

From: Harry Rayner <harry@harryrayner.net>
Date: 9 March 2016 at 12:59:59 GMT
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Subject: Misappropriation of Wrotham 3G Pitch Sinking Fund

Dear Mr Lane

Further to your email below, I do hope that this is not the precursor to the whole matter being 'kicked into the long grass' or filed away in the 'too difficult file'.

As agreed with the Management Committee I have undertaken some further investigation. Firstly, Wrotham School is now a private company, registered in England and limited by guarantee, allocated Company Registration Number 07662701. It is an Academy Trust reporting to a section of the Department of Education -- Dominic Herrington, Regional Schools Commissioner for the South East and South London 1 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ email: rsc.sesl@education.gsi.gov.uk.

For the purposes of this email I am not making reference to Wrotham School Governors as I believe that they are colluding with Mr Wright in the misappropriation of funds from the 3G Pitch account using funds from this account to pay for new school assets and according to Mr Wright there appears to be some £4300.00 missing being the difference between £7000, which he writes went on a new gas boiler and the actual funds paid out of the account.

The schools report and accounts for the years 2013-2015 make interesting reading. Importantly cash in hand has fallen dramatically by almost two thirds over this period. From reading the accounts, it is apparent, that especially at this time of year, Wrotham School appears to be very short of cash. This may well be the reason that the misappropriation has occurred.

Turning to the so called 'Agreement' this was agreed by Mr Wright in person because he admitted that Wrotham School was no longer in a position to continue to manage and administer the 3G Pitch operation. It was subsequently agreed between the School and the Management Committee that Phil Garland undertake the day to day management of the facility, in return for agreed concessions, all paid for from the 3G Account. Under the agreement this cost should have been paid by Wrotham School. Mr Wright's reference to the original agreement is simply dissembling on his part, he well knows that he cannot rely on an old agreement, since superseded, under which Wrotham School are apparently unable to carry out 'their part of the bargain'. Mr Wright clearly seeks to use the 3G Pitch account as his 'slush fund' to be used to cover for his inability to manage his school cash flow. This is not an acceptable way to manage public funds and the Committee ignore what has happened at its peril.

Wrotham School auditors are Wells Giles Limited, 12 Conqueror Court, Sillingbourne, Kent ME10 5BH the Academies Audit Manager is Gemma Chan. The appropriate Directors are Alyson Howard and Alex Ffronch. Gemma Chan's email is: gemma.chan@williamsgiles.co.uk the same email formula can be used for the 2 Directors. At the very least the 3G Management Committee should write to Wells Giles and ask them to review urgently the circumstances of the withdrawal of the funds.

The writer is a former Governor of Wrotham School until April 2013 (sometime Vice Chairman). One of my former colleagues who remains a Governor has recently advised me that Mr Wright is leaving Wrotham School, having given notice in December 2015. The 'hit' on the 3G Pitch funds were carried out with the knowledge and agreement of some governors but only after Mr Wright resigned as a Director of Wrotham School Limited on 16 January 2016 and after his notice of cessation of employment. This has all the hallmarks of a calculated 'hit' by those managing Wrotham School Limited on the local community. It is to be hoped that whatever scrutiny is being carried out by

T&MBC - it is undertaken promptly, otherwise the Management Committee will be faced with the usual "Mr Wright has now left our employment and no one knows anything about what happened to the amount withdrawn from the 3G Pitch Account" perhaps the missing balance will be put towards his 'Golden Handshake'.

There is also the matter, still unaddressed, of Ms Jean Pankhurst the former Business Manager of Wrotham School Limited who provided the 3G Pitch Committee with fraudulent accounts, calculated to have the Committee believe that the 3G Pitch cash in hands were some £35,000 more than it subsequently appeared that they were. The Management Committee has not taken steps to seek to recover from Wrotham School the consequences of that fraud, in light of the most recent misappropriation, that matter should also be placed on the agenda of the next meeting. I understand from the same former colleague School Governor that Ms Pankhurst is now pursuing legal action through the Employment Tribunal against both Wrotham School and Mr Wright personally.

Please can we today set a date for the next 3G Pitch Management Committee meeting? Otherwise, I fear that it will not meet again before the Parish decides that the Wrotham 3G Pitch is a lost cause, with any available funds constantly being 'creamed off' by the next person who considers that they 'have a right to it'.

Regards

Harry Rayner