

## **PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2024**

Minutes of the meeting of the **PRE-SCHOOL SUB-COMMITTEE**, held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, on **WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2024 at 7.00 p.m.**

### **PRESENT**

Councillors: Martin Ashcroft, Arun M. Chandran, John Clark, Jed Hillary, Joanne Jones, Anne Woodward, John Woodward.

### **OFFICERS**

Mr D. Austin (Town Clerk)  
Mrs J. Gale (Pre-School Manager)  
Mrs V. Anderson (Corporate Assistant)

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Two members of the public

#### **1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M. Chandran, and seconded by Councillor Jed Hillary, that Councillor Martin Ashcroft be appointed as Chairman of the Pre-School Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor Martin Ashcroft be appointed as Chairman of the Pre-School Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

*Councillor Martin Ashcroft took the Chair for the Meeting.*

#### **2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor John Woodward and seconded by Councillor Anne Woodward, that Councillor Joanne Jones, be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Pre-School Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Joanne Jones be appointed Vice Chairman of the Pre-School Sub Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

#### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Tony Armstrong, Sandra Haigh and Sandra Kirby.

#### **4. MEMBERS' DISPENSATIONS**

No applications for dispensations had been received.

#### **5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

## 7. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Arun M Chandran, and seconded by Councillor John Woodward and

**RESOLVED** - that the minutes of the meeting of the Pre-School Sub-Committee, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 8. PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING CENTRE UPDATE

The Pre-School Manager submitted a report updating members on the pre-school attendance figures, staffing, special educational needs (SEN), health and safety, activities, events and projects.

The report also included a request for an additional capital budget approval to fund the cost of extending the outside play area to the main pre-school to provide a dedicated space for special educational needs children.

The Pre-School Manager reported that the attendance figures are now at capacity and the forecast numbers for the coming year are also looking very good. Numbers are likely to be so high on the back of the 'Outstanding' Ofsted Report.

It was reported that SEN numbers are increasing with a quarter of children in attendance requiring some form of additional support.

The Pre-School have employed a temporary SEN Assistant this year using funding received towards SEN support. The SEN Lead at Durham County Council has advised that there are no Learning Support Officers (LSO's) agreed yet for Newton Aycliffe for next year. As such, further temporary SEN staffing support will be required going into the 2024/25 school year, and adverts will be placed as soon as funding is confirmed.

Councillor Jed Hillary congratulated the Pre-School Manager on a comprehensive report.

He asked if the damp issues referenced in the report will be addressed during the summer holiday period. It was advised that contractors have been out to look at the problem and the Works Manager is currently waiting for quotes. The Town Clerk confirmed that the aim is to have the work completed before September.

Councillor Arun M Chandran asked if the extension to the outside play area would mean taking space from the park area. The Town Clerk confirmed that the extension would take space from the park area immediately outside the conservatory.

Councillor Arun M Chandran requested that a map or photographs of the area to be covered by the extension to be sent to Councillors ahead of the Policy and Resources Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jed Hillary and seconded by Councillor John Clark, and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i. the report be received;
- ii. the requested additional capital works relating to the proposed extension of the outside play area in the main pre-school to provide a dedicated space for the Special Educational Needs (SEN) children be agreed;
- iii. photographs or a map showing the area to be covered by the extension be sent to councillors prior to the Policy and Resources Committee;
- iv. an additional capital budget request of £4,150 be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

**9. 2024/25 PRE-SCHOOL SERVICE PLAN**

The Corporate and Policy Officer and Pre-School Manager submitted a report presenting the 2024/25 Pre-School Service Plan for members consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Councillor John Clark and seconded by Councillor Arun M Chandran, and

**RESOLVED** – that it be recommended that

- i. the report be received;
- ii. the 2024/25 Pre-School Service Plan be approved.

**CHAIRMAN**