MINUTES of the Meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee of Thorngumbald Primary School held on Thursday 15 May 2025 at 5.00pm.

P R E S E N T:-

Mrs C Roberts (in the Chair)

Mr T Cook, Miss S Norton and Mr P Tansey.

Also in attendance – Mrs L Wilson (School Business Manager).

Clerk to the Governing Board – Ms S Trulio.

110 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Mr G Uney.

111 **CONSENT FOR ABSENCE**

RESOLVED: that consent be given to Mr Uney for his absence from this meeting.

112 **CONFIRMATION OF ITEMS TO BE RAISED UNDER ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED: that no items be raised under any other urgent business.

113 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

RESOLVED: that no declarations of interest were received on any item on the agenda.

114 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

115 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute 97 – Matters Arising from the Minutes (previously Minute 71)

A governor enquired whether the meeting to review policies had been held. It was confirmed that an initial meeting had taken place and the work was underway.

Minute 97 – Matters Arising from the Minutes (previously Minute 75)

A governor requested an update on the progress of the School Council. The Headteacher advised that this would be provided as part of the School Development Plan update later in the meeting.

A governor asked whether a date had been agreed for the governors' Curriculum Day. It was advised that it had not as yet.

RESOLVED: that an update on the School Council would be provided as part of the update on the School Development Plan.

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116 **GOVERNOR ACTIONS**

Minute 99 – School Development Plan 2024/2025

The Headteacher advised that the most recent parent survey had been completed using a QR code. **A governor queried whether this had generated more responses than usual.** This was confirmed. **A governor enquired what platform had been used for the survey.** It was advised that a Google Form had been used. Year 6 had been out onto the playground and approached parents. **A governor questioned whether the results would be collated and shared with governors.** This was confirmed.

RESOLVED: that the results of the parent survey would be collated and shared with governors.

117 **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024/2025**

The School Development Plan had been red, amber, green (RAG) rated and was shared with governors during the meeting.

Priority 1 – To create an engaging, aspirational and inspirational curriculum.

The school was working hard to develop a meaningful curriculum for pupils who lived in and around Thorngumbald, building on the recent History Day. There was still work to be done on making learning interactive and getting more hooks into learning and therefore that had been RAG rated amber.

Staff had undertaken a lot of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) on various elements of the School Development Plan. The school was in the process of creating core principles and when finished, this would give an overview of the school but would interlink which would inform the curriculum and create something unique to the school.

The Appraisal Review had been difficult to manage as the school did not have the staff or time to monitor it regularly. Subject leadership needed consistency however, it was not a priority as developing the curriculum needed to come first. Staff had not been sharing termly updates for governors however, pupil voice was happening regularly. The school planned to change this slightly though and take samples of pupils instead of classes.

There was still work to be done on engaging stakeholders. **A governor challenged how the school planned to increase parent engagement.** There was no specific plan however, the school had done a lot of work on the website to ensure it was more engaging and contained all of the relevant information for parents. The school were also considering holding a meet the teacher session in September 2025.

Finding local role models was proving to be challenging. The Headteacher felt that the school may need to branch out beyond the village.

The Cultural Entitlement Plan was underway. The school was creating a document of 100 things pupils would get to do before they left Thorngumbald Primary School. This would be added to the website.

Strand three had been RAG rated mostly green. The school had purchased the scheme No Outsiders about equality and diversity and this would be used from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The school had been trying to create a relationship with the Parish Council however, there had been some issues with one of the members. The Headteacher was currently cultivating a relationship with

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another member of the Parish Council instead. It was hoped that the Parish Council would be able to link with the School Council.

Priority 2 – To create a positive relational climate

Trauma training had been completed and the Headteacher had achieved a Distinction in her diploma. All staff had undertaken basic level trauma training and had been involved in the Nurture UK training. Other schools and external agencies had asked to come to the school in order to see good practice.

RESOLVED: that the School Development Plan 2024/2025 be received.

118 **FIVE YEAR BUDGET PLAN**

The budget had an in-year deficit however, the school had been in this position in the past and had managed to claw this back by the end of the financial year. The school did have an expensive staff as the majority of them were Upper Pay Scale (UPS) or almost UPS and this was the main issue.

At the end of the previous financial year, the school had a carry forward of £84,000.00 however, they now had an in-year deficit of £60,000.00. They were however, still owed pots of money from various places. Approximately £40,000.00 was owed from Hull City Council and there were other Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) funds also outstanding. The school was confident that the deficit would have significantly reduced by the end of the year, maybe even by budget review in October 2025.

The school had a plan in place to come out of the deficit and governors were supportive of this plan. The deficit predicted next year was more significant however, the school would have a better idea in October 2025 of what the numbers would be. It may be that redundancy would be considered at that point however, the school had been clear that this was something that may happen.

The school had received £17,000.00 towards the National Insurance (NI) uplift. It would not cover it all but would account for a significant amount of it. Teachers had been budgeted for a 2.8 percent pay rise however, Unions were pushing for four percent. The Sports Premium had also been budgeted for at approximately £16,000.00 however, there had not been any confirmation as to whether this funding would continue next year.

A governor noted that the school had a lot of agency staff and questioned whether this was due to staff absence or not being able to recruit. The Headteacher advised that it was a bit of both however, the school did have a member of agency staff who would be moving to a permanent contract with the school. **A governor enquired whether there was a cost associated with this.** It was explained that they were required to give 12 weeks' notice however, there would be a fee if the school wanted them to move over sooner.

There was currently one teaching assistant (TA) on long term sickness leave. **A governor asked whether the school had insurance for this.** Governors were advised that the school had decided not to go with the local authority for insurance as they had been quoted £11-12,000.00 for just teachers. The School Business Manager had obtained a number of quotes, and the school had now moved to the School Advisory Service (SAS) for insurance. They covered teachers, TA's and support staff at a cost of £11,500.00. They had also honoured existing staff on sickness leave. **A governor enquired what the cover included.** It was advised that it was £200.00 per day for a teacher and £80.00 per day for TA's. It would not fully cover the supply costs but would certainly help. **A governor queried whether the insurance started from day one or day three of absence.** It was confirmed

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that it started from day three. Staff would also be given access to a wellbeing portal with lots of resources including access to GPs.

The school had been awarded a £16,000.00 capital grant for improvements related to SEND. The school planned to develop the old Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) room to make an extension for the Enhanced Resource Provision. There were plans to convert one classroom into a classroom and therapy room and the school were also looking to add a sensory space in the library. Mr Chris Jennings, Principal Asset Officer (School Buildings) at the local authority, had agreed to pay for the new fencing and had promised that the work to the reception would also be completed. The Key Stage (KS)1 plans were to be reviewed to see how the building could be made user friendly. Mr Jennings also planned to approach the Parish Council to see if the pre-school wanted to rent a room from the school instead of the local authority. The Headteacher believed that the pre-school would be interested in this. The school were also considering the possibility of renting to Children's Centres.

The Chair reminded the School Business Manager to invoice the friends of school for their contribution to school trips.

RESOLVED: a) that the five year budget plan be received;

b) that the School Business Manager invoice the friends of school for their contribution to school trips.

119 REVIEW OF ACTIONS

RESOLVED: that the Review of Actions be confirmed and circulated to governors following the meeting.

120 FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that future meetings be agreed at the next meeting of the full governing board.

Roberts

Chair's Signature – 16 October 2025