# Minutes from School Council Meeting 22nd October 2018

Pupils in attendance – CHa, KKa, CBe, KSa, CLa, RiLe, RicLe, HNi, LDi, BCu, CWa, NNa,

Apologies

Staff in attendance – BBa, JHa

**Agenda (actions in red)**

**Welcome** – Bev welcomed pupils to their 1st School Council Meeting since September 2018. School council walked in and sat quickly. New members were made welcome and expectations were set out by existing members. BCu had asked if he could experience School council with the option of continuing which was agreed.

**Review of** previous meeting 20th June 2018

School Ambassador Badges – We have trialled badges however due to the magnet they have not been as permanent as they would have liked. They do enjoy wearing them for meetings but feel that the badges slip or become a sensory issue.

Grand Designs Day – Bins have now been placed around the School; pupils enjoyed taking part throughout the day.

Toilets – Still urine on the floor occasionally; pupils suggested locking of doors by staff with a key. This would ensure that the toilet was opened, closed and checked however each toilet would have to be fitted with a key lock. Pupils then suggested cameras outside of the toilets. Through discussion they felt this would not eliminate the problem. Lastly pupils mentioned a signing in sheet outside each cubicle. Staff could sign when they checked the toilet or pupil could sign when they used the toilet – staff to continue the regular checking of cubicle before and after a pupil has used the toilet.

New staff update – The pupils all knew Mr Bullock however they did not all know Chris Young. BCu and CLa were not aware who Chris was – Chris to introduce himself to other groups and make a point of taking part in different Friday afternoon activities.

Leadership within Council – Ms Lloyd and Mr Cross to model ‘showing visitors around our School’ with KSa, KKa, CHa, CBe, SCl, HNi

School Uniform poster/brochure – Mr Cross is aware and will be taking pictures in the near future to create a brochure which is clear showing the correct uniform both for staff and pupils.

MISP – Bev has spoken with Mr Cross regarding using MISP as a relaxation technique during Yr 11 exams as suggested by LDi. – Awaiting decision LCr.

Today’s agenda

Radios – Pupils report that they feel safer knowing that the new radios given to staff are working well in transition and across School; Council did report that they are quite loud and have asked Bev to request that staff lower the volume during lessons especially if 3 staff or 5 staff are in the room eg: during a joint lesson observation Bev to speak to staff.

British Values – A very brief discussion as pupils had been in the room almost an hour.

Charities – McMillian coffee morning raised £145.76; pupils were thanked for their contributions and efforts.

Car Washing - raised £81 which pupils decided would be used as School Fund on this occasion. A thank you to BCu who consistently chooses car washing.

Charity – A local charity to be decided for next term; pupils listed a choice of local charities from Children’s cancer trust to the Salvation Army. List of Charities to be put in each class register to create a fair voting system which will be announced at the next Council Meeting. Car Wash money will support the charity (Bev).

Recent Visitors – We have had a high number of visitors in the School who have requested to speak with School Council. A huge thank you to all those who have consistently been the voice of Elmwood. Thank you CLa, SCl, LDi, KSa, KKa, CHa and more recently CWa and NNa who have stood in when others were absent.

There were still further discussions to be had regarding additional agenda items for today however these items will be discussed at the next Council Meeting; it was felt more important to move to AOB as this gives Council ownership of the meeting.

* Operation Encompass – To be discussed at next meeting
* PSHE Curriculum – To be discussed at next meeting

AOB

Activities – Pupils would like to see more activities in School during a Friday afternoon. James explained the logistics of the activities and explained that he has asked staff if they can suggest an activity which they feel confident to lead. MISP has been suggested however this would have to be with a small group as pupils would get bored waiting; they would need to go onto another craft/play activity. Kerry and Charlotte would have to plan for the whole afternoon. – Staff to liaise with James to set up activities which they feel confident to lead (James).

School Meals – Pupils noted that portions of chicken have gotten smaller. This did coincide with a conversation had 2 days later with Lynn in the Kitchen – Bev to feed back at next Council Meeting.

Noise – Some of the Council asked if ear defenders were available. Bev suggested that they report any sensory overload to their teacher which will inform of need which in turn supports their EHCP long term and conversation can be had with professionals such as CAMHS who may be working alongside the pupil. Pupils to report to teachers on a needs basis.

Reflection Rooms – BCu, RiLe and Ric Lew all stated that the reflection rooms are quite bland. BCu voiced that his reflection room in transition was small, quite dark plus they only had 1. Pathways Council members were very happy with their rooms as they have transition of sofas from reflection room to class. They can also use the sofas as part of their pupil request. LDi explained to BCu that it is important to use your pupils request to prevent reflection room being used. Pathways also explained that physical intervention should reduce as you go through the School due to strategies being learnt plus support from staff who know you well; this should reduce incidents of negative behaviour. Pupils asked if the reflection rooms could contain lego or other calming activities plus beanbags, relaxing music and sensory items. It was explained that pupils who love lego would then prefer to sit in the reflection room constructing lego rather than being in class. A suggestion of Art work on the walls was made by Council – Bev to discuss with Mr Hawkes and Mr Cross re this discussion.

Date of next meeting –

Thank you all for attending and for your continued commitment.