

# OLD WELLINGTONIANS' ASSOCIATION



## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in Great Hall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 12 noon.

**Present:** Kate Evans (President), John Darvall (Chairman), Phil Nunnerley (Secretary), Mike Rogers (Treasurer), Headmaster, William Bailey, Ian Bradbury, James Bradnock, Rosie Burrows, Nigel Calder, Paul Cannons, Matthew Colman, Simon Cross, Rachel Debenham, David Elkington, Lissie Fuller, Malcolm Gaunt, Brian Goggin, Caroline Heaton, John Houles, John Ling, Gary Maynard, Jeremy Gilpatrick, Dan Millington, Les Neville, Graham Nye, Stephen Page, Robert Palfrey, Adrian Prior-Sankey, Ken Trump, Steve Vaux, Juliet Handley.

### 1. PRESIDENTS' WELCOME & REPORT.

Kate Evans joined virtually and apologised for not being able to join in person. She said it had been a huge honour to serve as President. She thanked John for his dedicated commitment to the role of Chair through a difficult period dominated by Covid. It had been wonderful to see the outstanding support from and to the whole School community.

### 2. CHAIRMANS' WELCOME, REPORT AND REMEMBRANCE.

John highlighted some of the good work contributed by OWs through the pandemic. The Committee had identified monies in the name of the WSA and last March donated £30,000 to support parents suffering financially during lockdown. The School had raised a further £125,000 from OWs.

The OWA were supporting the Friends of Wellington School with a financial contribution to their Christmas Fayre.

The Chair had been invited to participate in the appointment of a new Development Director and he was delighted that Rachel Debenham (OW) had been appointed.

Going forward the OWA Committee would continue to organise the annual reunion weekend and the annual summer London lunch which would be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The Chair read out the names of all those OWs who had passed away since the last AGM. A copy of this list can be found on the website.

### 3. APOLOGIES.

Were received from: Hugh Martin, Angela Gatling, Michael Knight

### 4. MINUTES of 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019.

Approval proposed and seconded.

### 5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

**6. Treasurer's Report.** Mike reported that the Association had funds in hand of £12,748. The accounts as presented were approved.

**7. Chapel Trustees' Report.** Graham Nye reported that following a drone inspection of the chapel roof its integrity was questioned. It is a flat roof and lying water could penetrate causing damage to the recently refurbished ceiling. Access to the roof is not

easy. An estimate of £66,000 needs funding to carry out immediate repair. The lime mortice work is needing attention; the repairs to windows remain to be completed; new carpeting is on order. The chapel will require continuing maintenance.

**8. Headmaster's Report.** The Headmaster also thanked the OWA for its generous and practical support through the Covid crisis and in particular for the contributions to the Hardship Fund which had enabled a number of families to remain part of the Wellington family. Support with mentoring, work experience, and careers advice had all been offered. School life over the last 18 months had been challenging. Some other schools would fall into the sink hole and not recover but there was a determination that Wellington would come out the other side stronger.

Courage, resilience and resourcefulness were all evident. Online provision had delivered the curriculum, tutoring, open days, co-curricular activities. Online survey feedback from parents and pupils had been 98% good or very good.

The School was as busy as ever. *Les Miserables* will be performed next term; *Lord of the Flies* and *Alice in Wonderland* both this term. There was a full sports fixture list. Chapel Choir, Clubs and Societies, and careers support were all positive.

Holly Barker, Deputy Head had overseen the assessment of grades at the end of the summer term. The University destinations data read impressively. It is to be hoped this summer term may offer a return of traditional assessment.

On the pastoral side the emphasis had been on values. There had been a change to the structure. Whilst 5 Boarding houses continued to offer a physical home there were now 6 day houses from Year 7 through until age 18 into which boys/girls/day/boarding pupils will be allocated and integrated.

The Head hosts a Captains lunch in his home every week and he entertains younger pupils for breakfast in his office every week too. A new executive management structure is in place in both Senior and Prep Schools.

The development office will foster closer relationships with the OWA. The Head sees the OWA as an extension of the Wellington School family offering material support to the School including with future projects.

The total pupil roll is now around 850, optimal for the School, with 178 boarders from 30 nationalities. Demand for places remains strong.

Caroline Heaton proposed a round of applause for an inspiring presentation and for everything which has been achieved in the face of unprecedented adversity.

**9. Proposals to Membership.** Nigel Calder proposed, seconded by William Bailey, that subject to certain covenants that ownership of the Memorial Chapel be assigned to the Wellington School Foundation. The business case had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. A vote in favour of the proposal was unanimous. Consequent upon this approval the same support was given to the changes to the OWA constitution removing references to appointment of Chapel Trustees and a Chapel Sub Committee, this only to take effect on completion of the assignment.

## **10. Election of New President.**

Stephen Page, past Deputy Head, was proposed and approved as incoming President.

## **11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

- Kate Evans was proposed and approved as the new Chair.
- Hugh Martin would continue as Vice Chairman

- Phil Nunnerley was standing down as Secretary but Lissie Fuller was proposed and approved in succession.
- Mike Rogers would continue as Treasurer.

## **12. CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS and REPRESENTATIVES.**

Matt Colman, Simon Cross and Lynne Lambourne were duly re-elected committee members.

Representatives duly elected:- John Darvall ( Foundation) Robert Palfrey ( Governing Body), Angela Gatling (FOWS).

Chapel Trustees (Caroline Heaton and Graham Nye) were approved serving until assignment transaction is completed.

## **13. Honorary Members**

The criteria for Honorary Membership are set down in clauses 3b and 3 c of the OWA Constitution.

James Bradnock proposed and William Bailey seconded Alan Hooper as an Honorary member given his longstanding service to the School both as a Governor and later as a Trustee of the Foundation.

On Rob Palfrey's suggestion the OWA Secretary will write annually to the Chair of the Governing Body, the Foundation, and the Friends to identify others who should be considered for Honorary Membership.

The Headmaster indicated that it was now less common that teaching staff might spend more than 10 years at a single school.

Lissie Fuller offered to go through School records to identify those who should be considered for Honorary Membership It was also recommended to the incoming committee that they consider establishing a small group to review the current criteria.

**14. AOB.** A small presentation was made to both John Darvall and Phil Nunnerley to thank them for their contributions and support to the OWA.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 1p.m. and those present gathered on the lawn for a photograph.