

OLD BIRKONIAN SOCIETY

**111th Annual General Meeting
At the School Library on 9th September 2017 at 12.30pm.**

Present: Chairman and Hon Secretary; 27 members

The meeting commenced at 12.34pm

1. Chairman's Welcome
 - a. The Chairman, Roger Ewing, welcomed everyone to the 111th Old Birkonian Society AGM. He stated that normally the President would chair the AGM but Brian Boumphrey was unable to attend. Roger Ewing asked Will Roberts to read out a message from the outgoing President in his absence.
2. Apologies
 - a. Brian Boumphrey (President), Trevor Mathew-Jones (Treasurer) and 23 other names received.
3. Minutes of AGM held on 3rd September 2016
 - a. Accepted as an accurate account.
 - b. The meeting agreed nem con.
4. Matter arising
 - a. None.
5. Chairman's Report
 - a. The Chairman, Roger Ewing (RE), gave his report for 2016-2017.
 - b. He welcomed Carol Keegan to her new role as Alumni Officer at School.
 - c. RE also highlighted the specific effort council had made to incorporate more mixed events into the events calendar for the OBS, for example the Celebration dinner in the evening of 9th September, the London dinner on 17th November and the mixed Christmas lunch to come on the 1st December.
 - d. RE thanked Pippa McKeown's role in building on the OBS social media communications and expressed his sadness at her stepping down from Council. RE thanked her for her positive contribution to Council.
 - e. Sporting fixtures were covered along with the fact new kits had been recently provided for the hockey, netball and lacrosse teams.
 - f. RE mentioned the drive to reduce costs of "In Focus" by offering to send the publication by email. The take up of this was encouraging but there was still some desire to receive the hard copy. A number of positive comments were received relating to the magazine in general.
 - g. Disappointment was expressed regarding the change of date by a number of OBSs, not least the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones who had intended to attend the AGM on 2nd September as originally planned; unfortunately he had to be in Scotland on the 9th September to be part of the formal naming ceremony of the new aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales in Scotland.
 - h. He highlighted the role of the Archives team and looked forward to developing a strong link with the School through the new Alumni Officer. He hoped the weaknesses in the database would be resolved soon as part of this.
 - i. Finally, RE thanked his Council colleagues for their support and commitment, the army of volunteers who help keep the Society active and the retiring President for the close interest he has shown in his two years of office.
6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. In Trevor Mathew-Jones' absence, Will Roberts read out his report.
 - b. Report and Accounts were distributed to all attendees relating to the three accounts.
 - c. The OBS accounts were approved
 - d. The appointment of Duncan Sheard Glass as Independent Examiner was approved.
 - e. The report highlighted two items of note. The first related to the printing and postage contribution for the "In Focus" magazine and the fact that more normal contributions of £3,500 per annum were now to be expected going forward. Secondly, the OBS had donated a further painting to the Bushell Hall, that of Admiral Sir Philip Jones, the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff.
 - f. The report then outlined the two charitable accounts which do not need approval. The importance of them for the long term was highlighted and the Treasurer highlighted the lower

donations to School following a decade of payments to the School which were valued more than the income being generated on the portfolio. In addition, the Treasurer outlined the contribution of a significant donation from the late Graham Hurton.

- g. The Treasurer also mentioned the role of the Neil Gracey fund in supporting a pupil of great potential at School; Council had recently received an encouraging update on that pupil's progress.
7. Election of Officers and Members of Council
 - a. The Chairman announced that one member of Council, Pippa McKeown, had stood down and a replacement was nominated – Kirsten Stewart (a 2004 leaver).
 - b. All other members of Council were happy to stand again. There were no further nominations.
 - c. All members present were in favour with no one against the motion.
 8. Election of President
 - a. Roger Ewing highlighted that the role of President was a two year appointment and that Brian Boumphrey's tenure had come to an end.
 - b. Council had proposed Michael Burrell (1953-1966) and all members seconded.
 - c. Michael Burrell has been a staunch supporter of the school and the OBSRUFC
 - d. Michael Burrell spoke to those present stating that it was an honour and privilege to be appointed.
 9. Headmaster's Remarks
 - a. Paul Vicars (PV) thanked the Council for all their hard work over the year and stated that this was an exciting new era for the School, the OBS and the future relationship.
 - b. He had fulfilled his aim of appointing an Alumni officer within the first year of office and introduced Carol Keegan to those present. Carol's task is to get the School and OBS records up to speed and ensure that the vast potential of the OBS is fully harnessed for the benefit of current pupils.
 - c. PV and Carol Keegan will be looking to hold more events and different types of events with this aim in mind; keeping in contact with alumni is therefore vital.
 - d. PV also thanked the OBS for the bursary support.
 - e. His initial impressions of the School have remained and he outlined the lovely feel it has and the community spirit which remains unique on Wirral.
 - f. PV would like to grow the number of pupils at the School but recognised it would not be easy – there are currently 800 pupils and ideally numbers would be increased at sixth form level. Therefore School would be looking at a marketing strategy.
 - g. He also identified a more consistent approach was needed within School, for example simple things such as staff using the same font and stationary.
 - h. He announced his mission statement:
 - i. To be known as the leading school on the Wirral, and one of the very best within the North-West, instilling a love of learning within a unique community, where each pupil is known, valued and provided with unparalleled opportunity
 - i. He wants more Oxbridge candidates to come out of the School where traditionally medical students have been strong; as part of this he publically thanked Peter Pennington who generously donates stethoscopes to all medical students leaving the School. He also mentioned the Routledge family who contribute books and resources to pupils off to study law at University.
 - j. He was also encouraged by other opportunities being taken by pupils and highlighted one who has gone on a one year apprenticeship scheme at Rolls Royce prior to his four year University course.
 - k. PV wants better Sports and Drama facilities on site rather than relying on McAllister Field.
 - l. The new School prospectus would soon be ready ahead of the Open Day on 23rd September.
 - m. He would like to develop bursaries and the breadth of scholarships at School.
 - n. PV finished by outlining the excellent GCSE and A-Level results and stated he wanted to promote these results as they are something to be proud of.
 10. Chairman's Closing Remarks
 - a. The Chairman brought the AGM to an end and invited all in attendance to lunch in the sixth form centre.
 - b. John Woodrow rose to thank the Council for all their work throughout the year.

The meeting closed at 1.15pm.