

East Sussex SACRE
Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2009
Council Chamber County Hall Lewes

Present Derek Bastide, Martin Lloyd, Councillor Webb, Councillor Lock, Connie Hughes, Martyn Relf, Rebecca Stutters, Father David Smith, Councillor John Garvican (Chair), Susan Thompson (RE Advisor), Rebecca Haynes (Clerk)

Also Attended Jacky Chong & Margaret McDowell Visiting SACRE members.
Geraldine Booker & Gillian Clark from Quicken Trust

I. Councillor Garvican opened the meeting welcoming Geraldine Booker & Gillian Clark from Quicken Trust who commenced their presentation about the work in Kabubbu for Quicken Trust.

II. Presentation by Quicken Trust

Geraldine gave an insightful talk on the work carried out by Quicken Trust in the village of Kabubbu.

Geraldine explained that Quicken Trust had been able to assist the people of Kabubbu by providing:

- Clean water from 5 boreholes
- A chicken farm
- Dairy cows
- A health centre
- A primary school
- Teaching placements
- New homes for 91 families
- Counselling, nutrition & transport for aids victims
- Porridge kitchens for children to have a breakfast
- Creating work and income for the families
- A sterile maternity environment
- Fear & superstition have been replaced by faith and truth
- Adult literacy classes
- Carpentry workshop
- Projects for the elderly
- Foster homes to prevent street living
- Electricity
- 25 computers for the students
- Better sanitation facilities
- A secondary school

III. Geraldine explained how this work has been achieved and the variety of fundraising, donations and sponsorship of children.

It was stated that 72% of the children in the secondary school gained grades 1 or 2 at GCSE.

Geraldine explained that Quicken Trust is supported by British Airways.

IV. Gillian Clark explained to the group how Quicken Trust visit schools during their assembly's to explain their work. She showed the group the types of presentations that are shown to students in East Sussex.

The children of schools in East Sussex are very supportive of the Trust and they raise funds for the village and some schools have sponsored a child. Those schools will have an update and pictures from that child.

There are also exchange visits between the school in Kabubbu and some schools in East Sussex.

V. A question was raised as to how the trust has raised the revenue monies to support the schools and the medical centre?

- There is currently a staff of 65 working in these buildings. The trust have 500 individual child sponsors. This covers the cost of teachers, books, uniform and basic healthcare for 500 children. Children from the city pay fees to attend the school in Kabubbu

A question was raised where do the professional come from?

- They all come from Uganda and from the cities. It is the aim of the trust to

create more jobs locally with education and skills training

A question was raised if it would be possible for the locals to self support themselves and to sustain their own development

- That is the aim of Quicken Trust

A question was raised as to how does the trust determine the needs of the local people?

- There are professional staff to determine this. Previously the trust asked the local people

A question was raised have there been any difficulties working across beliefs and with corruption in Uganda?

- There has been no evidence of corruption and the trust has only replaced one member of staff in Uganda in 10 years. Most of the local people are Christian

A question was raised as to what the Ugandan government's view of English school visits?

- The Ugandan government welcome the visits from English schools east Africa is mainly Christian and approximately 15% Muslim. There is no religious test in the work of the Quicken Trust; there are children from different faiths and no faith at the school. Southern Uganda is a fairly safe area with only Northern Uganda facing difficulties

A question was raised whether there had been any twinning with the village and local government or businesses?

- There has been a meeting with Eastbourne Town Council although the trust has not yet received a response

A question was raised if there were any tribal structures in the village and any religions native to Uganda?

- There are some

VI. Councillor Garvican thanked Gillian and Geraldine on behalf of the group for their presentation.

Business Agenda

1 Councillor Garvican extended a warm welcome to Jacky Chong and Margaret McDowell, who were visiting the group as part of their introduction to SACRE, and to Father David Smith the new faith representative for the Orthodox Christian Church. They introduced themselves to the group.

1.1 Apologies for absence:

Councillor Stogdon, Richard Saunders, Kevin Fossey, Dr Taleb Durgahee, Bev Devaux, Lienna Gomm, Angela O'Hara & Jill Bell

1.2 Councillor Garvican announced to the group that he would not be contesting his seat at the County Council elections in June 2009 therefore from June he would no longer be a member of the County council and that this was to be his last meeting.

Councillor Lock thanked Councillor Garvican on behalf of the group for all his leadership and success with the East Sussex SACRE.

It was decided to wait until the June elections to appoint the next chair.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (23 October 2008)

The minutes were agreed.

Matters Arising

There were none.

2.1 Dates to be included in Councillors diaries

The clerk had enquired about having the SACRE dates entered into the Councillors diaries. The dates would need to be agreed by the middle of June to meet the deadline for the printing of the diaries.

Action: It was decided to have the dates entered into the Councillors diaries Clerk

2.1.1 Confirm the date of the next meeting

A selection of dates & venues were discussed by the group. Bishop Bell school was suggested as a possible venue. The chair read out the venues and prices already collated by the clerk, no decision was made.

Action: It was decided to book the 7 July 2009 as the date of the next meeting. Clerk to investigate alternative venues and report to officers who will make the decision. Clerk Officers

2.1.2 Timings of Meetings

It was discussed that daytime meetings are a problem for the teaching group's availability; the group discussed whether SACRE could provide cover for the three teachers during these sessions. It would cost approximately £900.

It was discussed that evening meetings could involve long late night travelling for some members.

The SACRE Advisor raised the concern that evening meetings would be an issue for the clerk who was contracted to East Sussex County Council between the hours of 8.30 – 5pm. It was stated that SACRE would need to discuss this issue with the clerk's management at East Sussex.

The group discussed the possibility of meeting at 3.30 start for the business meeting finishing at 5pm with any presentations after this time that would not need to be minuted.

Action: Officers asked for the members to put forward their proposals by email to the SACRE Advisor, with a decision to be made at the meeting 7 July. Members

Action: The next meeting business agenda to commence at 3.30pm with a 5pm finish. Members

2.1.3 SACRE Membership

The clerk updated the group with the work on the SACRE membership so far;

Group A

Methodist Church

The Methodist Church have been contacted twice in a six month period and have confirmed that they are still not in a position to put anyone forward for the vacancy. As soon as the position changes they will inform the clerk

Unitarian Church

The Kent & Sussex Unitarian Church have been contacted they are contacting members in East Sussex and will contact the clerk with information. Since the meeting the clerk has been contacted and the representative for the Unitarian Church will be Dr Brian Hick.

Orthodox Christian Church

Father David Smith is in attendance at the meeting.

Group C

Voice

Voice is contacting all Voice members in East Sussex to ask for interested members to contact them. They will then inform the clerk of any interest.

ATL

Susan Thompson (ST) may have found a secondary teacher who is an ATL

member and a primary teacher for another union.

2.2 Identify any other business item

None

3 Agreed Syllabus Conference

3.1 ST informed the group that the funding is now in place and a sub committee would need to be formed with at least one member from each group to meet in term 5 and then bi-termly for 18 months.

3.2 A question was raised if there was a QCA guideline to postpone the agreed syllabus in schools?

- There has been a re-shuffle not a postponement and the agreed syllabus has already been delayed due to funding. The secondary agreed syllabus can proceed whilst the primary has been delayed

3.3 This was discussed within the group with Councillor Web to represent the Local Authority until the elections. Other group members are requested to email ST regarding representatives.

Action: Groups A,B,C&E to email the SACRE advisor with their representatives.

**Members
from
Group
A,B,C&E**

4 Report on Monitoring Visits

4.1 ST updated the group on the recent visits, explaining how 5 out of the 6 schools have been visited. Over 70 schools applied. The unsuccessful schools had been contacted and had either sought support from the diocese or had requested fee paying support which will take place in June or July.

4.2 The group discussed the report attached to the agenda and ST was asked to provide a broad overview of her findings.

- Primary schools are a mix of church & community schools
- Schools vary from delivering a focused and initiative RE lesson to schools struggling with RE and unsure of attainment
- There is a need for training RE coordinators
- More teachers are using the resources of the Magnet Centre

4.3 A question was raised if there was a secondary school to visit?

- The majority of visits are from Community Schools and all fee paying schools are primary. Item 9 will discuss secondary schools

5 Multi Faith Event

5.1 ST informed the group that the primary day on 5 March has been fully booked. The secondary event on 4 March has 3 schools attending and these schools have been offered more places.

The twilight training for this event had been cancelled due to the adverse weather and will be re-arranged before March.

5.2 The group discussed members of SACRE attending this event Father Smith expressed a desire to attend. Interested members were asked to contact the SACRE advisor.

Action: Interested SACRE members to email Susan Thompson. Father Smith will report to the July meeting.

**FS
Members
Clerk**

6 SACRE Conference

6.1 The group discussed the conference. The clerk handed the group a draft version of the flyer advertising this event.

Action: ST to report on the conference event at the July meeting

**ST
Clerk**

7 SACRE report for QCA

7.1 ST distributed to the group pages 8 & 9 of the report which the group discussed in detail.

A question was raised regarding how many secondary schools are in East Sussex?

- There are 27

A question was raised if there are any formal complaints regarding RE?

- No formal complaints have been made to SACRE

There was concern that the figures are low for the whole of East Sussex

- This is the largest growth area and the trend is growing upwards

A question was raised regarding RE training and how many trained RE teachers are in secondary school?

- It was discussed that these are valid issues to be raised with the scrutiny committee

Action: Councillor Garvican to write to scrutiny requesting that a short review be discussed regarding this issue

**Cllr
Garvican**

It was requested the answer sheets that were collected at the end of the previous meeting by ST to be made available to the group.

Action: ST to send the clerk the papers to forward to the members with the minutes.

**ST
Clerk**

8 Draft Faith Community Directory

8.1 ST requested a volunteer to assist her in completion of this.

Martyn Relf volunteered to provide details for all Eastbourne churches.

Action: ST to contact Martyn Relf for this information

ST

9 Report on network meetings

9.1 ST updated the group explaining that 4 meetings have been held.

- 2 in the East and 2 in the West of East Sussex
- The new secondary curriculum had been well received
- Schools are studying the philosophy behind RE

There are 2 further meetings scheduled for March and ST has a named contact to work with in the future.

Whilst ST will still be providing support it will not be the same as this current year.

ST has visited;

- A school with an unqualified RE teacher
- Many secondary schools with qualified RE teachers
- Trained teachers who have 'learned on the job'

All of the teachers were keen committed and able to teach RE.

10 Clerk Update

10.1 This item was covered in item 2.1.3

Forward Planning

11 SACRE Development Plan 09/10

11.1 Youth SACRE

ST discussed with the group the feasibility and professional input needed to get the group 'up and running'.

A question was raised if the youth SACRE would be a mirror of the current East Sussex SACRE?

- ST is in the process of looking into this

Action: ST to report at the July meeting

**ST &
Clerk**

11.2 The group discussed NASACRE Award for funding for KS4 and agreed for the necessary paperwork to be completed.

Action: The group agreed for this paperwork to be completed

ST

11.3 ST distributed to the group the report from the NASACRE meeting on 13.10.08 the group discussed this paper.

11.4 Secondary network web based support will have support will have support from William Carter.

11.5 The group discussed training for new and current members the group agreed to focus on outside speakers outside speakers who provide training on the work of SACRE in relation to RE and Collective worship for the coming year.

Action: East Sussex SACRE to focus on outside speakers who provide training on the work of SACRE in relation to RE and Collective worship.

ST

12 Forward Planning to include venues and dates for forthcoming meetings

12.1 It was decided that this item had been covered in previous items.

It was discussed that some faiths may have objections to using certain venues.

Action: Members to email the chair with concerns regarding this.

Members

Items for Discussion

13 What is the role of RE in assisting areas of social deprivation?

13.1 The chair introduced this item explaining that this will be discussed at future meetings and this was an opportunity for Councillor Lock to present his suggestion.

The group discussed this item deciding that this should be discussed in greater detail at future meetings.

Action: To include this item as an agenda item at the next meeting

Clerk

14 Any other Business

14.1 There was no any other business and ST distributed papers to the members;

- Press release on behalf of Musica Sacra
- NASACRE conference details 26.02.09