

Date: Saturday 05 November 2016
Time: 11:45
Location: Sixth Form Library, The Foundation Centre, Lord Williams's Upper School,
Oxford Road, Thame, Oxfordshire. OX9 2AQ

M E E T I N G N O T E S

Attendees

Annabel Edwards (AE)	Carol Kendall (CK)	Jade Bestley (JB)	John Sharpley (JS)
Peter Merrow-Smith (PMS)	William Eason (WE)	Graham Thomas (GT)	David Wybron (DW)
Bridget Trueman (BT)			

Austin	<i>Ken</i>	Champ	<i>Bob</i>	Hussey	<i>John</i>	Sherwood	<i>Richard</i>
Barnikel	<i>David</i>	Clarke	<i>Peter</i>	Marshall	<i>Liz</i>	Turner	<i>John</i>
Bennett	<i>John</i>	Doré	<i>Paul</i>	Nixey	<i>Derek</i>	Ward	<i>Brian</i>
Cassell	<i>Chris</i>	Edwards	<i>George</i>	Read	<i>Martyn</i>	White	<i>Malcolm</i>
						Yates	<i>Barry</i>

Apologies

Tony Ireson	Cliff Nixey	Colin Lewis	Jon Polden
Robert Bridgman	Michael Syson	David Ratcliffe	Eric Lambourne
Peter Traies	Janet Merrow-Smith	Liz Reece-Harris	Colin Urch
Stuart Davies	Jane Vaucher	Rev. Derek Witchell	Mark Trueman (MT)
Derek House	James Trueman	John Bishop	John Aylward
Peter Bennett	John Aylward	Stephen Lilley	
Robert Knight	R J Cadle	Charlie Murray	

Chairman: Peter Merrow-Smith

President Graham Thomas

In line with convention the current Chairman chaired the meeting and welcomed all attendees; the meeting commenced at 11:45.

01 Apologies

01.01 Apologies were received from those listed above.

02 Minutes of last Annual General Meeting / matters arising

02.01 Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 08 November 2015 were proposed; seconded; accepted by the body of the meeting by majority and signed by the Chairman – the OT President. No matters arising.

Proposed John Sharpley

Seconded Jade Bestley

03 Chairman's report /sports report P M-S

This has been a positive year for the OTs – of helping the school and supporting as we can. Committee meets 3 times a year and business is currently scaled down – sports events have been passed to school.

- PMS feels that the committee does not need a sports liaison officer.

- The primary function of the OTs is to support the school – sadly there have been deaths of well-known staff who were remembered this morning.
- Many thanks to Barry Yates for organising the Golf
- There is a rugby match between the year 7 & 8 students and the netball is back this afternoon.

Many thanks to Graham Thomas for updating the archive materials with Derek Turner.

100 years after the death of OTs - 1916 – it is poignant to look at the exhibition, with the last OT who died in 1916 being listed.

Main focus this year is the ongoing focus regarding a sculpture to be built on the lawns.

Fundraising for this is in the planning stages.

Fundraising/merchandising – Thompson Badges, ties etc are available.

Question from the floor – ‘educational value’ is a criterion for applying for lottery funding – would the committee apply? GT – said yes.

Proposed Annabel Edwards

Seconded Bridget Trueman

04 Treasurer’s Report JB

Treasurer’s Report for the Year Ended 31 July 2016 was proposed; seconded and accepted by the body of the meeting by majority.

Please refer to the “Income and Expenditure” and “Balance Sheet” papers that were distributed.

INCOME

Donations and Subscriptions

We took £21 in donations at Founder’s Day last year – thank you to those who generously donated.

Founder’s Day 2015

As usual, the OTA bore the modest expenses related to the **Service and AGM**.

We made a loss of £160 on the **Lunch**, due simply to the fact that we maintained the £12 per head cost for attendees, while the costs to us increased. As a committee we made the same decision this year to not increase the price to lunch guests – and the school have agreed to absorb the increase in base costs to us (thanks to the school).

Due to the format of afternoon **tea** and other activities last year there were no associated costs / income.

*The **Raffle** raised £184: thank you once again to the efforts of those selling tickets and the generosity of those who donated prizes.*

We made a profit of £22 from the **Honesty Bar**.

As the **OT Rugby** did not take place last year, there were no related costs involved – either income or expenditure; and there were no costs associated with the **choir**.

Sales of Ties, Books of Reminiscences, etc.

These were once again very modest, but did contribute a total profit of £4. These sales were all made on Founder’s Day last year.

Interest and Dividends

These generated a very useful income of £235.

EXPENDITURE

Stationery, postage and printing

We spent £172 last summer, sending letters to offline OTA members – those without email addresses (printing, stationery and postage costs).

Donations

Once again we donated £100 to the LWS yearbook, to which we also contributed an OTA advertisement. This year we also spent £1,863 on restoring the existing honours boards and having a new one created – which were officially revealed at Founder's Day last year.

Misc.

The usual £35 was paid for the Founder's Floral Tribute, and we spent an additional £56 on other floral tributes this year.

£25 was spent on gifts for the outgoing President last FD.

£250 was given as a contribution to the £1,500 cost of maintaining the LWS archive (thanks to Derek Turner for his work).

Following last year's (Summer 2015) stock reconciliation and subsequent corrections, this year's accounts reflect a loss in held value of stock of £262.

Taking everything into account we had an Operating Deficit of £2,398 for the year.

Balance Sheet

Hopefully the figures are fairly self-explanatory.

As you will see, at the year-end our **Net Assets** stood at approximately £6,800, a decrease of around £2,600 on the position in 2015.

Approximately £240 of the decrease stemmed from the drop in the market value of our investments which stood at ca. £4,800 at year end.

These accounts have been audited by Fiona Kreamer – who was happy to fulfil the role this year and continue in this role next year; subject to your agreement.

PMS – commented that we do not spend much on merchandise but we make sure we have scarves, ties and Thompson Badges.

Proposed George Edwards
Seconded PMS

05 database Report BT

- 05.01 E-mails updated from information that comes in at times.
- 05.02 Database changes were made from the postal returns.
- 05.03 Database shared with president for Mailchimp for newsletter.

06 Newsletter Report etc

- 06.01 GT reported that the Membership had supplied a good level of news through the early part of 2016, which he enjoyed both reading and assembling into the Newsletter. However this has dropped off more recently. No news means no newsletter.
- 06.02 OTs are active on Facebook – this is becoming the 'day to day' means of communication.
- 06.03 Newsletter is sent out roughly every 2 months – not as much news is being sent in as in the past.
 - 01.01 699 e-mails of older OTs are on record.
 - 01.02 Separate numbers are returned for 2012 – 2016, about 120 in each year – so approx.. 1200 members, with 150 postal, giving a total of 1300-1400 being the approximate number of members.
- 01.03 E-mail numbers on database October 2016:-
 - 133 in 2016
 - 107 in 2015

- 127 in 2014
- 102 in 2013
- 109 in 2012

- 06.04 Website – where longer length articles of interest are published to build up as an archive.
- 06.05 The most recent is regarding a question from the guardians of Rycote Chapel. They asked whether we knew that Elizabeth I opened the school? ‘There is no evidence’ we said initially. The guardians asked because they are interested in having a plaque put up at the old GS – but English Heritage will only allow historic interest plaques to be put up.
- 06.06 Princess Elizabeth was at Rycote under the guardianship of Lord Williams, and then queen in 1558 when Lord Williams (LW) was promoted to look after Wales.
- 06.07 LW had treated her well, and she was well disposed to him and his family, however he died 8 months after taking up the Welsh role.
- 06.08 Elizabeth went on Tours – to meet the people etc. and came to Rycote 5 times, 1565, 1570, 1575, 1580s, 1592.
- 06.09 LW’s daughter Marjorie married Henry Norris (HN) who held land in Berkshire. LW passed Rycote to Marjorie and Henry Norris. Elizabeth I (QE) visited there on her progresses. Unusual frequency of visits by QE.
- 06.10 HN’s father was executed for having affair with Anne Boleyn – QE’s mother. Was he QE’s father!!!???
- 06.11 As Marjorie and QE were close – did QE open the school? It was built in 1570 but was not open until November. QE may have said prayers at the tomb of LW in Thame church. Maybe 1570 she might have visited Thame. She had come from Wing to Rycote, on the Aylesbury road.
- 06.12 There is no-one in Thame who wrote of such a visit.
- 06.13 However 1575 she signed (sealed) 2 letters patent to do with the statutes of the school, transferring ownership of the school to New College.

07 **John Hampden War Memorial Scholarship Fund (JHWMSF) WE**

- 07.01 Richard Sherwood (RS), Chairman – JHWMSF,
- 07.02 Jan Merrow-Smith (JMS), Hon. Secretary – JHWMSF.
- 07.03 Thank you to Jan MS for having taken over and doing a marvellous job.
- 07.04 Investments have been fairly consistent despite Brexit etc –
- 07.05 2014:- information is reported in arrears so we have 2014 figures. 42 grants, 33 to new applicants & 9 to past ones. £5,000 plus £2,800 to the school – the sixth form
- 07.06 2015 – There was a lower number of awards; overall awards £5,300.
- 07.07 £2,700 to the school – plus grant to school thus came to a total of £8,000 (approximately) granted.
- 07.08 November 9th 2016 – the excess of £2,000 will be distributed.
- 07.09 The investments have done well and approx £250,000 + in the bank gives a good income, £8,300 - £8,500
- 07.10 Richard Sherwood (RS), Chairman – JHWMSF,
- 07.11 Jan Merrow-Smith, Hon. Secretary – JHWMSF.

Thanks voted to JM-S for all her dedication and work.

Proposed JS
Seconded AE

08 **President’s Report – GT**

- 08.01 Summary – the sculpture was introduced at a previous AGM
- 08.02 It is an inspirational item and relates to education.
- 08.03 We now know how much it is likely to cost. This has taken a long time. £70,000+ is needed. It would have to come from funds not associated with the school, which cannot put money into this. OTs fundraising – e.g. lottery – would be independent of the school, supported in principle by the school.
- 08.04 New appeal – cricket pavilion – fundraising is occurring in the school.
- 08.05 The current one is a shed.
- 08.06 It is important for the school – and will cost £250,000.
- 08.07 £21,000 raised so far.
- 08.08 Herbert Nicolle bequest is part of this.
- 08.09 OTs – feedback please regarding whether we could contribute to both items.

09 Head Teacher's Observations – David Wybron (DW)

- 09.01 Thanks were minuted to the students taking part in music in the service in the morning.
- 09.02 Also thanks to Derek Witchell for the service,
- 09.03 Last night DW was at the Awards Evening – it was a fantastic evening, and he commented on how amazing the LWS students are.
- 09.04 Single site project and educational funding – there are many issues.
- 09.05 The schools' budget overall is not protected as the sixth form funding is not protected by the government. There is no local government support because Academies run their own budgets.
- 09.06 Overall there is a £400,000 per year deficit.
- 09.07 Savings are being attempted nevertheless.
- 09.08 A single site school and savings are needed.
- 09.09 Nevertheless funding for £3,000,000 has been supplied for a specific project. There is new building going on.
- 09.10 The configuration of the new school would be around the sculpture, positioned as a gateway for the school – putting arts and science at the forefront. The sculpture can be a logo for the new arts section.
- 09.11 Peter Logan has worked many hours on this.
- 09.12 His neighbour Andrew Nichols believes that this can be self-funding.
- 09.13 Cricket pavilion is linked to John Fulkes a former Head of Sixth Form at LWS.
- 09.14 Thame CC need a reserve pitch and their personnel are working with those of LWS.
- 09.15 Sport England need to be satisfied that loss of fields occurring when selling Lower School will not be a problem.
- 09.16 6 playing areas are needed by Sport England on the single site and there will be 10 so there will be an excess of 4 according to Sport England.
- 09.17 The cricket pavilion is needed to allow the lower school site to be sold, a building of a good standard is required.
- 09.18 Please do come to the sports fixtures this afternoon. If there is not support for it, then should we be doing this in the future?

Thanks to David from GT who said that of the OTs BT, himself GT, and BY were at the awards evening – LWS is remarkable in this Awards night.

10 Election of OTA Officers and Committee Members

As in previous years a list of officers and committee members are detailed on the Agenda. There are 2 Officers due to resign soon. The posts of Chairman and secretary come to the end of their four-year tenure next year.

- 10.01 As in previous years the committee were approved and voted *en block*. This year the nomination of GT as president was also included in to the vote.
- 10.02 The OT Committee Membership proposed by Barry Yates
- 10.03 Seconded Martyn Read and by majority voted in the Committee and Honorary Secretary as set out in the confirmed 2016/17 Committee as shown below.

10.04 JHWMF members also en bloc

Richard Sherwood Chairman

Jan Merrow-Smith Hon. Secretary

Jade Bestley

William Eason

Michael Good

Peter Merrow – Smith

John Sharpley

Graham Thomas

Bridget Trueman

Barry Yates

10.05 OTA committee

President (year 2 of 4)

Graham Thomas

- Life Vice president** Mark Trueman, et al
- Chairman** (year 3 of 4) Peter Merrow – Smith (**JHWMF**),
- Hon. Secretary / newsletter** (year 3 of 4) Bridget Trueman (**JHWMF**),
- Treasurer** Jade Bestley (**JHWMF**),
- Events co-ordinator** Annabel Edwards
- School Liaison** Carol Kendall
- GENERAL committee members** William Eason (**JHWMF**),
Janet Merrow – Smith (**JHWMF**),
David Ratcliffe
John Sharpley
- Ex officio** David Wybron (headteacher)
Kate Sheehan
- Observers** Rev Alan Garratt

Proposed Barry Yates
Seconded Martyn Read

11 AOB

- 11.01 Comment from the floor – BW would like to have minutes issued as draft with a full reflection regarding that which has been discussed. There maybe some embarrassing comments to be made that might best be done on reflection said one member. The Committee will look to see how best this can be done – possibly through the newsletter.
- 11.02 A vote of thanks was recorded to Carol Kendall for her untiring support at LWS for the OTA cause. As a token of appreciation CK was given a gift of flowers during coffee.
- 11.03 A vote of thanks was recorded to Derek Turner (DT) for the archive display. As a token of appreciation DT was given a gift of wine during coffee.
- 11.04 Meeting closed at 12:30 and the Tamensian’s went to lunch.

The next General Committee Meeting will be held on: January 14th 2017

This is a true and correct record of the meeting held.

BC Trueman **Honorary Secretary (end of yr 2)**
05.11.2016

Graham Thomas - OTA President (end of yr 2)
Peter Merrow-Smith – OTA Chairman (end of yr 3)

Distribution: Attendees + Apologies

**November
2017**