



# COWES PRIMARY SCHOOL

## MINUTES OF FULL GOVERNING BODY MEETING

Held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 at 10.30am via Google Meet

<b>Attendance:</b>	
Alex Osborne (AO)	Rachel Mulcahy (RM)
John Cross (JC)	Stephanie Praetig (SP) Headteacher
Rachael Groves (RG)	Sue Cox (SC) Chair
<b>Also Present:</b> Donna Robinson (DR) School Business Manager and Tina Jarvis (TJ) Clerk.	
<b>Apologies:</b> Sandra Klembt (SK) and Katie Flood (KF)	

Attachments issued before the meeting are shown on page two.

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b></p> <p>SC welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Sandra Klembt (SK) and Katie Flood (KF) which were accepted.</p> <p>SC reminded Governors that this additional meeting had been arranged to discuss gas and electricity procurement.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>Pecuniary &amp; Business Interests</u></b></p> <p>None were declared.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>Gas &amp; Electricity procurement</u></b></p> <p>A report by DR summarising procurement options had been circulated before the meeting. DR reminded Governors that the school has a three year deal which ends on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and was negotiated via brokers, Zenergi.</p> <p>DR advised Governors that the prices included in her report were valid at the date they were supplied to her, and were subject to change. DR had engaged with four companies to look at energy deals;</p> <p>1. Zenergi The school has used this company for the last 10 years to source an energy deal. There has been a change in relationship manager and the support provided recently has not been as good. Initially, the company provided quotes using an incorrect consumption figure. The cheapest deal they had was for a one year fixed rate option. This was more expensive than all the quotes received from other companies.</p> <p>2. ESPO This is a framework any public body can use. The actual price is not known until Sept/Oct for electricity and April/May for gas. The school would be tied in until September 2028 for electricity and March 2027 for gas. Quotes were provided based on the current framework.</p> <p>3. Crown Commercial services This is a central government team which any public sector organisation can use. They only provide quotes at the point you make a commitment to join a scheme. You cannot join a new deal until April 2024. You can be added to an existing deal for a short term, but this incurs higher rates.</p>

	<p><b>4. Fortis energy</b> Fortis Energy is used by some other island schools. Like Zenergi they get deals from existing suppliers. They have provided the most competitive quote overall and the school could choose to only be tied in for a year.</p> <p>Given the current uncertainty over the future, DR recommended that the Governors consider the one year deals from Fortis for both gas and electricity. The situation could be kept under review and the longer term options from EPOS could be explored further if applicable. The Governors discussed the need to obtain good value for money from public funds.</p> <p>Governors agreed that until more was known about the Local Authority's place planning strategy, being tied into a long term deal could result in the Council having to make future payments.</p> <p>JC reminded Governors that the Local Authority had been made aware that Governors would have to continue to make financial decisions during the period of uncertainty using the information they had available.</p> <p>RG pointed out that as part of the work undertaken over the summer holidays, the kitchen gas oven and hob had been replaced with electric ones. Gas and electric usage would therefore be different going forward.</p> <p><b>Governors agreed to procuring both gas and electricity via Fortis energy for a one year period. This would be revisited again at the November mid-term budget review.</b></p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b><u>Any other business</u></b> TJ advised Governors that a response had been received yesterday to the letter sent to the Local Authority. This was addressed to Sue and John who have agreed for it to be circulated to all Governors.</p> <p>SP advised that the Local Authority had arranged a place planning meeting with Headteachers for 8<sup>th</sup> September.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b> The next meeting is scheduled for <b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 4.15pm, in school.</b></p>	
<p><b>Meeting Ended at 10.50 am</b></p>		

**Attachments for FGB 01.09.2023**

The following documents were available prior to the meeting;

<p>1</p>	<p>Report on Gas and Electric procurement 2023</p>
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Signature:

Position:

Name:

Date: