

**Minutes of the Old Wymondhamians Committee Meeting
Held on Saturday 5th February in the Conference Room**

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

1. **Apologies:** Asha Simmons, Iain Trafford, David Jackson

2. **Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 11th September 2010.**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising and Actions**

Bob Rowell is still pursuing the contact with Peter Rogers.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer had provided a financial report (on the minute book) for the period to 30th September 2010.

David Spinks asked that thanks for Steve Read's and Phil Robinson's work with the 100 Club be recorded.

5. **Principal's Report**

The Principal reported that the College became an Academy on 1st February 2011, and explained the following implications of this:

The College will no longer be maintained by the Local Authority but would be directly funded by the Government.

The Wymondham Academy Trust now has 3 Trustees, Mr Roffe, Mr Peter Rout and Mr Gavin Alston.

The change will not have a great impact in the short term but will enable the College to improve in the following areas:

- Curriculum choices
- Terms and conditions for staff
- Performance Management for boarding staff

Academy status also means that the Academy Trustees will hold the freehold of the land and buildings in trust. The Secretary of State would limit the disposal of the site but it may be used as collateral for a loan which would enable the College to undertake capital projects which currently are not possible. This is particularly relevant as the capital fund for maintained schools has been cut by 80%.

Mr Roffe noted that the relationship between the College and the County Council has been extremely good throughout the process of conversion to Academy. The Council has been helpful and supportive and in his opinion one of those in forefront in the UK of thinking about how councils can work with schools in the future.

Mr Roffe noted that the only significant liability that the College will have to bear in future is maternity pay which was previously insured by the County Council.

Mr Roffe explained to the Trustees that an example of how the new status would benefit both the College and wider community is the College proposal to undertake the administration of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Norfolk. This programme was

likely to be shut down by the Council due to lack of funds. The College will administer the scheme thereby allowing many young people in the county to participate, the College will benefit from experienced staff equipment and facilities.

Mr Roffe explained that there would be no impact on the Trustees other than their relationship would change to that of working alongside another charity.

6. WCR Report

Julie Harding reported that there was not very much to report on the WCR site. She has not finished re-vamping the front page yet but it is in progress. There have been no recent technical problems.

It was asked if the database site could be used to advertise the WCR site by putting in a link. Jackie Glenn to investigate in conjunction with Redbourn Business Systems.

Action: Secretary

7. Heritage Report

The Partnership Development Officer showed more up to date examples of the design for the pages of the history book which were well received.

Trail Blazer Day, to be held on Friday 8th April, has proved very popular and there will be approx. 135 guests present.

The Partnership Development Officer stated that the plans for the Ball were progressing well with more than half the forty tables now sold. A small steering committee has been set up to deal with all aspects of table decoration, marquee decoration, table gifts etc. David Jackson, Bob Bales, Jackie Glenn and Caroline Hall would be meeting the following week to discuss the menu, numbers of staff required, timings for set up etc.

It was suggested that David Hastings be approached to see if he would be able to organise for the USAAF to book a table for the Ball.

Action – Partnership Development Officer

It was asked if the list of events going on throughout the Anniversary period be published on the WCR website. A summary of each event as it comes up is already being posted on the site but we could look to put an overall list on as well. Caroline Hall to let Julie Harding have the list.

Action – Partnership Dev. Off/Julie Harding

Bob Rowell asked that he be given the details for the OW Barbeque on 2nd July so that he can publicise it to those attending his OW Golf Day on 1st July.

Action - Secretary

The PE department needs to be asked whether they feel that they would be willing to support an OW vs College Cricket match this summer.

Action – Secretary

8. Travel Award

The OW Travel Award has been launched to the present year 13 students and the £500 will be given to the successful candidate, following submission of applications and an interview by a panel, at the end of the Spring Term.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 21st May 2011, 12 noon. In the conference room.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 2.15pm