

Minutes of the Old Wymondhamians Committee Meeting
Held on Saturday 10th November 2012 in the Andy Boorman Room

Present: Julie Harding, Carole Arnold, Michael Brand, David Spinks, Jack Smith, Melvyn Roffe, Colin Leaford, Karen Snook, Roger Garrard, Mike Herring, Tim Howes, David Jackson, Phil Robinson, Caroline Hall

In attendance: Jennie Foster (nee Clarke) 1967-74, Oliver Large and Alice Hall (Year 13 students representing the OWs on the Principal's Council)

1. **Apologies:** Asha Simmonds, Steve Read, Bob Rowell, Pat Howard

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 19th May 2012.**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising and Actions**

Travel Award 2012: This was awarded to Jordan Cadman-Rivers, who has gone with Project Trust to work with deprived children in a township outside Durban in South Africa. Jordan has been writing a blog about his experiences and a copy of this was circulated at the meeting. For those interested in reading the blog the link is: <http://jordaninsouthafrica.wordpress.com/about/>. He has been asked to provide some photos and a short piece for the OW Spring Newsletter. (**Action – CH to follow up**)

Royal Norfolk Show 2013: Julie Harding stated that the Show in 2012 had proved successful and that the manning of the OW stand within the College tent had worked well – many thanks to Colin Leaford for organising. There is to be a meeting to discuss the RNS 2013 on Tuesday 13th November, which will examine all aspects of the Wymondham College presence at the Show (this meeting has had to be postponed following the visit by Ofsted to the College). If any members of the Committee have thoughts/suggestions on improvements that could be made to the College stand then please let Melvyn or Julie know as soon as possible.

(**Note: Royal Norfolk Show 2013 26th/27th June – please put date in your diary**)

4. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer had provided a financial report (on the minute book) for the period from 1st May to 30th September, 2012. Copy had been circulated to all Committee members prior to the meeting – there being no questions raised, the account was adopted. Colin Leaford and Phil Robinson commented that they did not seem to have received Steve's email - Steve are you using the correct email addresses for these two? David Jackson commented that there seems to be a serious lack of funds – a discussion took place as to how this could be rectified; particularly in the light of the fact that there may be a need to 'top up' funding for the alumni secretarial service as College have stipulated a maximum of 70 hours/annum that they are willing to fund.

The balance of the current and reserve accounts at the end of April was £5,786.45.

5. **WCR Report**

Julie Harding reported that activity on the site was reduced but she had added reports on various reunions, including the Hong Kong Reunion hosted by Melvyn at the Kowloon Cricket Club which had been successful and attracted about 35 OWs, and the visit by Trudy Stevenson to the College at the end of October.

Sadly a number of OWs have died over the past few months, including Miles Barron, Len Layt, Graham Smith, David Cox, Tommy Howe.

Jack Smith raised the issue of how bequests are handled and what could be done to encourage more OWs to leave a bequest to the College in their will – a lengthy discussion ensued. The Principal mentioned that the same issue had been raised at the Wymondham College Trust meeting and a model bequest form was to be posted on the WCT website. **(Action: TH to feed back action being taken by WCT so that OWs can work in with this).** Any bequests are best left to the WCT as tax relief will be eligible.

Phil Robinson requested that the updates put onto WCR could be dated so that it is obvious what is new. **(Action: JH)**

6. College Matters

The Principal had hosted a Reunion at the Kowloon Cricket Club for OWs resident there in June. It had been a successful event, much enjoyed by all those who attended. The support and help given by Daisy Fung, the first Hong Kong Wymondham College parent, was acknowledged and it is hoped that this link is maintained. This is likely to become a regular event as the Principal or Bursar visit Hong Kong every 12-18 months recruiting new students. It is hoped it will become more popular and better attended as each year passes.

The visit made by Trudy Stevenson (OW 1958-62) had been much enjoyed by both staff and students. It had been very educational for the students to hear about her working life as diplomat in Senegal. Ms Stevenson is hoping to come back for a return visit at some point and has already given support and advice to a Year 13 student.

The Principal commented on the completion of the new Reception Building; the new offices and conference facilities are proving to be well designed and ideal for purpose and having the Reception building next to the main entrance barrier will ensure that no traffic enters the site without signing in first. It is the first stage of the new site traffic management plan – there are plans to widen the road entering the site at the Tom Eaton Centre to allow two way traffic. Once the traffic management is sorted on the site, pressure will be put on the County Council to resolve the issues with traffic backlog on Golf Links Road.

The exam results for 2012 were the second best year for A levels, 92.7% of year 13 went to University, of those over 80% got into their first choice. GCSE results were good, although English results reflected the same problems as were found in the rest of the country – 22 students failed to get a C grade, and a lot of work has been put in by the Principal and his staff to get the best possible outcome for these students.

7. College Support for OWs

An Admin re-Structure has been carried out at the College, as a result of which Jackie Glenn, External Communications Officer, and Caroline Hall, Partnership Development Officer/Alumni Secretary, have been made redundant. Caroline Hall has been re-appointed to act as Alumni Secretary for 70 hours per annum, working from home but paid for by the College. Caroline agreed to keep detailed time sheets to allow both College and OW Committee to analyse what work had been done and how long it had taken. **(Action: MR/JH/CH to meet in 6 months to review progress and consider whether the 70 hour contract is realistic and what action, if any, needs to be taken for the following 6 months.)**

An OW Newsletter will be produced in spring 2013. The content is to be gathered by the OW Committee but College will supply assistance in terms of layout and preparing to go to print. **(Action: JH and CH to chase up content and to consider whether a quick email Newsletter at Christmas is viable).**

David Jackson commented that he did not feel that 70 hours per annum would be sufficient to achieve what was required of the Alumni Secretary – he felt that without sufficient input by the Secretary the work of the OWs would be significantly under-supported. It was agreed that this would be reviewed as previously mentioned and consideration given to whether the Committee should look to raise further funds to help with payment for the Secretary should more than 70 hours be required. He also stated that he was not sure that the level of commitment to the OWs was as good as it had been, only 30 came to Summer 2012 Reunion, there are only 97 people in the 100 Club at present – he worries about where this lack of enthusiasm is leading to. It was agreed that a long term plan was required to work towards increasing support and finding new avenues for fund raising.

A discussion took place around the matter of the database, Advantage Fundraiser and the Principal confirmed that this database is owned by the College. Carole Arnold stated that when she was performing the Alumni Secretarial role she spent approx.360 hours per annum maintaining contact with OWs in terms of replying to communications, updating database, updating OWs with upcoming events, assisting in the organisation of reunions etc.

This triggered contributions from: **Mike Herring** – who stated that he felt that the following areas were of vital importance and needed input from Secretary: Reunions and the organisation of these; facilitating the interaction between present students and OWs in terms of careers advice, information about job opportunities etc; maintaining the database and keeping it up to date. If this required more than 70 hours per annum then the Committee needed to consider ways to increase funds – to aim for say £10,000 over 2 years. This could be achieved through grants/subscriptions, local government funding etc. The Principal confirmed he was happy to work with the OW Committee to examine how and support the raising of these funds. **Roger Garrard** asked whether the OWs had taken the majority of the cuts to their support from the College and the Principal reassured the Committee that this was not the case. **David Jackson** felt that communication between the College and the OWs needed to improve – this needs to be done through JH/CH.

It was agreed that Mike Herring and David Jackson, with possible help from Tim Howes, would investigate the possible ways that further funds could be raised and would report their findings to the meeting to be held in February. (**Action: MH/DJ**)

A discussion was also held about the possibility of students paying some sort of subscription to the OWs while at College. The Principal agreed that this might be possible with the 6th formers who pay an admin fee each term. It might be possible to add £10 to this towards the OWs for which as well as OW membership they would be invited to a BBQ Reunion a year after they leave. Oliver and Alice, the two sixth formers present, thought there would not be any objections to this but students should be able to opt out if they wish. This would have to have the agreement of the Governors and it was agreed that a paper would be put together for the Principal to present to the next Governors meeting. (**Action: MH/DH/TH**)

6. Archive Room – Progress and the Future

In May 2012 there was some re-organisation and clearing of the Archive Room by a number of Committee members. Phil Robinson stated that all the wide College photos had now been re-framed thanks to Karen Snook's father and are back in the Archive Room awaiting display. It was felt that it would be useful if another day could be done in there. (**Action: JH to email out to Committee some suggested dates**).

It would be useful if entry could be gained to the glass display case for which the key is missing. (**CH to contact Estates team to see what can be done**). It was also agreed with the Principal that we should look into changing the lock as the room was still being used for

exams and since the admin restructure current OW files are stored there which hold personal database information.

There is a good representation of past school magazines in the archive but there are some years where no copy is available so it was suggested that a request be put on WCR for OWs to supply copies of those magazines if they had them and were happy to donate them to the Archive Room. **(Action: JH)** *Carried over from previous Minutes.*

7. Any other Business

Carole Arnold mentioned that John Haden had written an excellent book about his trips and work with the school in Uganda, called *May God Uphold Thee*. If anyone wishes to purchase the book it is available through Waterstones. It was suggested that a note be put on WCR to publicise this. **(Action: JH)**

Mike Herring stated that he would be going to Sydney, Australia in 2013 and would be interested in organising and hosting a Reunion. **(Action: CH to produce list of OWs resident in Australia and give to MH).**

Tim Howes asked that a copy of the OW Constitution be sent to him for consideration; it was felt that it would be useful for all Committee members to remind themselves of the content of this document. **(Action: CH to circulate to all Committee members).**

8. Dates of Next Meetings

Saturday 2nd February, 2013 AGM at 11.00am in the Andy Boorman Room, followed by a Committee Meeting.

Saturday 18th May, 2013 at 11.00am in the Andy Boorman Room.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 13.45pm

Signature: Date:
Chairman, Old Wymondhamians Committee