

**HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2004**

**PRESENT**

**Schools**

Dena Coleman  
Peter Fielden  
Paul Rosen  
Michael Taylor

**Church of England**

Alick Burge

**Roman Catholic Diocese**

Mike Pittendreigh  
Paul Goggins

**HCC**

Robert Gordon [Chairman]  
Seamus Quilty  
Richard Smith  
Julian Taunton  
Tanis Kent  
Elam Singham  
Ian Simpson

**Learning and Skills Council**

Ivor Miskelly

In attendance:

Dinah Tuck  
John Harris  
Jim Dalton  
Lindsay Martin:  
Liz Hawkins  
Pam Dean

Secretary to the Committee  
Director of CSF  
Assistant Director CSF Planning  
Senior Planning Manager School Places  
School Development Adviser  
CSF Press Office

**1. Apologies, membership and attendance**

Apologies had been received from Jon Reynolds and Ian Pearson from the CE group, Alan Scouller from the RC group and Alan Gray and Sally Somerville from the Schools group. Seamus Quilty attended as alternate for David Lloyd and Elam Singham attended as alternate for David Billing [LEA group]. Ivor Miskelly attended as alternate for David Tofts[LSC] and Mike Pittendreigh as alternate for Sally Livesey [RC group].

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2004**

Subject to amending the typographical error in line 2 of item 4 the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2004 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**3. Matters arising**

It was agreed that matters arising would be discussed at item 5.

The Chairman welcomed visitors to the meeting and explained the procedures by which the SOC operated.

**4. Hatfield: Five Oaks Primary and Nursery School and Hazelgrove Primary School**

Lindsay Martin introduced the LEA's proposals to close Five Oaks and Hazelgrove Primary Schools in Hatfield and open a new two form entry community primary school with a nursery on the Five Oaks site.

John Harris the Director of CSF emphasised the standards issues which required LEA intervention in the case of these two schools and Liz Hawkins [school development adviser] responded to questions on how the teaching quality of the new school would be significantly improved. SOC members were informed that a Head and Deputy Head designate had been appointed for the new school.

SOC members sought clarification on the relationship of this proposal to the projected review of Hatfield primary school places in 2005. The LEA officers responded that this proposal deals with the over provision of primary school places in South Hatfield and the new school will not form part

of the Hatfield review for the remainder of the town next year. There were insufficient CSF Planning resources to bring forward the whole review to 2004 and the need for action on standards had been seen as imperative.

Following discussion within their groups all five groups present voted to approve the LEA proposal.

The SOC therefore approved the proposal to close Five Oaks and Hazelgrove Primary with effect from 31 August 2004 and open a new two form entry community primary school on the current Five Oaks site with effect from 1 September 2004 with transitional split site working until the necessary building work is complete.

**5. Protocol on representations by the public to the SOC**

The SOC considered the draft wording proposed to clarify guidance on representations to the SOC by members of the public.

Following discussion of the need to ensure that where possible speakers should not duplicate points to be made to the SOC it was suggested that section 5.5 of the SOC constitution and procedures be amended to read as follow:

Members of the public who have a direct interest as parent, Head or governor of a school involved in a proposal or a person who has submitted a formal objection to the statutory notice may speak to make their points. On an individual proposal the SOC would normally allow no more than one speaker in support and one in opposition to the proposal. The Chair would have discretion to allow additional speakers to ensure that all substantive issues can be covered. A guideline time limit of five minutes will be allowed for each speaker but with the discretion to allow sufficient time for the arguments to be presented.

**6. Future meetings**

Members agreed to meet at 10am on Thursday 25 November 2004 to consider VA nursery proposals, the LEA review of primary support units, South Oxhey primary provision, an updated pupil forecast and a revised timetable for primary area reviews.

A meeting in early 2005 would be agreed in November to discuss proposals for Stevenage.

*The meeting closed at 3.20pm*