

New College Telford

Search Committee Tuesday 9 December 2008 Minutes

Present: Cllr I Fletcher (Chairman)
Dr R Hargreaves
Mr G Clark

In Attendance: Mr P Taylor (Clerk)
Mrs B Tyley

1 Appointment of Chairman

Cllr Fletcher was appointed Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

2 Apologies

Mr Shaw, Mr Hopkins

3 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Search Committee of 7 October 2008 were confirmed.

4 Declarations of Interest

None.

5 Corporation Membership

The Clerk introduced the report (copy in minute book) for the Committee, explaining that it set out progress and decisions for existing Corporation vacancies, and the circumstance of an existing member, Miss Brown.

The Clerk reviewed the circumstances of Miss Brown's membership, noting in particular that she had only been able to attend two meetings of the Corporation and its Committees since October 2006. Her last attendance at a Corporation meeting was in June 2006, and her last attendance at Student Standards and Achievement Committee was in September 2007. The Clerk also reported that in light of her

difficulties over attendance and the fact that she had left her previous employment, he had written to Miss Brown in September 2008 enquiring as to whether she wished her Corporation membership to continue. He further reported that unfortunately he had received no reply to the letter.

In debate, members considered the matter carefully and noted the section in the Corporation's Instrument of Government which sets out specific conditions under which an otherwise eligible Corporation member's membership may be terminated, and referred particularly to the passage referring to a member who had been absent from meetings of the Corporation for a period longer than six consecutive months without the permission of the Corporation. The Clerk confirmed that no such permission had been granted in the case of Miss Brown.

The Clerk referred to the difficulty in these circumstances where communications had not been replied to and therefore the Committee was not necessarily in receipt of all available information. He noted that some unusual circumstances might have prevented Miss Brown's attendance and her ability to reply to correspondence. Nevertheless he commented that it was not in the interests of good governance to have an inactive Corporation member.

After consideration of all the facts available to them members agreed that action should be taken, and resolved to recommend to the Corporation the following course of action:

that Miss Brown's membership of the Corporation should be withdrawn and the office be declared vacant after a short time interval, subject only to the emergence of some wholly exceptional circumstances that might warrant reconsideration of the matter. Should there emerge such circumstances as appear to the Clerk to be 'wholly exceptional', the Clerk will confer with the Chairman of the Corporation. Should the Chairman of the Corporation agree that the circumstances appear 'wholly exceptional' the withdrawal of membership notice will not be issued, and the matter be referred back to the Search Committee and Corporation for further consideration. In the short period before the issuing of withdrawal of membership notice, the Clerk and the Principal would confer to discuss alternative means of establishing contact with Miss Brown.

Turning to the vacancies for student members the Clerk reported that Ms Rosser, Assistant Principal, had been instrumental in the identification of two student nominees whose membership of the Corporation would be considered by the Corporation meeting to take place on the rising of the Search Committee.

On the General Member vacancy, the Clerk reported that he had unfortunately not yet received a reply from Telford and Wrekin Council of 8 October 2008. However, Mr Clark reported that he had discussed the matter with Julia Almond, Corporate

Director, Children and Young People, and she had indicated that she was willing to be considered for membership of the Corporation. Members noted that since the Council no longer had rights of nomination to the Corporation, formally there was no need to await a response from the Council before considering Ms Almond's potential membership. However, since the matter was the subject of correspondence between the Council and the Corporation members agreed that the most appropriate course of action was for the Clerk to contact the Council to bring the matter to a speedy conclusion. Members agreed that notwithstanding the unfinished nature of the correspondence they would be minded to return to the matter at the next committee meeting, with the anticipation of making a positive recommendation for Ms Almond's membership of the Corporation to the Corporation's March 2009 meeting.

6 Date of next meeting

The next provisional date of the Search Committee is at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 10 March 2009. In accordance with agreed procedures the meeting will only be called if there is competent business to conduct.