



**MINUTES OF THE OLD WEST BUCKLAND ASSOCIATION (OWBA) ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING 11 SEPTEMBER 2016  
Jonathan Edwards Sports Centre, West Buckland School**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Present: Jamie Conchie (Chair and President OWBA), Ian Blewett (Secretary and Vice President OWBA), Neil Kingdon, Bill Geen (Foundation Chairman), Angela Avens, John Avens, Richard Haywood, Jan Witheridge, John Light (Chairman of Governors), Mike Tucker, David Cummins, Phillip Stapleton (Headmaster), David Avery

Apologies: Michael Downward, Helen Berry, Adam Crispin, Stuart Smith (Treasurer), Lesley Banbury, Chris Ponder, Pete Williams, Mike Hannaford, Hugh Sturzaker, Andrew Broggio, Bob Van Dissel, Sam Wightman, Bill Hitchens, Jeremy Eames, Geoff Bayles, Oliver Snow, Mike Bowles, David Spry, David Clark, Helen Clark. Valerie Bishop.

Jamie Conchie, President and Chair welcomed those present to the 2016 AGM and was particularly pleased to warmly welcome the newly appointed Headmaster, Mr Philip Stapleton.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Chairman asked for any factual inaccuracies of the minutes. There being none the Minutes of the last AGM were agreed as an accurate representation of the meeting and were signed off by the Chair.

**3. Matters Arising**

The Chairman outlined draft proposals from the ICO for changes to the way that Data Regulation and Fundraising is to be administered after 2018. This will have implications for the way the Foundation and OWBA is to administer those who wish to receive information about West Buckland and may wish to donate to the School. The Chairman of Governors and Chairman of the Foundation were both able to cast some light on a review process that may be likely to require potential donators to regularly opt into a scheme rather than having to opt out. Thus potentially increasing the administrative and bureaucratic effort required to run the management processes exponentially. The Foundation office are monitoring this process carefully and will keep all interested parties up to date on progress as required.

Proposed – Bill Geen; seconded by David Cummins. Motion passed.

#### **4. President's Report**

The President outlined a busy and productive year, in which we had very positively built on work already underway to refresh and rebuild the OWBA as a relevant, meaningful and worthwhile adjunct to the wider school community. He expressed his gratitude to both the Chairman of Governors and Chairman of the Foundation for their goodwill and support. He made a particular point to register and note the high quality support provided by the staff of the OWBA & Foundation Office. Their efforts are a key factor in the continued success of a modern, forward looking and inclusive OWBA. Members of the OWBA continue to support Matt Brimson's excellent Higher Education and Careers Advice service – we do hope that members of the OWBA will continue to make themselves available and support this admirable enterprise.

The success of the Buckland Brief and the Events Calendar was heartening as were a number of Flagship events, including a well-attended Tom Hitchens Lunch, the 90's Reunion at School where 110 OWBA members met and enjoyed a fantastic evening. The London Regional drinks held at the Rifles Club that attracted in the region of 50 or so OWBA members. The President reaffirmed our commitment to the continuance of the Regional Drinks events which will include Informal drinks in Cardiff on 23 Feb 17 and in Oxford on 20 Apr 17. Both events will be advertised through website and on social media in due course.

The Chairman reported that work to update and simplify the OWBS's 5 key objectives had been completed, and that the Association now needs to find tactical methods to ensure they are implemented.

The Chairman also reported that the Committee have decided re-examine proposals for a London Dinner and at the same time examine options for alternatives. Helpful suggestions are welcome and the Association will be kept informed of deliberations.

Future planned events include; 1960's era pre-Exmoor Dinner. Class of 2001 Reunion Dinner (2017) and a 1980's era Reunion is planned for 2018.

The Chairman went on to explain that the first OWBA v School Phoenix Society debate and Dinner will take place on Friday 11 Nov 16 followed by the Tom Hitchens and Rugby Lunch (with notable OWBA Rugby alumni) on Saturday 19 Nov 2016. All are encouraged to attend and get involved – see website and Facebook for details.

Finally the Chairman outlined plans to move the OWBA AGM to coincide with the new School Speech Day on the 01 July 2017 and encouraged as many OWBA members to support and attend as possible.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

In the absence of Stuart Smith the Chairman presented the Financial report. Following some questions the Chairman reminded the meeting that both the OWBA trust fund and the hardship fund had been rolled into the Foundation.

All being content the Treasurer's Report was passed into record.  
Proposed by David Avery; seconded by Neil Kingdon. Motion passed.

## **6. Foundation Report**

The Chairman of the Foundation, Bill Geen reported that 2015 had been an extremely busy and fulfilling year for the Foundation and its supporters. Not only were the Morpurgo Library and Parkers Sixth form Centre up and running but a great deal of preparation work had been undertaken in order to welcome the new Headmaster and bring him up to speed on the workings of the Foundation to date.

BG reported that relationship between the Foundation and OWBA was growing ever stronger and that the Foundation Office was running well. Despite Valerie Bishop being absent on Maternity leave, her thorough preparation and return had meant no loss of momentum as far as Foundation Office business was concerned. The Buckland Brief and Events Calendar were proving to be a great success with both editorial control and design being delivered in-house.

BG reported that the Foundation Trustees had met to discuss future proposals for the delivery of Bursaries at both Year 7 and 12 and went on to describe some of the underpinning thinking and proposals. The final details of these deliberations will be promulgated in due course.

BG also reported on moves that were being considered to attract those that might be considering making a legacy based contribution to the Foundation effort.

Finally, BG made the point that the Foundation and the OWBA were moving into an era where the creation of a seamless synergy seemed to be the most obvious way to deliver the most productive and positive results for the wider School community. A view that was echoed by both the Chairman and the body of the kirk.

## **7. Governor's Report**

The Chairman invited Neil Kingdon to deliver the Governors' Report. NK went on to outline a very busy period that had included a lot of fresh thinking and a change in status. The Governing Body made the decision to change its status from a Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation for a number of reasons. Firstly; in order to ease the delivery of loans made by banks to organisation whose assets are clearly identifiable and secondly, to introduce a regime whereby the Trustees (Governors) are subject to a limited financial liability in the event of disaster!

NK went on to report on the major changes in personnel during the period. The foremost being the appointment and arrival of the new Headmaster Mr Phillip Stapleton, who previously came from a Deputy Headship at Ardingly College. A new Bursar and Financial Director has been appointed, Mr Bryan Login who has joined us from Truro High School for Girls. There have also been 10 new members of academic staff who we all look forward to meeting in due course.

NK went on to outline current numbers of pupils – currently 565 full time students of which 432 are senior school pupils and 75 of which board. NK then went on to give the meeting an update on the current school fees, the School's financial position and a resume of recent exam results.

John Light, Chairman of Governors then outlined some of the challenges for the future. Recruiting new pupils for the future was key and delivering an exciting and worthwhile offer to parents was fundamental. Creating interest in the Sixth form boarding opportunity was going to be central to its success. A new vision for the School was being formulated with supporting delivery strategies. Needless to say, he was optimistic for the future but it would be challenging both politically and financially but the time was now right to give the development of the school fresh impetus and new direction.

## **8. AOB**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.20pm.