

AT A MEETING  
- of the -  
**SCHOOL ORGANISATION**  
**COMMITTEE** held at the  
Council House, Walsall  
on **Monday 12 July 2004**  
at 6pm

PRESENT

Councillor Bird  
Councillor Cassidy  
Councillor Chambers  
Councillor Beilby  
Councillor Munir  
Councillor Mrs. Pitt  
Mr. B. Lycett  
Mr. M. Quinn  
Mr. C. Payton  
Mr. J. Minister  
Mrs A. Willoughby  
Mr. M. Edge

In attendance

Mr. T. Edinborough – Education Walsall  
Mrs S. Lupton – Education Walsall  
Mr. F. McQueen – Education Walsall

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

(a) New LEA members

The Committee noted the appointment of new LEA members as a result of the local elections.

(b) Any other changes

The Committee noted that Councillor Beilby was attending as the alternative member for Councillor Micklewright and that Councillor Chambers was attending as the alternative member for Councillor Rowley.

### APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

#### Resolved

That Mr. M. Quinn be appointed Chairman for the Municipal Year 2004/2005

### APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

#### Resolved

That Councillor Bird be appointed Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2004/2005.

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Walker and Ms. J. Cosgrove.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### MINUTES

#### Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2003, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### LATE ITEMS TO BE INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no late items to be introduced by the Chairman.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT, 1985

The Chairman informed the Committee that there were no items for consideration in the private session, although it had been past practice that representations in respect of the statutory proposal would be received, together with any representations from members of the public/schools in the public session and at that point the Committee would adjourn into their groups and the remainder

of the meeting would take place in private session. The parties would be advised of the decision at the close of the meeting.

Resolved

That the procedure outlined by the Chairman be adopted.

STATUTORY PROPOSALS TO CLOSE CLOTHIER STREET,  
LAKESIDE AND LITTLE LONDON PRIMARY SCHOOLS  
FROM 31 AUGUST 2006 AND TO OPEN A REPLACEMENT  
PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2006

The report of the Managing Director, Education Walsall was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Chairman referred to the statutory proposals for the closure of Clothier Street, Lakeside and Little London Primary Schools with effect from 31 August 2006 and the establishment of a new community primary school at Noose Lane, Willenhall with effect from 1 September 2006 which were published on 29 April 2004. As a result of representations being received and not withdrawn in writing, the proposals were presented to the Committee for decision. The Chairman informed the Committee that it may decide to:-

- (a) approve the proposals without modification;
- (b) approve the proposals with modifications following consultation with the proposers and others;
- (c) give a conditional approval this may be appropriate, for example, when implementation depends upon the proposer obtaining planning permission, or acquiring a site, a conditional approval cannot be given that is subject to capital funding being made available;
- (d) reject the proposals.

The Chairman invited Education Walsall to present the statutory on behalf of the LEA.

Mr. Edinborough referred to the background of the cases and to the consultation that had taken place in respect of the proposals, following which a number of representations had been received.

Mr. Edinborough stated that the proposed new school would provide a learning environment and be of great benefit to pupils in the area.

Following concerns over safety, surveys had been carried out and the main vehicles on the road during the times that children would be making their way to and from school were cars.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Head Teachers of Clothier Street, Lakeside and Little London had been advised of the meeting and given the opportunity to make a presentation. Clothier Street had advised that the school would not be in attendance, but the other schools had not responded.

Following concerns expressed by members on road safety issues, Mr. Edinborough stated that the site exceeded the size usually required by the DfES and could accommodate space at the front of the site to take vehicles off the road. Councillors undertook to request the appropriate Scrutiny Panel to look into the matter to ensure that the right solution was reached and that adequate arrangements would be made prior to the planning application stage.

The Committee welcomed the suggestion from Councillors that this would be raised at a Scrutiny Panel.

At this juncture, the Committee adjourned into its groups to discuss the proposals further and the LEA officers, Education Walsall staff and members of the public left the room.

The meeting reconvened and the voting was recorded as follows:-

**LEA group** - welcomed the proposals and the opportunity for a new school for the area.

**Schools group** – agreed with the proposal and welcomed them.

**Church of England group** – agreed with the proposal and welcomed them and hoped that all went well.

**Roman Catholic group** – agreed and welcomed the proposals.

It was therefore:-

Resolved (unanimously)

- 1) That the statutory proposal to close Clothier Street Primary School with effect from 31 August 2006, be approved;
- 2) That the statutory proposal to close Lakeside Primary School with effect from 31 August 2006, be approved;
- 3) That the statutory proposal to close Little London Primary School with effect from 31 August 2006, be approved;
- 4) That the statutory proposal to open a replacement school on Noose Lane, Willenhall from 1 September 2006, be approved.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.35 p.m.

Chairman:.....

Date:.....