



“To promote lifelong learning through the understanding and enjoyment of flowers, trees, plants and animals for career, business, educational and leisure purposes”

**MINUTES OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 4.00 PM ON 16TH JUNE 2008**

MEMBERS:

**Mr. Roger Abraham
Mr. Sam Bell
Mr. Ken Crowther
Dr. Steven Dowbiggin OBE
Mr. Huw Jones Owen (Chairman)
Miss Phyllis Oborn MBE**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sam Bell and Ken Crowther.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2008

RECEIVED the minutes of the Search Committee meeting held on 6th March 2008

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2008

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. VACANCIES ON THE GOVERNING BODY

NOTED that:

i. at the end of the summer term 2008 meeting of the Governing Body there would be four governor vacancies created by the following terms of office concluding:

- Roger Abraham
- John Bennett
- Phyllis Oborn MBE
- Malcolm Parkinson

ii. as previously reported Phyllis Oborn MBE had indicated that she would not be standing for re-election;

- iii. Roger Abraham, John Bennett and Malcolm Parkinson have advised the Clerk to Governors that they would wish to be considered for re-appointment by the Search Committee;
- iv. The Chief Executive advised that a number of people, including the following, have either enquired about becoming a member of the governing body or have had their names mentioned in this context:
 - Chris Beardshaw (Broadcaster)
 - Sue Minter (Trustee, Horniman Museum)
 - Lady Salisbury
 - Joanne McCartney (GLA member)
 - Alan Paulus (local entrepreneur)
 - Gareth Dufton (member of the Audit Committee)
 - Neil Fletcher (observer - Learning Skills & Employment Board)

Roger Abraham withdrew from the meeting whilst the vacancy created by his term of office concluding at the end of the summer term meeting 2008 was discussed.

- iv. members considered the skills analysis and the expertise that Roger Abraham brought to the governing body in the areas of audit and legal matters. Roger Abraham also played a key role as Chairman of Audit and made a significant contribution to the work of the Governing Body;
- v. members felt that in the current climate of change governors needed to retain the skills and expertise that Roger Abraham brought to the governing body;

Roger Abraham returned to the meeting

- vi. members considered the skills analysis and the expertise that John Bennett (curriculum) and Malcolm Parkinson (financial) brought to the Governing Body;
- v. John Bennett and Malcolm Parkinson also had key roles on Governing Body sub committees and made significant contributions to the work of the Governing Body;
- vi. Members felt that given the current climate of change and changes in the funding methodology governors needed to retain the skills and expertise of John Bennett and Malcolm Parkinson on the governing body;
- .vii. Members considered and identified the skills required by the Governing Body to fill the remaining vacancy. Members identified the need for the college to focus on income generation, charity experience and engaging with influential local businesses and local networks;
- viii. Members considered that of the people whose names had been advised by the Chief Executive, Lady Salisbury would be the most appropriate candidate to meet these needs;

- ix. Members also felt that in order to consider vacancies it would be prudent to confirm whether the names put forward by the Chief Executive as having enquired about become a governor were serious expressions of interests and whether their interest was immediate or for the future;
- x. the Chief Executive advised that he felt the expression of interest by Lady Salisbury was a firm expression of interest. Lady Salisbury had asked to look round the college and a visit was arranged for the 1st July 2008.

RESOLVED:

- i. **to ask the Clerk to invite Lady Salisbury for interview at the next meeting of the Search Committee (following Lady Salisbury's visit and subject to her advising the Chief Executive that she does wish to progress becoming a governor);**
- ii. **to seek to ascertain the levels of interest of those identified and the potential timescale for their interest.**

RECOMMENDED to the Governing Body that Roger Abraham, John Bennett and Malcolm Parkinson be reappointed to the governing body for a term of office of 4 years to conclude at the end of the spring term meeting 2012.

5. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Provisionally 10th November 2008 at 4.00pm