

Minutes of a Meeting of the Search and Governance Committee held on Thursday, 1 October 2020 at 4.30 pm by Microsoft Teams

Present: Norma Boyes (Chair); Chris Nattress; Tanya Weston
Apologies: Michael Priestley

Also present: Jane Murray (Clerk)

09/20 Minutes

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

10/20 Declarations of Interest

None Received

11/20 Governance Overview

The skills mix of the Board was noted and that the improvements in recent years of gender balance had been maintained (at 47%).

In respect of the size of the Board, although working remotely meant that attendance was easier to maintain, the Search and Governance Committee felt that the size of the Board enabled a good range of skills and were content to recommend that the size of the Board remained at 18, although would continue to monitor on an annual basis.

The Committee noted with regret that Robin Talbot was to step down at the end of the year and paid tribute to his contribution over the past 10 years. This left two vacancies and the Principal continued to pursue a Governor from one of the civil engineering firms (given the civils project) and the Chairman of the Board had suggested a representative from a local engineering firm. It was noted that there had been an approach to this firm some years ago, which was carefully considered but rejected (on grounds of time), but they could see merit in another approach. It was agreed that in January, sufficient time would have lapsed since the previous general advertisement if vacancies had not yet been filled.

With Board attendance at 79.5% and attendance overall at 82%, attendance had increased from the previous year, a trend reflected nationally as meetings moved online. The committee was reminded that individual attendances were published in the annual accounts.

The response rate for the annual survey was 87% and there had been some positive comments around the move to electronic governance and about communication during the summer. The main point of concern arising, which would be addressed in a follow up session in November, was to encourage all Governors to participate online.

As the standing orders and committee memberships had been approved in July, the Committee received and noted the annual governance overview and would monitor progress with the vacancies.

The meeting closed at 1705h.