

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATION HELD ON THURSDAY 11 JULY 2019 AT 6PM IN THE BOARDROOM AT NEWCASTLE

Present: Alan Aston, Karen Dobson, Jeff Dutton, Martin Earnshaw, Gareth Jones, Steve Jones, Simon Leech (Chair), Bernard Lovatt, Jeremy Pert, Jim Rowley, Lynsey Shearsmith, Francis Tunney

In attendance: Craig Hodgson (Vice Principal), Ian Hookway (Director of HR & Communications), John Prescott (Clerk), Carl Riding (Assistant Principal), Carol Thomas (Director of Curriculum & Performance), Lisa Saville (Group Accountant), Joy Smith (Deputy Clerk)

Part 1

19.2.1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Lesley Rollason and Lesley Morrey.

19.2.2 Election of Chair

Simon Leech was proposed, seconded and, in the absence of any further nominations, was re-elected chair of the Corporation for a two year term.

19.2.3 Declarations of Interest

Simon Leech, Gareth Jones, Karen Dobson and Craig Hodgson all declared an interest as non-remunerated Directors of Axia Solutions Ltd and Gradbach Ltd.

19.2.4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 April 2019 - Part 1

Approved as a true record of the meeting.

19.2.5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

19.2.6 Minutes of the Committee Meetings

Education & Standards - 24 June 2019

Alan reported that the latest Learner Data Report had been considered in detail and members had been very pleased to note the headline figures and the College's position against the sector. Some discussion had taken place about the lack of effective careers guidance available in schools and members had been particularly pleased to note the annual lesson observations overview.

John confirmed that he has forwarded AoC webinar information to Governors regarding the new Education Inspection Framework and advised that we are also planning to put on a training session specifically for Governors early in the Autumn Term.

19.2.7 **Principal's Report - Part 1**

1.1 – Sporting Successes

Karen was delighted to report on the year's successes and drew members' attention to the Honours Board for Newcastle students which will also be replicated at Stafford once cross-college sports have been sufficiently embedded.

1.2 – Celebration Awards

Members noted this year's fantastic awards events. Karen added that the Foundation Studies event had also been a thoroughly enjoyable evening showcasing the journey and distance travelled by this group of young people.

1.3 – Staff Awards

Members noted that the AGM and presentation of staff Outstanding Contribution Awards had taken place at the end of term.

1.4 – Gareth Jones

Members all congratulated Gareth on his recent appointment as Mayor of Stafford.

1.5 – Lucy Worsley Visit

Karen was delighted to report that the renowned historian Lucy Worsley had visited the College in June.

1.6 – Art Exhibitions

Governors who had managed to visit this year's Art Exhibitions at Newcastle and Stafford were thanked for their attendance and everyone present congratulated the team involved in putting together another excellent show.

Bernard urged fellow Governors to take the opportunity to visit the various openings/exhibitions/events held at the College during the year which provide a really useful insight into what goes on. Both Bernard and Gareth particularly praised the end of year performance of Grease which had been excellent.

1.7 – Meg Newton

Meg Newton's very sad death was noted and members' condolences were recorded.

19.2.8 Tuition Fee Policy 2019-20

Lisa drew members' attention to the proposed Policy for 2019-20 and advised that this has been updated in accordance with the latest guidance from Government and the ESFA.

After consideration the Tuition Fee Policy 2019-20 was approved.

19.2.9 Financial Support Policy 2019-20

Members considered the updated Policy and noted the increase to the household income threshold to £23k pa in line with the national minimum wage.

After consideration the Financial Support Policy 2019-20 was approved.

19.2.10 Office for Students – Conditions of Registration

John referred to his paper and explained that there are seven areas of responsibility for Governors, but the majority of these are not new.

Members noted the changes and areas requiring annual review by the Corporation and also those areas already covered under the procedures we have in place through the Corporation and Committee structure.

19.2.11 Proposed Calendar of Meetings for 2019-20

Members considered and approved the calendar of meetings, noting that the Governor-Manager Seminar has been timetabled for the end of February when there is availability at Gradbach.

It was agreed that members would contact Joy asap with any requests for changes to the dates.