

**Minutes of the Old Wymondhamians Committee Meeting
Held on Saturday 15 May 2010 in the Conference Room**

Present Mike Herring, Roger Garrard, Jack Smith, Michael Brand, Steve Read, David Spinks, Pat Howard, Phil Robinson, Carole Arnold, Caroline Hall, Jackie Glenn, Melvyn Roffe, Bob Rowell, Julie Harding, David Jackson.

1. **Apologies:** Asha Simmons, Iain Trafford.
2. **Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 6 February 2010.**
The minutes were signed as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising and Actions**
These would be covered in agenda items.
4. **Treasurer's Report**
The Treasurer had provided a financial report (on the minute book) for the period to from January to the end of April 2010.

He reported that this period covered the costs of the Newsletter which were up slightly on the previous year giving a Nett loss of £800 for the period. However the balance on the account was up £1,000 on this time last year giving a healthy position financially.

Jack Smith asked that the thanks of the committee to the Treasurer, for his excellent work in managing the accounts, be recorded.

5. **WCR Report**
Julie Harding reported that she had had a frustrating 3 months trying to sort out the software used for updating the site. However, these problems had now been resolved and the site is back up and running.

The next step is for Julie to learn how to upload photographs to the site. She has already made some changes to streamline the front page and will continue to do so.

David Spinks asked if the software being used to administer the site was the most up to date and Julie confirmed that this was the case.

Two questions were raised about the site. Does the site need to be backed up and could the front page changes be made by an external company. Julie agreed to contact the company that she has been dealing with and ask them to provide a quotation for a regular back up of the site and also to carry out work to make the front page more modern and user friendly.

Action: J Harding

The WCR committee (Carole Arnold, Asha Simmons and David Spinks) would provide Julie with a specification for changes required to the front page.

Julie would also be reimbursed for any costs incurred in the maintenance of the site so far.

A vote of thanks from the Committee was recorded for all Julie's hard work with Wymondham College Remembered.

6. Heritage Report

The Secretary gave the Committee an update.

Geoffrey Hardaker has made good progress in reorganising and evaluating the material currently stored in the Alumni Office. Due to ill health both of Geoffrey and his wife he has been unable to continue with the project. The committee agreed that there was not particular hurry to continue with this work so they would wait to be advised by Mr Hardaker as to when or if he would be able to continue the reorganisation.

The list of all those that had given covenants during the appeal in the 1980s had been produced by Mr & Mrs Brand and Mr & Mrs Hoare. This would enable the confidential financial details to either be destroyed or stored elsewhere.

Quotations have now been obtained for producing the updated history book and Mr & Mrs Hoare have spent a great deal of time in collating material which might be included.

A meeting with a designer will be held at the College w/c 24th May.

The Partnership Development officer outlined the progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund application that would be submitted by the College. It would include funding for the following items:

- scale model of a Nissan Hut/virtual walkthrough model/both
- interpretation boards around the College site
- an updated College history
- display material for the Alumni Office (including TV, photo digitalisation)

The bid had been completed and was ready to be submitted w/c 17th May. One supporting letter was outstanding from the ESU but this was expected in the coming days.

Mr & Mrs Hoare had arranged to interview Lady Ralphs as part of the oral history project. The Partnership Development officer reported that the History Department had agreed to take part in this project and to find students to interview past staff and students (approx. 6) who could provide valuable insights and information about the early days of the College. The Secretary would arrange to visit and interview Mrs Joan Sperring.

Action - Secretary

Jack Smith asked if the proposed form on which former pupils and staff could be asked to record their 100 words of memories about the College, discussed at the last meeting, would be circulated. The Secretary confirmed that it would.

7. Newsletter

The Secretary reported that 2010 Newsletter had been mailed out at Easter. Response had been good with a number of donations and book sales as a result. Only two had been returned where addresses had changed.

Phil Robinson asked if the newsletter had been mailed overseas. The Secretary explained that the costs were too high to mail the newsletter overseas but that it would be emailed to all those with email addresses.

8. Royal Norfolk Show 30 June & 1 July 2010

Manning of the OW stand at the show was discussed. There were a number of volunteers to attend the stand on each of the days.

It was agreed that the displays from the previous year could be used with the addition of some framed whole school photos and some 'unidentified' photos of students and staff. It was also agreed that former students and staff with notable achievements would be featured.

The Secretary agreed to forward a letter to Tom Holt asking if he would be prepared to spend some time on the stand.

Action - Secretary

Jack Smith noted that there were some discrepancies between the dates for events in the College Diary and the OW Newsletter. The Secretary agreed to look into this.

Action - Secretary

9. College Matters

The Principal reported that work on the new International Centre on the site next to the water tower, would begin in June 2010. This would be a £1.4million project, providing classrooms for modern foreign language teaching as well as a high Tec ICT suite. The centre will also host the Secretariat for the Model European Parliament for the UK (formerly at Oundle School). It centre will be staffed so that students returning to the College from overseas have a comfortable place to wait and get something to eat before they can return to their boarding houses which are not always open and staffed if they return during the school day or before the start of term.

This building would be the first phase of the Estate Master Plan which will also encompass a Traffic Management Scheme designed to make the site safer.

The Principal reported that following the election result the forthcoming Education Bill would be likely to give successful schools greater autonomy. He anticipated this would be something that the Governors would like to explore with reference to the College.

The funding bid for Heritage Lottery was about to go in.

Lady Knollys had agreed to be patron of the 60th Anniversary Celebrations.

Sponsorship would be sought for core events with the launch of the project on Speech Day 3rd July 2010. On the afternoon of Speech Day Baroness Shephard will formally open the Enid Ralphs building.

David Jackson then reported on progress with regard to the Diamond Ball - 4th June 2011.

The band has been booked - The Jonathan Wyatt Swing Band.

A specification has been drawn up for a marquee to hold 400 - this will be booked soon.

Food will be prepared in-house by the College catering team supported by chefs supplied by David. The emphasis will be on local produce so a smoked fish for starter, possibly chicken with new potatoes and asparagus for main course and strawberries with local ice cream.

The event will be black tie and ticket price is £60. Sponsorship will be sought for the event.

Waiting staff will be College staff and 6th formers.

There will be a photographer for the event; the press will also be invited.

The Principal reported that the festivities will end in 2012 with an International Week which will see students from partner schools across the world coming to the College for a range of activities. Invitations for this event have already been sent.

10. Any Other Business

David Spinks reported that he had contacted Ruth Chase (Brown) with regard to the Vice Presidency of the OW. She had not felt able to do this. The Principal had written to Norman Lamb with regard to the Presidency and had not received a reply. The Principal noted that he would be speaking to Mr Lamb about the House of Commons Reception and agreed to follow this up at the same time. David Spinks also to follow up.

Action : Principal, David Spinks

Jack Smith reported that a former pupil, Peter Rogers, had been interviewed in the Sunday Times. He is Chief Exec. of Babcock International and therefore a useful contact. He is a keen Leicester Tigers fan and Bob Rowell agreed to see if he could arrange to invite him to a game.

Bob Rowell reported some success in getting players for the OW v College cricket match on 9th June. He needed to speak with Robyn Jones, PE teacher at the school to confirm the details. The secretary agreed to speak to Mr Jones and make sure that he contacted Bob.

Action : Secretary

Bob Rowell reported that he had a good response to his Golf Day on 18th June but the venue could accommodate more people. It was agreed to advertise this on Wymondham College Remembered. The Secretary to send him the list of those invited to another 50s reunion in the summer which might be combined with this event.

Action: Secretary

The Chairman reported that the reunion in Boston, USA 17th July 2010 would go ahead although the response had been poor. He asked that a reminder go out to all those who had initially shown interest.

Action: Partnership Development Officer

The Chairman reported that John Beales is in good spirits and will have an operation soon.

Jack Smith reported that Tony Greenfield had passed away on 1st May 2010.

The Secretary had attended the AROPS Conference for 2010 held on 8th May 2010 at Dean Close School in Cheltenham. She reported two useful ideas from the conference:

An OW representative in the Sixth Form. In other schools they have a representative who is invited to the meetings (3 per year) and has the responsibility of spreading the word about the Past Pupils Association among the leavers.

They encourage other students to register on the database during year 13.

In many schools they also have the task of getting their year group along to a reunion after 5 years which gives time for a gap year and a university course for most.

Some of the schools have a cup which is awarded by the association to this person each year at the speech day before they leave.

The Principal had agreed that this was a good idea and a member of the Principal's Council for 2010/11 will be asked to take on this role.

Many Past Pupils Associations offer a Travel Bursary to Yr 13 Leavers. This raises the profile of the Past Pupils Organisation within the year group. Applicants have to apply in writing with an outline of their plans. A condition of the bursary is also that they provide an update or blog of how they are getting on.

It was proposed that this scheme should be adopted by the Old Wymondhamians and agreed that a sum of £500 would be offered, to be reviewed on a year by year basis.

Proposed: J Harding, Seconded J. Smith

Terms and conditions and advertising to be drawn up.

Action - Partnership Development Officer

11. Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 11th September 2010, time to be confirmed. In the conference room

There being no other business the meeting ended at 1.35pm