



Old Wellingtonians' Association

Draft Minutes of the Annual General meeting held in Great Hall

Saturday 10th November 2018

Present: Caroline Heaton (Chairwoman), John Darvall (President), Mike Rogers (Treasurer), Anthony Allam, Graham Nye, Bill Cranston, Malcolm Gaunt, Paul Heaton, Bill McIlwaine, Delphine West-King, Hugh Martin, Vereen Irving (Guest), John Horler, Simon Cross, David Mitchell, Nigel Calder, John Stone, Ian Taylor, Jeremy McGilpatrick, Ken Trump, Colin Walker, James Bradnock, Brian Goggin, William Bailey, Henry Price (Headmaster), Juliet Handley.

I. President's Welcome, Report and Remembrance.

John Darvall welcomed all in his last year as President. He commented that it was pleasing to report that there had been excellent attendance at the London Lunch and also at an OW pub evening during the year. John Darvall encouraged all to attend as many of these events as possible. They were great fun. This year's focus was on Remembrance and the 100 years since the end of WWI. Kate Hodson, Head of English at the School at written/compiled a book in memory of this OW'S who had given their lives in the war. 'My Dear Old Boys' was on sale and Kate Hodson was going to be in Café 37 when refreshments were being served on the Saturday and Sunday of Remembrance weekend.

With the WWI theme this year, John Darvall added that the Chapel took on a special significance for the School community.

Thanks was given to retiring Chapel Trustee, Paul Farmer.

Thanks was given to Caroline Heaton who was standing down as Chairwoman of the OW's. Caroline had given over 10 years loyal service as an OW committee member, President, Secretary and as Chairwoman of the Association. Caroline was presented with a gift to thank her for her service over the years.

John stated that he looked forward to the OW Dinner later that evening where there were approximately 80 OW's attending spanning 7 decades at the School.

John thanked everyone for their support over the year and reminded all that next year's OW theme was rugby.

Finally, John Darvall announced the deaths of the following OW's during the past year – Paul Haywood Baker (Oak 1985), Robin William Bell (Willows 1957), Roger Graham Carus (Darks

1963), Richard John Fox (Willows 1956), David Jonathan Kaphan (Darks 1960), Philip Thomas Look (Darks 1962), Nicholas Andrew May (Lights 1970), John Somerset Nias (1954), Anthony Pizii (2008), Donald Arthur Seldon (Richards 1957), Victoria Louise Sahakeshaft (Price's 2015), Anthony Stone (Lights 1948), Hubert Swift (Willows 1940), Dennis Trist, Cecil Norman Unwin (Hardwick 1945), Leslie Harry Warwicker (Lights 1957), Jeffrey Francis Webb (Willows 1940).

2. Chairwoman's Welcome and Report.

Caroline Heaton thanked Tim Williams (Bursar) for stepping in to take the minutes as Phil Nunnerley was unwell.

Caroline Heaton stated that she was standing down as Chairwoman and was going to spend a year in Australia. She added that in her time on the committee she had almost outlasted 2 Headmasters and noted that it was important to try and increase numbers on the committee as they had depleted since the committee had been resurrected some years ago by Mike Sertin.

Caroline confirmed that she would remain as a Chapel Trustee.

Caroline thanked Paul Farmer for his work as a Chapel Trustee and also thanked and welcomed John Horler as his replacement.

Caroline thanked Nigel Calder for all his work on the registering of the Chapel with the Land Registry.

Caroline also stated on behalf of the OW committee that they felt that more support was needed in the Development Office as Linda Holden had retired at the end of the last academic year. Caroline was aware that a consultancy report had been published and asked the Headmaster to consider additional resource as a priority.

Looking ahead to 2019 Caroline confirmed that certain events were planned, a Family Fun Day/Sports Day, The London Lunch at the RAF Club on the 9th May. A reminder was given to all that these events could be booked and paid for on-line. In addition to this, once again there would be the November Reunion, which would celebrate the centenary of Rugby being introduced at the School.

Caroline was delighted to announce that a WS pupil, Olivia Churcher, had been selected for the England Ladies Rugby Squad.

Caroline stated that the OWA committee was very appreciative of the GDPR work undertaken by the Development Office in ensuring that the OW's were compliance with the new legislation.

It was confirmed that the OWA will buy 100 of Kate Hodson's books.

Finally, Caroline thanked the catering department for looking after the OW's at School events and committee meetings.

Nisi Dominus Frustra.

3. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Michael Trivett, Emma O'Biere, David Suchet, Chris Hooper, Katushka Giltshoff, Freddie Uggers, Matt Colman, David Leach, Paul Chubb, Jonathan Haslam, Julian

Hannam, Paul Farmer, Robert Palfrey, David Lay, Peter Snelling, John Bennett, Tony Budger, Roger Bray, Simon Davies, Phil Nunnerley, Peter Bloomfield.

4. Minutes of the AGM on 14th October 2017.

The minutes were unanimously approved – Proposer: William Bailey, Seconder: Graham Nye.

5. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Report and Accounts attached.

7. Chapel Trustees' Report.

Report attached.

8. Headmaster's Report.

The Headmaster stated that there were just under 800 pupils on roll and the School was holding its numbers reasonably well in the Senior and Prep School.

The Headmaster confirmed that WS was in the middle of the process to recruit a new Head for September 2019 and confirmed that he had himself had been appointed as Head at Oakham School. He added that he was enjoying his time at Wellington and trying to balance the academic, pastoral and co-curricular needs/priorities of pupils as best he could. The School had upgraded many facilities over the past 12 to 24 months, opening a new café, a new boarding house and completely refurbishing the Dukes Library. All OW's were encouraged to visit the new facilities whilst visiting this weekend. A comprehensive IT upgrade had also been undertaken to ensure compliance with all regulations and to improve teaching and learning for pupils.

However, there were serious challenges ahead for WS and indeed for the independent sector in the UK as a whole. An increase in the employer contribution rate to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in September 2019 would cost WS approximately £260,000 per annum and the removal of business rate relief, that the School receives by virtue of its charitable status, and the introduction of VAT to school fees were expected in the next few years.

The Headmaster finished by thanking the OW's for their support, in particular the committee for all their hard work. He also took the opportunity to thank the Friends of Wellington School for their fund raising each year.

9. Election of new Officers/Representatives.

Dr Kate Evans was elected unanimously to the post of President. Proposer: Nigel Calder, Seconder: Graham Nye. *Kate briefly thanked all for their support and wanted to state that her time at WS held fond memories where the teaching and pastoral care was exceptional.*

Mr John Darvall was elected unanimously to the post of Chairman. Proposer: James Bradnock, Seconder: Graham Nye.

Mr Hugh Martin was elected unanimously to the post of Vice Chairman. Proposer: John Horler, Seconder: William Bailey.

Mr John Horler was elected unanimously as a Chapel Trustee. Proposer: John Darvall, Seconder: Caroline Heaton.

10. Confirmation of Existing Officers, Committee Members and Representatives.

All were confirmed as re-elected for another year.

11. Any Other Business.

- a) Jeremy McGilpatrick announced that he was gifting his estate to WS.
- b) Caroline Heating responded to a question about merchandising to confirm that the committee was looking to have OW polo shirts designed for the WS community to purchase.
- c) James Bradnock reminded all about Kate Hodson's book 'My Dear Old Boys'. A couple of copies had been purchased by the School for Library usage.

12.

Juliet Handley detailed the programme of events for the weekend.

13. Date of Next Meeting.

9th November 2019

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1.25pm.