

Minute

Subject: Site Recovery Group Meeting

Venue: Webex

Date: Tuesday 11 May 2021

Attendees: Terry Currie DL (Chair)
 Dr Christine Davidson (Independent scientific advisor)
 Michael McGinley, Head teacher, Buchanan High School
 James McParland – Head teacher, St Ambrose High School
 Kathleen Robb, Parent council, St Ambrose HS
 Mark McQuade, Parent council, St Ambrose HS
 Frances Mullen, Buchanan HS
 Bernard Bell, Buchanan HS
 Andrea Ford, Parent, St Ambrose HS
 Sharon Harvey, UNISON
 Paul Breslin, Parent, St Ambrose HS
 Louise Elliot, Pupil, St Ambrose HS
 Gabriel Kinta, Pupil, St Ambrose HS
 Fr Michael Kane, school chaplain
 Katrina McGhie, Parent council, Buchanan HS
 Angela Boyd, SSTA
 Louise Brown, NASUWT
 Chloe Leek, Buchanan HS pupil
 Teejay Leek, Buchanan HS pupil

Also present: Stephen Penman, North Lanarkshire Council
 Martine Ryan, North Lanarkshire Council
 Chris Sullivan, North Lanarkshire Council
 Matt Costello, North Lanarkshire Council
 Gerard McLaughlin, North Lanarkshire Council
 Andrew McPherson, North Lanarkshire Council

Apologies: Sharon Harvey, UNISON

Scribe: Martine Ryan, North Lanarkshire Council

Item	Subject	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Colleagues were welcomed to the group and apologies noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Minute of last meeting</p> <p>Group agreed minute of last meeting held on 17 November 2020</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Drinking Water – Chair asked for update, to which Chris Sullivan advised that it was in-situ.</p> <p>Report to the council – Chair advised report was taken to P&R committee in December 2020, the committee was advised that the drainage issue was ongoing and that the work of the SRG was nearing completion. It was also noted that the impact of the pandemic had on works.</p> <p>Drainage/Gas Membrane – CS advised all previous matters had been addressed.</p>	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Drainage Works</p> <p>CS provided a summary of drainage issues.</p> <p>Internal drainage works were undertaken during the Easter Break to repair number of displaced joints on the waste system. During the course of this process, a series of further works were identified as being required to be undertaken.. However these could not be completed within the existing time schedule. The Chair asked when this work would be carried out and was informed that design was awaited. As there will be disruption to part of the playground, it is intended that these would be addressed during the summer break.</p> <p>A full external drainage survey of the site has been undertaken. The surveys identified the displacement of an external soil waste pipe which has contributed to blockages and waste backing up into various toilet areas. Again it is hoped to carry out these works during the summer break.</p> <p>Chair asked Michael McGinlay and James McParland about the disruption issues raised at the last meeting. MMcG advised minimal disruption to Buchanan HS. JMcP advised there has been disruption at St Ambrose due to the toilets on the ground floor and staff toilets being out of use for few weeks. Main waste pipe issues – work ongoing at the minute and staff toilets are now in use.</p> <p>Settlement – CS gave a summary of the report and highlighted the increased level of settlement where groundwork repairs had been undertaken previously. CS advised that this would be expected in these areas. Ground conditions have now been monitored over all seasons to give a true reflection on the variance weather conditions has had on the ground settlement. Conditions will continue be monitored over next 12-24 months however it would be expected that an element of settlement of the hard and soft landscape areas will continue.</p> <p>Paul Breslin asked if this was a normal length of time and for confirmation that no settlement under actual school building. CS informed that there is no evidence of settlement of the structure of the building and this is further evidenced by the disjointing issues associated with the internal/external drainage supplies.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Gas Membrane</p> <p>CS referred to the non technical summary of the independent consultants report. CS highlighted that the Gas Membrane is one part of a multi layered system designed to stop gas entering the building. The other layers are the concrete floor slab and the sub slab ventilation and gas detection system. The overall findings of the consultant's Report was that the building is safe.</p> <p>The Chair was of the view that the Report lacked clarity. For example the Consultant was asked to highlight any necessary remedial works which should be carried out. None were referred to in the Report. If there were none identified then this should have been clearly stated in the Report. CS clarified that no remedial recommendations were made within the report.</p> <p>Dr Christine Davidson stated that she agreed with the Chair's comments about the Report lacking clarity.</p> <p>Andrea Ford asked about Gas ventilation and where is the release point? Could it be explosive. Andrew McPherson advised that the internal venting system will kick in when the gas levels are actually below any explosive limit. In addition, the gas would then be expelled to the external air and further diluted so there would be no issue. CS added that external venting system has points at different pockets throughout building and the release points are referred and marked within the consultants report for reference.</p> <p>Stephen Penman advised that he agrees report is not clear and consultant could be asked for a version 2 to sharpen non-tech elements. Chair agreed this suggestion is helpful.</p>	

<p>6.</p>	<p>Independent Water Assessment Recommendations - Progress update</p> <p>CS advised that month reviews are proposed to continue for a period of time, and that daily protocols would continue with water being flushed which was previously endorsed by the group.</p> <p>CS confirmed that a further risk assessment would be done over summer break by an independent body to validate the ongoing works to the water supply system.</p> <p>All members for SRG were happy with this.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Teacher Testing</p> <p>The Chair reported that he had asked Frances Mullen if further testing of Teachers had been undertaken and was informed that no further progress had been made on this issue. The Chair advised that this particular issue would fall under the category of ongoing business between the Union and North Lanarkshire Council. SP agreed that this would be appropriate.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Ongoing Communications Plan</p> <p>In response to a request from the Chair made at the previous meeting, SP presented a Report to update members on the broad principles and plans for ongoing communications with the communities of St Ambrose and Buchanan High Schools.</p> <p>He envisaged that the key issues which would require ongoing communications, in the short term, would be water quality and the implementation of the water quality assessment recommendations and the ongoing works to remedy the drainage situation. He would also include the Gas Membrane in this category.</p> <p>He highlighted the key communications channels including the parent councils, the head teachers, the pupil school leaders etc.</p> <p>Council officers happy to attend parent council meetings in future and the web page will continue. Moving forward it is important that we utilise all channels to inform whole school community of planned works including parents/pupils/staff and community.</p> <p>CD asked how Press would be dealt with, SP advised that part of detailed comms plan and Snr Comms officer will write any press responses.</p> <p>At this point of meeting, Michael McGinlay, James McParland and Fr Kane had to leave the meeting to attend confirmations.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>The Chair referred to the matter of winding up the Site Recovery Group which had been discussed at the meeting held on 17th November 2020.</p> <p>He stated that there remained a number of issues which required ongoing action and monitoring. He was of the view that it was now appropriate to address these matters on a 'business as usual' basis.</p> <p>He referred to the paper presented by Stephen Penman on the need for ongoing communications between North Lanarkshire Council and the key stakeholders within the communities of St Ambrose High and Buchanan High.</p> <p>He believed that the Site Recovery Group has fulfilled its role in accordance with its Terms of Reference.</p>	

Buchanan & St Ambrose High Schools Site Recovery Group

	<p>He proposed that the Site Recovery Group be wound up. The proposal received unanimous support.</p> <p>He stated that he would write to the Leader of the Council and the local M.S.P and inform them of this decision.</p> <p>He thanked all members for their contributions. He gave special thanks to Dr Christine Davidson for her advice and guidance.</p> <p>He thanked the officers of North Lanarkshire Council for their support and assistance.</p>	
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