

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNORS OF KNOW VIEW SCHOOL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1990 HELD AT 34 MARLAND FOLD, ROCHDALE

Present: Mr M W Ingoe JP (in the Chair)
Mr B Andrews (Acting Head Teacher)
Mr W Hopkins
Mr J F Humphreys
Mrs J Lyons
Mr D Potter
Mrs J Stillman

In Attendance: Supt G Marshall, Rochdale Police
Mr B P Williams for Clerk to the Governors

117 SERIOUS INCIDENT AT THE SCHOOL

(a) Response of the Police

Mr Ingoe briefly outlined the concern of the Governors to the response of the Police, as reported by members of the school staff, to the presence of the intruder who had been hanging around before gaining access to the school premises in September when the serious incident had occurred, Superintendent Marshall was invited to respond. Supt Marshall stated that the intruder (RH) was well known to the police and had been arrested some months ago. The intruder's father expressed concern that his son was being sold alcohol. Supt Marshall had spoken with (RH) who seemed to know what was going on and was not under age and therefore the police had no grounds for intervention. RH had subsequently appeared in court on 17 October and had been remanded.

In response to a query Mr Andrews reported that all staff had been alerted to watch out for RH. Staff on duty were making more frequent-patrols around the premises and the doors were being locked earlier at night. He indicated that staff were not aware that the serious incident of 11/12 September had occurred until after the incident when the pupil involved was interviewed.

Mr Hopkins reported that he was the local Off Licencee and also that he believed that the Probation Service was trying to find a hostel placement for RH. Supt Marshall reiterated that the Police could only take action if RH was obviously mentally disturbed or was committing a breach of the peace and offered to consult with the Probation Service to see what help could be given to RH.

Mr Andrews indicated that Knowl View was not a secure unit. It had a number of external doors - which have lip-latches - easily opened by pupils from the inside.

There was no floodlighting to the rear of the building. Only the Head Teacher was now resident on the premises and accommodation formerly used by residential staff was now unoccupied, so that the building was vulnerable to break ins.