

**MINUTES OF THE OLD WYMONDHAMIANS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY 6 February 2010 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Present** Mike Herring, Roger Garrard, Jack Smith, Michael Brand, Asha Simmonds, David Spinks, Pat Howard, Phil Robinson, Carole Arnold, Shelli Wright, Jackie Glenn, Melvyn Roffe (part).

**Welcome & Introduction**

Mike Herring started the meeting by noting that a great deal of work had been done since the last meeting and thanked all those involved for their efforts. He also noted that he had revised his opinions on working groups. He felt that working groups should be much less formal than in the past - they should be formed as necessary to complete a task and then disbanded when no longer required.

1. **Apologies:** Bob Rowell, Bill Atkins, Julie Harding, Steve Read.
2. **Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 10 October 2009.**  
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) already discussed and adopted at the AGM preceding the meeting.
5. **WCR Report**  
Julie Harding had provided a written report circulated before the meeting.

At present Julie does all the editing and twice a month sends any pages that have been changed to Bill Atkins. He does any tweaking necessary and then publishes to the actual website. This will continue for the next couple of months at which time the files used to run the site will be downloaded to Julies' PC and she will then take over the publishing. Bill Atkins will continue to provide support for as long as it is needed but will be unable to make any technical adjustments himself.

The consensus at the meeting was that the committee would like the home page of the WCR site to be refreshed to give a more up to date appearance. This could be achieved in part by reducing the number of items on this page and changing the fonts and the background.

Melvyn Roffe suggested that the designers of the College website should be approached to see what the costs might be of more substantial changes. Jackie Glenn agreed to do this.

**ACTION - Secretary**

It was agreed that Julie Harding should retain editorial control of the site. However a small Old Wymondhamians group consisting of Carole Arnold, Asha Simmonds and David Spinks will exchange views on editorial content with Julie and will informally prepare a strategy for WCR for the next meeting to consider paying particular attention to the Home page.

6. **Heritage Report**  
A Heritage Committee meeting had been held earlier that morning.

The Alumni Office in the Chapel had now been cleared of all extraneous material and that there was now sufficient space to start work on the material in the office.

Roger Garrard, Michael Brand and Geoffrey Hardaker had spent time in the Alumni Office and proposed that 10 copies of each of the old College Magazines should be kept and the remainder disposed of, 10 copies of Old Wymondhamians Newsletters should be kept and the remainder disposed of and 3 boxes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book be kept in the College and the remainder stored off site. The committee agreed with this proposal.

Roger Garrard presented a plan of how the Alumni Office might be arranged when display material is selected. The committee agreed that dividing the display areas into distinct eras was a good idea. It was also agreed that the detail of how these areas would look should be discussed at a future date.

Shelli Wright explained that a Heritage Lottery Application was being completed and submitted and that this would cover items including:

- scale model of a Nissan Hut
- interpretation boards around the College site
- an updated College history
- display material for the Alumni Office

The Partnership Development Officer explained that an important part of the bid was to show support from other stakeholders within the school. She asked that the Old Wymondhamians would give a commitment of £500-£1000 to support the bid. The Committee agreed to do this.

Jack Smith asked if progress had been made with interviewing various members of the College community who would have memories of the College through the years. Melvyn Roffe reported that the History Department had, in principle agreed that this could be done. He agreed to write to Lady Ralphs and Joan Sperring to ask if they would take part in this project.

#### **ACTION - Principal**

It was also suggested that a form could be produced on which former pupils and staff could be asked to record their 100 words of memories about the College. This could be used at various events and selected material might be used in the updated History.

#### **7. Newsletter**

The Secretary reported that 2010 Newsletter would be mailed out at Easter.

Roger Garrard agreed to proof read the Newsletter and to write an Obituary for Bob Norton.

The email newsletter round up at Christmas by the Partnership Development Officer had been very well received and this would be repeated on an ad hoc basis.

#### **8. Royal Norfolk Show 30 June & 1 July 2010**

Manning of the OW stand at the show was discussed. The Secretary thought that offering to pay for tickets of non committee members who offered to help might be an unnecessary expense.

It was agreed that volunteers should be found who were not necessarily to be Committee members. This would be discussed again at the May meeting.

## **9. College Matters**

The Principal reported that a major new development were the plans for and International Centre on the site next to the water tower. This was planned for completion by February 2011. This would provide classrooms and for modern foreign language teaching as well as a high Tec ICT suite. It would also 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 the plans for Thetford Academy, in which the College will play a lead role, have been approved at ministerial level and over the coming months the £55 million project would take shape. The Principal said that the project would be key in putting the College back at the heart of education in the County reflecting the spirit in which the College had originally been founded.

## **12. Any Other Business**

The Chairman reported that the reunion in Boston, USA 17<sup>th</sup> July 2010 would go ahead. A couple of helpers had come forward and they were due to decide on a suitable venue in the coming week.

The Chairman also reported that the OWs had been approached by the College to play a cricket match on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010. He felt strongly that the fixture should be accepted and every effort made to put out a good team again the College 1<sup>st</sup> XI. He asked for a volunteer to co-ordinate the OW side. It was agreed that Bob Rowell would be approached.

A reunion for 2010 was discussed and it was agreed that in light of all the other events in 2010 it would be better to wait until the Diamond Ball in 2011. It was proposed that the Golf Day so well organised by Bob Rowell each year should be more widely publicised and this would be the reunion event of the year.

The Secretary informed the committee that the AROPS Conference for 2010 would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at Dean Close School in Cheltenham. She confirmed her intention to attend this conference if at all possible.

Jack Smith asked if it would be possible to re-instate the sandwich lunch that had previously been arranged to follow Committee meetings and had been particularly appreciated by many of the committee who had to travel long distances. The Principal agreed that this would be possible and the Secretary would organise.

**Action - Secretary**

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 12 noon in the conference room

There being no other business the meeting ended at 2.00pm