

OLD WEST BUCKLAND ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held September 18th 2011 at the JESC, West Buckland School.

- 1) Apologies for absence: C.Boulden, A. Hulmes, M.Popplewell, J.Avens.
- 2) Minutes of the last AGM, 19th September 2010 were approved.
- 3) Matters arising were dealt with via the agenda.
- 4) Treasurer report: A.Broggio (AB) confirmed that we made a “trading loss” of £258 last year which was deemed not significant. We have consolidated our accounts with Alliance & Leicester but the interest offered was very low. Our monies for investment with Smith Williamson are ready with £25,000 allocated with a balance of £5,000 to remain to meet day to day expenditure. He proposal for free events and subsidy loss) at the London dinner, £600-800pa, will deplete resources gradually. The Plymouth dinner turned in a profit. Geoff Bayles (GB) questioned the logic of free events, AB confirmed these were to encourage new attendees, Kirsti Ryall (KR) added that this would provide the oWBA and Foundation something to build upon, new blood important. Terry Curtayne (TC) pointed out that the shooters paid £5 each to shoot so why should others have a free event? R. Van Dissall (RVD) asked what the circulation of the BB was (3000) and pointed out that the quality of this publication must be good if it is maintained.
- 5) Governor Report: David Walker (DW) outlined the position the school was in. School numbers remain strong but there are two large year groups about to leave the school, 13 & 11 and so the numbers will fall by approximately 50-60 in the senior school. In take in Year 7 is satisfactory without reaching the heights of previous years. The Governors have set a budget to reflect this fall in pupil numbers. The school finances remain robust, in fact very healthy but with these economic times a strong prudent policy is in place. Academically the school has again done very well with records for A Levels again being beaten and very strong GCSE results also. WBS is producing excellent results from a non selective or limited selectivity basis and this reflects well upon the quality and calibre of the teaching staff and that of the Senior Leadership Team – Well done! Sports are as strong as ever with teams of each gender and every sport doing very well in the fixtures. Again there are pupils who have gone on to county or regional level and in the Overton twins we have two young men representing England at cricket. The arts and in particular the performing arts go from strength to strength and again across the whole age range with concerts, plays, etc filling the school calendar. The school is in good all round order. John Vick (JV Headmaster) praised the hardworking governing body who in challenging times have set the school on a bold but prudent path.
- 6) Foundation Report: Sue Pollard (SP – Foundation Director) confirmed that the Foundation had received donations totalling £560,000 over the last year. This was largely made up from a single donation of £450,000 from the Castle Hill Trust for which we are truly grateful. Fund raising remains very tough but SP felt that the Foundation was now more widely accepted and was seen to be doing a good and worthwhile job. As of 31/7/2011 there was £1.38 million in the Bursary Fund and £64,000 in the Capital Projects account. The Foundation office costs were down for the third year running. £33,000 was given to the school in bursaries and £5,000 in loan interest payments. There are currently 49 Legacy Pledges, 13 of a known amount totalling £450,000. Communication with alumni has improved and the FO now holds over 1500 email addresses, 123 offers of mentoring and 43 of work placements. The 2011-2012 telephone campaign raised £36,000 with 208 calls made and 78 givers. Legacy lunches were a prime target this year as well as seat sponsorship in the 150th theatre. J Light (JL – Chair Foundation) was pleased with the work of the FO and the current position, our database was being effectively worked.
- 7) President/Committee: KR reported the BB would continue in both formats but that as much as possible would be in an E Brief format. It was agreed by all that this was the most cost effective mode of distribution but that some of the membership preferred and required a hardcopy. JV thought E Brief was the best format and SP questioned why both when her feedback was that

this was a waste of money. RVD pointed out that there was no address on the BB to write or communicate with! KR thanked the Committee for their efforts and support.

- 8) Election of President: Andrew Broggio was proposed and was duly elected (Guy Avery, 2nd NK)
- 9) Election of Vice President: Neil Kingdon was proposed and duly elected (Mrs R Withecombe, 2nd AC). David Cummins (DC) proposed a vote of thanks to KR. AB thanked both CB & KR for all their efforts.
- 10) Election of Officers: Secretary – this role was to be undertaken by the FO who would liaise with AB, NK and the committee as required. Michael Downward thanked DW for his many years of service, AB also thanked DW. The Hon. Secretary role within the OWBA was to be undertaken by KR, this was more to do with BB or E Brief topics and website information, role to be defined/refined over the year. Treasurer – proposed Guy Avery (GA) and approved.
- 11) Election of Committee: Proposed Adam Crispin, Ralph Patel, Alan Humes and David Walker, proposed by NK, 2nd Mrs.R.W and approved. GB wanted a review of workings in 12 months to ensure good working practices with OWBA & FO. David Avery (DA) felt a further revision in the constitution was required, committee to review and report back.
- 12) Election of Ex Officio member: JV was duly elected. DC asked if SP should be but it was felt not required.
- 13) Honorary Members: Alan Kettle, Kathy Kettle & Sylvia Ridd were duly elected honorary members in recognition of their many years service to the school.
- 14) Events: a) Plymouth – TC confirmed he was standing down as organiser and that KR was to take over. This year we are having a Plymouth lunch, 12 noon at the RWYC, Graham Tucker to host, 19/11/2011. b) London dinner – 10/03/2012 on HMS Belfast ‘ £55 pp , £30 concession rate, with Phillip Beale as guest speaker. DC very kindly offered to cover the cost of the accommodation for the Heads of Houses. c) Families Day 2011 – KR reported that this went well and that the OWBA were keen to work closely with the PA to improve this event.
- 15) AOB: JV raised the fund raising for a new stained glass window in East Buckland church. The requirement is £20-30,000 with £9k raised to date. GB wanted to know what gift we gave to Leavers, in the past we have funded Year Books but this was totally dependent upon the Year 13 group being proactive on this project. We have also funded hoodies. JV felt hoodies was the best option.

The meeting closed at 12:50pm