

School Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting 27^h May 2005

Matters Arising

Bob reported that in response to the continuing issues about ICT that have been raised at most Council meetings he had invited Adrian, the ICT technician, to talk to the council regarding the various concerns.

Adrian – ICT Technician

Allan Bridges asked why there were not headphones for all computers as there only appeared to be a couple functioning ones.

Adrian responded that they break very easily and there is a great difficulty in finding ones that will stand the rough treatment they get in school. He also reported that at the moment all speakers have been removed at the moment because they are damaged and are affecting other leads. It damages the computers when they are plugged and unplugged while the computer is on.

Bob suggested that Terry Moon should be approached about maybe getting a few tougher, more resilient headphones.

Laurence brought up the issue of filtering and why certain sites were filtered even when the content was not necessarily violent or inappropriate.

Adrian explained that there are two levels of filtering. One level is enforced by the schools Internet provider, and occurs automatically. And then there are ones that he can block or unblock locally. Adrian explained that as a school, the pupils of Fosse Way are lucky as most schools just block any site automatically that have games on them. One of the mentioned sites, Moon clip, was specifically requested by teachers to be filtered.

He stated that if they ask a teacher and a teacher tells him to take it off if the filter he will do so. So they are to make their case to a teacher for any sites that need to be unfiltered.

Allan also mentioned the difficulties with equipment.

Adrian reported that they had had three new computers recently and hopefully from September with the new development we would be working towards upgrading all ICT computers.

Report from Andy – Site manager.

Andy reported that he liked the Council's idea of having lockers. However, he mentioned that there are problems with lockers – keys are always going missing, and limited space. He did say that there may be space in the new building. There is an issue of expense as well.

Bob suggested that in the mean time, perhaps there could be something implemented like the ASD area uses, with baskets that can be put inside a classroom and that would tackle some of the problem of them being untidy, getting trampled or things going missing. The council agreed this might be a good idea and Bob is to take the idea to a management meeting after talking about it with Terry.

The spitguard for the kitchen is on its way and will be installed for after the holidays.

**Update – this has been installed.*

Andy reported that the issue of security is being tackled by the fact that he is in the process of being

give quotes for secure fences and access to the school. This is a priority and work will go ahead as soon as possible

Andy thanked the council for bringing the issue of the fire door to his attention and he will look into it.

Response from the Senior management team.

Cynthia asked that it be passed on to the Council that they are to report back what happens at the council to the tutor groups and explain things to everyone.

She confirmed that the new security fencing is on the way.

She informed them that the new five-a-side football pitch is being started after half-term as we have raised the money to have it built. She hopes this will deal with some of the problems people have regarding football in the playground.

She also asked for comments on the new menu's to be passed to the office by the following Wednesday so that she could have things altered if necessary.

Bob stated that both Cynthia and David are keen on the idea of lunchtime clubs that the Council have suggested. They are starting discuss that with staff to see what can be arranged.

Bob said that he would speak to the whole staff at a staff meeting regarding making the rewards and merits more consistent and fairer.

New Business.

Bob then suggested that each person went through the suggestions put in their link book and discussed them. As these overlap they have been categorised into similar areas;

Sensory Garden.

Laurence brought up the issue of the Sensory Garden and the other council members agreed that it was in need of improvements – more plants and more things to do. It was felt that there was not enough in it. Allan said that it was not being used for quiet time either and that it seemed to be not kept weeded or tidied very well.

Katherine Burgess who was attending suggested that people who make decisions about any improvements actually spend some time with sensory impaired children who would be using it work out what would be best for them.

Bullying and Playground issues.

This was still being reported as a concern by most members of the Council. It appeared that a lot of these issue centred around the clashes over those playing football and those not. It was hope that the 5-a-side pitch would deal with most of the issues raised.

Tom had suggested that maybe there might be a solution in having breaks at different times, particularly for those unable to play, or in need of the quiet time. He stated again that it is very intimidating for those unable to get out of the way in time for whatever reason to be in that area when people are playing and that pupils in wheel chairs still are bullied by means of interference.

**Update – as a result of this point, Carol Davis spoke about the issue in a full school assembly to raise awareness of what the problems were.*

Fitness.

Several members of the Council said that they would like the school to have gym equipment, or

access to gym equipment through some means. They feel that this would be very beneficial in terms of fitness and burning off excess energy. Bob said he would mention this to James C.

They were still interested in healthy vending machines or a tuck shop. Vicky has asked for information from the catering services regarding healthy vending machines.

Premises issues and enhancement.

Mike Chant's group had requested that there were better showers in the boys changing rooms. He requested that they have shower curtains like the girls had.

The suggestion that the water fountains be improved or at least put somewhere that were not likely to be contaminated were raised again. Apparently with them in the toilets, very few people will use them because they are frequently misused and were 'revolting'. It was stated that they would like to make more use of drinking cool water especially.

Miscellaneous.

There was a request from Andy Ledbury's group for new DT equipment – which will hopefully be addressed with the new building projects.

Laurence's group requested more Food tech lessons as they have been enjoying them.

Michael Chant said there had been a lot of interest in the Leaver's Days events that had gone on at other schools. Some of the leavers from Fosse Way had been interested in doing something similar (though the limo's etc were recognised to be very expensive!)

Bob said that he would take their points to Mr Gregory and Ms Pitts and report back. He said that the meeting in the last term it might be a good idea to review the progress that has been made by the Council over the course of its first year. Some drinks and refreshments will be arranged.

Meeting ended 1.55pm