



**Aston Rowant C+E Primary School**  
**School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU**  
**01844 351671**      [office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk)  
 Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

**Meeting of the Full Governing Body of Aston Rowant CE Primary School**  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - 6.30pm**

**Present:**

Steve Taylor (ST) Co Opted Governor, Chair  
 Helen France (HF) Headteacher Staff Governor  
 Alan Melady (AM) Parent Governor  
 Tom Sowerby (TS) LA Governor  
 Gill Tyler (GT) Foundation Governor  
 Alexi Olsen (AO) Staff Governor  
 Zoe Batt (ZB) Co Opted Governor  
 Sam Goose (SG) Parent Governor

In attendance – Penny Spencer (PS) LA Clerk

The meeting started at 18.30

		Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Prayer</u>  ST welcomed everyone. The meeting was opened in prayer by GT.	
2.	<u>Apologies for absence/Declarations of Interest</u>  There were no apologies and the meeting was quorate. ZB still to update her declarations on GH.	<b>ZB</b>
3.	ST requested that this meeting be used to look at what has happened at the school since the Ofsted Inspection in 2022 and also to discuss in detail the VA/VC conversion.  Approval of the minutes of the meeting on the 29 <sup>th</sup> of March will therefore carry over to the next meeting in July along with any matters arising.  All Governors agreed.	
4.	<u>Ofsted Inspection – reflection and looking forward</u>  Governors discussed how well the school has managed with the rising challenges and how well the children have flourished since the inspection.	

**GRATTITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY**

*'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.'* Colossians 2:7



HT said that the children have had a wonderful year and she is hopeful that the SATS results will show this, although it does still feel as though we are reacting to things rather than be able to plan.

*TS asked in hindsight could we have done anything differently?*

Everyone agreed there wasn't anything.

ST asked each Governor to talk about their specific areas and give updates.

### **Safeguarding – TS**

TS said area this has gone from difficult to incredibly difficult, both in numbers and severity. He said everything has been handled incredibly well and we are doing what we should be doing but this makes the workload huge and equally it is very frustrating that we can't do more. ST noted that the knowledge that TS has, has made a huge difference. HF also noted she has never known SEN to be as high and this also presents challenges.

### **Finance - SG**

SG said overall finance is improving with the increased pupil numbers and the outlook is positive. The new finance manager in school is also making a difference. Mike Naylor is happy with how things are going and being run. HF noted that we are actually two years ahead of where we thought we would be financially.

### **T&L – AM**

AM said on T&L last year we were in a good place, Ofsted then advised us to go to termly meetings and he feels there is now a bit of a disconnect and also with Governor visits etc. ST noted this is possibly an area for work on in the next 1-3 years. AM also noted that the Christian ethos has been elevated which is very much a positive.

### **SIAMS – GT**

GT said that she has felt more confident in speaking at these meetings and also in asking Governors to embrace things. Her school visits make her more mindful of HT and the whole school.

### **Communications – ZB**

ZB said she felt she still has a lot of work to do on the communications strategy but she feels very much part of the team and she still has lots to learn. GT noted that all the Governor's roles are very clear and you know who to go to for specific questions.



**Staff – AO**

AO said that she and the staff feel that we have been able to consolidate since the Ofsted inspection.

*ST asked do we feel as though we have eased up a bit after Ofsted?*

AO said there was a lot to do before the inspection (putting things in place etc.) but as things are now in place it has made it easier. We haven't eased off too much it's just that things are now in place and embedded.

HT said what is needed now is a plan for the next three years and our priorities which will require input from all parties, staff, children, and parents. AO noted that a staff survey will probably bring the same results as previously and the main issue for staff is communication.

*AM asked what are the challenges for the next three years?*

**3 Year Plan**

- SEN not to be a significant challenge
- 3-year program for Governor visits – targeted program
- Successful SIAMS report when inspected
- Increased profile of the school
- Improved facilities, buildings, fence, and IT / hardware
- VA/VC decision
- Possible additional staff (from improved pupil numbers which improve finances to enable more staff)

ST agreed to send reminders to Governors between meetings to following up on things.

HF noted the three things that need to be completed now are:

- The final column of the current SDP needs to be completed by the end of the school year. She asked Governor's to please complete those against your names (the document is on Governor Hub). AO to send the document round via Teams for completion.
- The SEF also needs to be completed showing the strengths and weaknesses.
- The SDP needs to be set up for next year including the SEF.

It was agreed that these three things need to be done by the 5<sup>th</sup> of July so that it can be looked at prior to the next Governor's meeting.

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	<p>Governor's areas of responsibility are:</p> <p>Safeguarding – TS          Liaising with the community – ZB          Behaviour – GT          Leadership and Management - ST          T&amp;L / Quality of Education – AM</p>	
5.	<p><u>VA/VC Conversion</u></p> <p>TS and GT have met with Katie Dickson (ODBE) to ask the questions from the last meeting and TS has shared a document containing notes from the meeting on Governor Hub. Katie has recommended starting to sow the seeds of conversion with parents now (without actually mentioning the change) as consultation with parents is likely to be the thing that takes the longest time. TS said there is an application form that needs to be completed by Governors and also noted that this will be a Governor lead process. Gordon Joiner at the Diocese will help us with completing this form. There is no fee but extra costs could be around £2,000. We will also need two more Foundation Governors. This may not necessarily mean two more Governors as current Governors could become Foundation Governors.</p> <p><i>AM asked about SEN provision as this is not provided by ODBE?</i></p> <p>HF said this isn't a problem as SEN always comes from County (this is the same in all counties).</p> <p><i>AM asked if there would be any impact with Thames Partnership?</i></p> <p>HF said no there are already VA schools within it.</p> <p><i>ST asked Governors so what now?</i></p> <p>TS said we should educate parents on the church school anyway and should we decide to convert we will need to set up a sub-committee and meet with Gordon Joyner</p> <p><i>ST asked GT for her thoughts.</i></p> <p>GT said it is important that this isn't just coming from me it has to come from everyone and is in the best interest of the school. She said her concern is how parents will react. SG said that we have to be careful when we involve parents. ZB noted that we have to communicate things to parents carefully. HF agreed we have to be very sensitive.</p>	

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**Action points**

Item	Action	Responsible
2	ZB to update her declarations on GH	<b>ZB</b>
5	TS & GT to make initial contact with ODBE regarding progressing conversion	<b>TS/GT (done)</b>
6	GT to arrange staff get together in July	<b>GT / All</b>
6	TS to suggest some dates for Governors to come in and do some painting in school	<b>TS</b>
6	HF to see if there is any funding available to get her some help with teaching until the end of term	<b>HF</b>

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**Attendance 2022-23**

	21-9-22	16-11-22	18-01-23	29-03-23	17-05-2023	12-07-2023	Total
Zoe Batt	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Helen France	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Sam Goose	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Alan Melady	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Alexi Olsen	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Tom Sowerby	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Steve Taylor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Gill Tyler	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		

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