010

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

Councillors C. Akers-Belcher, S. Akers-Belcher, Atkinson, R. Cook, Flintoff, Griffin, Laffey, G Lilley and Shaw

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2009
4. **ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 4.1 Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – *Director of Child and Adult Services*
5. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

11 December 2009

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Pauline Laffey (In the Chair)

Councillors: Stephen Akers Belcher, Reuben Atkinson, Bob Flintoff,
Geoff Lilley and Jane Shaw

Officers: Debra Wilson, Governor Support Officer
Leanne Lupton, Governor Support Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

13. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors C Akers Belcher, R Cook and Griffin

14. Declarations of Interest by Members

Councillor Atkinson declared a prejudicial interest in item 16 in relation to Brougham School and indicated that he would leave the meeting at that time.

15. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 August 2009

Confirmed.

COUNCILLOR REUBEN ATKINSON DECLARED A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST AND LEFT THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF HIS APPLICATION UNDER THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS.

16. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – Governor Support Officer

Members were advised that applications had been invited from members of the general public, Elected Members and those

governors whose term of office was about to expire and who were interested in serving or wished to continue to serve as a Local Authority (LA) representative governor on school governing bodies. The criteria agreed by the Council for the recruitment of LA representative governors in 2000 was outlined in the report.

A schedule, attached at Appendix 1, was attached to the report which set out details of vacancies which existed for LA representative governors together with applications received in respect of the vacancies, attached as a confidential appendix to the report.

Members considered the applications in detail and sought clarification from the Governor Support Officers on a number of issues. The Chair pointed out that there was a general application from a candidate who was willing to serve on any board

It was clarified that at least one school had used 'pupil post' to inform parents of Parent Governor vacancies on the Governing bodies and the Chair asked whether the cost of using Royal Mail would be prohibitive. It was acknowledged however, that it was the choice of individual schools how they distributed the information regarding Parent Governor positions and not in the remit of this Committee.

It was asked that in relation to Brougham Primary School where there had been two applicants that the unsuccessful applicant be written to thanking them for their interest and informing them of any future vacancy.

In relation to Grange Primary School a verbal expression of interest had been received. Officers agreed to send out an application form to the interested party.

In relation to Owton Manor Primary School a written application had been received and although a verbal application from a councillor was considered, the committee voted to appoint the candidate whose name appeared on Owton Manor application form. After the vote was taken it came to light that this candidate was the person who had been willing to serve on any board and her name had been inserted by an officer who had not informed the Chair and Members and was not present at the meeting. In effect without this intervention two vacancies could have been filled; Owton Manor Primary School Governing board by the Councillor who had expressed an interest and another by the candidate willing to serve on any Board. Although a verbal expression of interest had been made, there was already one candidate put forward for this vacancy. After Members had voted to accept this candidate, it came to light that the successful candidate had submitted a general application for a school in an area of deprivation and low parental interest.

Members expressed concern that a Councillor had been prevented from gaining a place on the Governing Body as Councillors had no other pathway to gain a place on a Governing Body. The Chair asked that information be provided at a future meeting whether there had been any verbal contact in relation to an expression of interest at that particular school.

Decision

That the following recommendations for the appointments of Local Authority representative governors be referred to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder for approval:-

- Brougham Primary School – Councillor R Atkinson
- Grange Primary School – Councillor M James (on submission of application form)
- Jesmond Road – Mr M Ward
- Owton Manor Primary School – Mrs M Raine
- Throston Primary School – Mrs S Allison
- Ward Jackson Primary School – Mrs J Stoker
- West View Primary School – Mr D Wise

17. Any Other Items which the Chair Considers Urgent

Advertisement of Vacancies

Discussion took place amongst Members in relation to how Local Authority vacancies were advertised and they were informed that vacancies were advertised in Hartbeat and periodically Members were written to at the request of the Children's Services Portfolio Holder.

Officers confirmed that when there was a parent governor vacancy, details were sent to the school who would inform parents via 'pupil post'. When a vacancy was about to expire, the current postholder would be informed. Community Governors were elected by the governing bodies themselves.

Decision

That Officers write out at the beginning of each year advising all members of potential Governor vacancies and highlighting those in their ward or locality as well as giving details of meeting times. Members should be encouraged to submit applications which Officers would file until the appropriate vacancy arose.

The meeting concluded at 10.45 am

CHAIR

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

5th February 2010



Report of: Director of Children's Services

Subject: APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY
REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members of the General Purposes Committee in respect of vacancies for Local Authority representative governors that currently exist and those, which will exist due to the expiry of the terms of office of some governors, during the spring term on school governing bodies, and to request members to make recommendations to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school governing bodies.

2. BACKGROUND

Applications are invited from members of the general public, elected members and those governors whose term of office is about to expire or has expired and who are, interested in serving or wish to continue to serve as a LA representative governor on school governing bodies.

The following criteria were agreed by the Borough Council for the recruitment of LA representative governors in 2000. LA governors should be able to show:

- demonstrable interest in and commitment to education;
- a desire to support the school concerned;
- a commitment to attend regular meetings of the governing body (and committees as appropriate) and school functions generally;
- good communication/interpersonal skills;
- ability to work as part of a team;
- a clearly expressed willingness to participate in the governor training programme.

A schedule (**Appendix A**) is attached setting out details of vacancies which currently exist for LA representative governors and the vacancies occurring in the spring term, together with applications received in respect of the vacancies (**Appendix B**). **This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (para 1)**

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the recommendations for the appointments set out in the confidential section of the minutes, of LA representative governors be referred to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder for approval.

Contact Officer:

Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer, telephone 523766



VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

February 2010

**Contact Officer: Ann Turner
Telephone: 01429 523766**

VACANCIES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES ON GOVERNING BODIES

SCHOOL INCLUDING LA GOVERNORS	VACANCIES	INTEREST EXPRESSED	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS
Barnard Grove Primary School Mr M Kay Councillor R Cook	One Vacancy	No interest expressed	
Catcote School Dr M Banim Mr D Mills Mr K Tabram	Dr Banim's term of office expires 27 th March 2010	Dr M Banim	
Clavering Primary School Councillor T Fleming Councillor R Cook	One vacancy	No interest expressed	
Eldon Grove Primary School Mrs P M Vaughan	Two vacancies	No interest expressed	
Golden Flatts Primary School Councillor C Hill Councillor M Turner	Vacancy vice Councillor Hill's term of office expires 12 th March 2010 Vacancy vice Mrs Liston	Councillor C Hill Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher	
Owton Manor Primary School Mrs J Thompson Mrs S Hayes	Vacancy vice Mr J Vale term of office expires 7 th February 2010	Mr J Vale Councillor M James	
Rossmere Primary School Mrs M Smith	Two vacancies	No interest expressed	
St Cuthbert's RC Primary School Councillor F London	Councillor F London Term of Office expires 22 nd March 2010	Councillor M. D.Aitken	
St Helen's Primary School Miss C Lamb Mr J Ibbotson Councillor R Atkinson	One vacancy	No interest expressed	
Stranton Primary School Councillor J Lauderdale Mr B Hanna Mr P Gleeson	Vacancy vice Mr B Hanna's term of office expires 27 th February 2010	Mr B Hanna	

West Park Primary School	1 vacancy	No interest expressed	
Mrs S Kirby			
Mrs M A Boddy			