



GOVERNING BODY TO VERNHAM DEAN GILLUMS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting held on 3rd July 2025 at 4:30pm

Present

Mr Paul Nicoll (Chair) Mrs Anna Hall (AH)
Mrs Holly Bulpitt (HB) Miss Siobhan McCullagh (SM)
Mr Steve Bocock (SB) Rev Carol Dunk (CD)
Mrs Kate Taylor (KT)
Mrs Rachel Miller(RM)

In Attendance

Mr Ian Hickman (IH) - Executive Headteacher
Miss Nikki Pauk (NP) - Clerk

Apologies

Absent with no apologies

None

Red font denotes - Ensuring the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Green font denotes - Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils

Blue font denotes - overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Ref	Agenda Item
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Prayer Welcome to Carol
2.	Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
3.	Review and sign off the minutes from the meeting 15th May 2025 Approved and signed off.
4.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair PN elected to continue as Chair and KT Vice Chair
5.	Headteacher Report Not all information in yet. KS2 results in next week. Presenting what we can now and data to be revisited in September as do not have time to unpick.

Governor commented on the good attendance. National figure pulled through from our MIS. Don't get cleaned up data through until Autumn term.

When will SATS results be received? Next Tuesday results released to school. Will report be sent to Governors? IH happy to send through.

Numbers for September? 7 definite with a possible 8. Actively canvassing parents at Smannell. One school has 1 year R, one has 0 for September. Spoken about challenges of pupil numbers. Current YR 7 if we keep hold of children beginning to look healthier in coming years. Lots of work done by HB and others who has put a lot out in the local community. IH thanked HB and AH for their hard work on promoting the school on social media.

Teachers - all happy and staying. Currently all staff here now will be here in September. Work hard with staff and good team here.

If classes are to be changed at all in terms of structure and numbers? No scope to do so at the moment. If we have these continuing numbers coming through need financial justification to do so. Can communication be sent out to parents to state that the structure will be continuing. Yes. Haven't put anything out to parents about numbers for September. Communicate healthy admission but will be keeping the structure.

CPOMS almost daily added to. Reports not great on the system. Governor can come and look last few days there has been incident then interaction with social worker and this gets logged. All added as separate incidents. Governor as from a auditing situation how do you keep a record. IH is notified of every incident recorded. This is always spoken about and what steps should be taken. Useful as have had children that have gone through sites.

Improve spelling? Help for Governors to come in and monitor? Good idea. RM volunteered.

Skylark Federation working with staff and children have heard very positive things from staff and children. Worked really well with us being small and isolated with the staff and children being able to mix. Reflecting on what has worked well, what has been positive and also thinking about what more has been a challenge. Forest School is a good example of something that has been good for the children here but a juggle with transport. Next academic year look at using an area here as the fencing has been done. AR very keen to undertake the training. Important to reflect and think of things moving forward.

Chromebooks working well. Some teething issues. Child love it as they can log on and it is instant. Children are able to have one each.

Capital project - have had a quote for some capital work at the school. The outside YR area and extending across KS1 classroom, bandstand, green to be re-covered by adventure playground. Had a quote from Scandor they have given a drawing to give us an idea. YR play area £14,500 + VAT, Bandstand £6,500 (suggested filling with tiger bark - will need to be treated every year). Bandstand used for performances, leavers services, have their lunch up there (always been used). Governor

	<p>commented Bandstand quote sounds high. Can obtain other quotes now that we have a benchmark. HT good capital projects to work towards. YR key area. All things that could really do with being done. Governor asked if anything came regarding Conholt? Wildhern had £40,000 put into their playground and money was received within weeks. Call estate and find out who deals with gift giving and write letter. £20,000 Sports Premium to be earmarked for outside area. Financial Advisors from Hampshire would be asking questions and Governors are to be monitoring. 2 more quotes to be obtained asap.</p>
6.	<p>Safeguarding Covered in HT report. All staff now using CPOMS.</p> <p>Technical updates to KCSIE this year.</p> <p>Governor question: is there going to be a large safeguarding training session like there was last year? Yes. Will take place on 3rd September.</p>
7.	<p>School Development Plant A lot of good work has been done over this year. There is a lot of information coming through on how we want to move forward next year. There have been discussions across the 3 schools around how we want to align and have similar approaches with each school to personalise. Going forward for next year there are emerging things coming through our current evaluation, one around maths and timestables in particular. One about the EYFS and KS1 curriculum and what that is looking like and others to be discussed with HB for next year. One of our improvement goals should be around looking at wraparound care. Work is being done around this and NP had a telephone conversation with Hampshire regarding this today. We need to improve after school provision. A sports coach has been booked for the next academic year on a Wednesday afternoon. Conscious there is a gap. A grant £43,000 for a year is available to us and we need to get this in place asap. For some parents this is a deciding factor on whether or not they will send their child to our school.</p> <p>Governor question: what happens next year? Child free tax provision school can register and parents can get 20% off of costs. Very positive for school.</p>
8.	<p>Health & Safety Area HT struggling to get to. Caretaker is off on long term sick. Have some support from the Site Manager at Skylark. She has not long started in her role and is still getting to grips with it. Health & Safety is a big job that does take time and working through sickness absence at the moment.</p> <p>Governor question: do you follow policy and notify employee? We get good support from EPS and they guide us through the process. Not going to go on forever. Process in place to support the individual and make sure the school is supported also.</p> <p>Governor question: can you not do teacher's race because of health and safety? No just very convincing with answer :)</p>
9.	<p>Governor Training / WGB Training KT to look into the new supplier of our training. NP to provide details. Safeguarding in September to be used as whole governor training. Can do a second set of training</p>

	<p>with Skylark Governors. Good value out of working with other teachers and people you do not work with.</p> <p>Anything else Governors need to do? If they have a list?</p> <p>Skills matrix sent out a while ago please can this be resent. We have a fairly good mix of skills and experience between the governing body. Matrix not specific enough. Asking about experience (people might define this differently).</p>
10.	<p>Inset Days Wednesday 3rd September (Safeguarding training) Monday 8th September (Health & Safety training) Monday 3rd November Monday 23rd February Friday 3rd July</p> <p>NGA has good safeguarding training.</p>
11.	<p>AOB Who is going to follow up on Conholt? PN has contact.</p> <p>Initiate DBS for Rev Carol</p> <p>Leavers presentation 7 children. Do we want to do something? Governors happy to contribute £10 and AH to order pens.</p> <p>Need two more parent Governors. Seems harder to recruit parent governors. Increased from 2 to 4.</p> <p>Parent Governor vacancy to be advertised again. PN to look at process to reduce number of parent Governors.</p> <p>Last meeting of academic year. Governors would like to thank all staff. HB has been incredibly supportive to staff which shows in conversations had with staff. HB asked how the year has gone. Really enjoyed this year thanks to IH being involved and being included in making decisions which has not happened before. PN was incredibly dubious and concerned how it would affect numbers but this has had no effect on numbers and seems to have been a real positive and given stability.</p> <p>Focus - AH sent to Focus but this did not go in so need to chase up. Word version of newsletter to be sent.</p> <p>September term do "Who we are".</p> <p>Open afternoon in November. Information to be put in Parish magazine Tanglely, Chute, Hatherden. Go into local nurseries and see if we can get them to come here.</p>

The meeting closed at 17:33

Date of next meeting: TBC

Signed (confirmed):

Chair of Governors

Date:

	Action	Who by	Deadline
1.	School Development plan to be drafted	IH/PN	25/10/24
2.	School Article to be published in village magazine	AH	
3.	Information to be sent to AH in order for her to prepare something for Focus Magazine	HB	
4.	New Governor monitoring form to be devised	PN	On hold
5.	KCSIE 2024 updates to be read	ALL	
6.	Email to be sent to IH with details of what Governor believes is not being done.	AH	Completed
7.	KCSIE update document to be sent to Governors	IH/NP	Completed
8.	Slides from Affordable Schools Network meeting to be shared with Governors	IH	
9.	LLPR report to be shared with Governors once received	IH	
10.	IT comparison costs to be sent to Governors	IH/NP	
11.	Governor Skills Audit to be completed and returned to KT	ALL	
12.	Cloud backup cost to be raised with Harrap	NP	
13.	Benchmarking link to be sent to Governors	NP	
14.	SFVS Checklist to be sent to PN for completion	NP	

	Action	Who by	Date
1.	Budget Revision Agreed	ALL	21/11/24