



OLD WELLINGTONIANS' ASSOCIATION

DRAFT Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in Small Hall

On Saturday 14th October 2017 at 12 noon.

Present: Caroline Heaton (Chairwoman), John Darvall (President), Mike Fuller (Vice Chairman), Mike Rogers (Treasurer), Phil Nunnerley, William Bailey, Sarah Turner, Jeremy McGilpatrick, Nigel Calder, Peter Bloomfield, Ken Trump, Brian Goggin, Colin Walker, Bill McIlwaine, Malcolm Gaunt, Robert Palfrey, David Mitchell, Graham Nye, James Bradnock, Henry Price (Headmaster), Linda Holden, Juliet Handley

1. President's Welcome, Report and Remembrance

John Darvall welcomed everyone to the meeting which marks the end of his first year in office. In reminding members that officers and the committee will face re-election next year he encouraged more members to put themselves forward to support the OWA going forward. The power of the OWA is its members, its collective connections to the School, and the memories of their time at Wellington. He thanked members for their support of the Chapel Appeal and although the windows on the South side have been attended to there is still further work to be carried out on the West Window and the Pinnacles. He had enjoyed his role as President, talking to the 6th form on journalism; involved with the School radio station launching in the New Year; and particularly witnessing his son singing with the School choir as he too had done, on an out-reach programme run by Wellington School.

The London Lunch with over 90 attending and representing every decade, had been successful with many new faces. The event has become one of the highlights of the OWA year.

Personal highlight was handing out gifts alongside the Chairwoman to the School leavers. This raises awareness of the OWA reminding those who went to Wellington that they share a common bond. The fellowship is unique and special. However with social media connecting us more today it will be important for the OWA to review its purpose over the next year to ensure it remains relevant.

He then went on to express thanks to the Chair, Caroline Heaton, for driving the OWA forwards over the last 12 years. OWs all owe her a great debt. She has indicated that she will be standing down next year and not seeking re-election.

Finally he went on to read out the names of all those OW's who have passed away since the last AGM. A copy of the names can be found on the website.

2. Chairwoman's Welcome and Report

Caroline thanked the President for his kind words. She welcomed the Headmaster and all those OWs attending including those members of the committee together with Linda Holden and Juliet Handley

in the Development office all of whom ably support her. The OWA has continued to work closely with those other organisations/committees who also support the School- the Friends (Simon Cross), the Foundation (Graham Nye), and the Chapel Trustees (Graham Nye, Caroline Heaton and Paul Farmer).

Looking back over the year she commented on the Commemoration Ball which saw 50 OWs attending; the successful London lunch- next year's has already been booked 17th May; Sports Day where honours were even with School winning the cricket, OWs the tennis, and hockey drawn; the re-opening of the Astroturf; the motorbike run which William Bailey had organised; the rugby events with the OWs participating in a 7s tournament in August in Bristol; the SheppyFest with the OW flag flying proudly. The golf day had unfortunately had to be cancelled this year due to bad weather but the event is already booked for 2018- 11a.m. tee off on 19th April.

She thanked the School for their financial and logistical support with OWA mailshots and printing of material and also for their increase in financial contribution.

On behalf of the OWA she had attended a number of funerals of members and had written to families on their loss on behalf of the OWA. One particularly memorable occasion was the memorial service for Don Culver at Salisbury Cathedral.

As the President had signalled earlier she confirmed she would be standing down at the next AGM so as to focus on her degree course. Underlining the President's remarks she believes the OWA needs to review its future and its relationship with the School. Members with any thoughts are asked to forward them to Linda Holden.

Finally she hoped everyone would enjoy the remainder of the reunion weekend and looked forward to meeting everyone at the President's drinks reception.

3. Apologies

Were received from: Rachel Debenham, Paul Farmer, Simon Cross, Matt Coleman, Paul Maton, John Howden-Richards, Roger Bray, and Peter Hopley.

4. Minutes of 12th November 2016

Subject to one small amendment these were approved proposed by Mike Fuller seconded by Mike Rogers

5. Matters Arising

Reunion Weekend and AGM- it was observed that it was largely 'oldies' attending and the question asked why were younger ones not present. There was much discussion. A higher % of leavers go on to university and make new friends and put school behind them; for boarders the school and fellow house friends were their family and friends were made for life; for day pupils going on to university is their first experience of boarding; younger people are busy with careers, families of their own, and tend to live for the now only returning to school later in life; in past times communication was only by letter or telephone, and not social media but OWs just turned up for the reunion weekend knowing it always fell on the same weekend in November.

The date had been moved this year to accommodate those who might be attending armistice memorial events locally but it had not impacted numbers attending this year. From the School's perspective holding the event before half term eased pressure on the Development Office who have other fundraising events to organise in the second half of term. With 2018 marking the Centenary of the end of WW1 William proposed and Sarah Turner seconded that the reunion weekend revert to the second weekend in November (10/11 November 2018). Carried unanimously.

London Lunch- the lunch would again in 2018 be held at the RAF Club. The Committee had decided that in 2018 instead of continuing the event in the downstairs bar in the evening a local pub would be announced where all could gather. Welly on Tour in London had worked well in attracting OWs to an evening reception. Whilst the question was asked whether consideration had been given to a dinner as opposed to a lunch the view was 'if it isn't broke don't change it'.

6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year show a surplus of £3,630.83. There had been a small increase in contribution from the School together with merchandise income- there was still some £1500/£2000 of stock held. There had been some one-off expenditure- rugby 7s- and a reduced level of subsidy for the London lunch. The finances are healthy and whilst there may be an argument to use the reserves there was recognition of a potential need to support the continuing maintenance of the chapel. A vote of thanks was passed in gratitude for Mike's longstanding stewardship of the finances.

7. Chapel Trustees' report

Graham Nye highlighted that it had been a busy 2 years with the windows on the south side of the chapel restored. These would be re-dedicated at the following day's service. Thanks were extended to Jim Pendleton and his team. The north side windows would be fine for a few more years but the west window was the next priority. The pinnacles were being surveyed to establish the work required to restore them- one had had to be removed for health and safety reasons. It was recognised that as a listed building any restoration work would entail replacing materials on a like for like basis.

8. Headmaster's Report

The Headmaster echoed his thanks to Linda Holden and Juliet Handley for their support of the OWA. OW events reminded him that education is something you draw on through life. One OW that he had spoken to the previous day commented that Wellington had made him what he is today and had made a generous financial contribution to the School.

OWs make a continuing contribution to the School- the Registrar, HR Manager, and some administrative staff are all OWs.

There are 820 pupils on the roll today including 54 in the new nursery. Boarding remains important providing to the School's infrastructure. There continues to a healthy tension cramming a 7 day programme into 5 ½ days.

There are a number of physical projects proceeding; the astroturf was reopened in September; the work to extend the café will complete in January; a new boarding house- the Gables- opened in September; and the work proposed for upgrading Dukes will include an updated library and study space, particularly for the 6th form.

The Independent Sector faces strong headwinds both economics and political- with business rate relief, VAT on school fees, the removal of charitable status all threatened. What must not be overlooked is that the School employs 300 people, the benefits to other businesses in the High Street, and the wider public benefit to the local community and schools, with many outreach activities in academic, music and sport subjects, to name but a few.

9. Election of the New Officer

Being the only nominee Phil Nunnerley was proposed by Graham Nye, seconded by Mike Fuller and duly elected Secretary of the OWA.

10. Confirmation of Existing Officers, Committee Members and Representatives

On the proposal of Nigel Calder and seconded by William Bailey all the other existing officers, committee members and representatives were re-elected for a further year.

11. Any Other Business

Nigel Calder reminded that 2018 marks the centenary of Willows and Hardwick and that this should be reflected in planning next year's reunion weekend.

12. The Weekend Programme

Linda Holden outlined the programme which included tours before the reception and dinner in Great Hall with reserved seats for OWs in the School Chapel on Sunday morning.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The 2018 AGM will be held on 10th November 2018.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting finished at 1.30 p.m.