



OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th December 2011, 12.00pm at Ripon Grammar School

Present: Jenny Bellamy, George Owrap, Martin Pearman, Helen Mackenzie, Claire Green, Euan Raffel, Thomas Ravalde, Marita Murray, Anne Harrison, Emil Brown, Nicky Woolfenden and Derek Crookes

Apologies: Louise Watson, Alison Frankland, Paul Freeman, Simon Hebb and Jackie Dawson

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented, accepted and signed as a true record.

Matters arising

Fields

Jenny Bellamy gave the meeting an update on the issue of the fields and the lease. She reported that the Trustees were close to having the matter resolved.

Jenny also noted that something that came up during dealing with the fields issue was the resignation of one of the four trustees. Whilst at the moment this isn't an issue, should any others resign or pass away, this would mean the deeds of trust would need to be redrawn.

President/secretary's report

The President gave thanks to a number of people. Firstly, thanks were given to those that attended the meeting, the school and all former students who support the Association. It is the support of these people that makes the Association what it is. Secondly, the President thanked Martin Pearman and Marita Murray for their time and support and attending the committee meetings, as without them it wouldn't be possible to go forward with our activities. The President also thanked a few committee members – Claire Green, who took over from her late father Alfred Green last year; Helen Mackenzie who regularly attends meetings and helped with the arrangements

of the sports matches; and finally George Oworm, for his support and sterling efforts as treasurer.

The Committee met in February, April, June, October and December, as well as in July to mail the newsletters to the membership. There was a summer reunion planned in July, to compensate for the previous two winter reunions that had been disrupted and under attended thanks to the abnormally wintry weather. However, this had to be cancelled due to bad weather, namely heavy rain and hail.

The most significant happening this year for the Association was the increased cooperation with the school, in particular the sponsorship of the House of Commons dinner in October. The evening was a wonderful symbol of the school working together with its former students and the Association.

The Association is working with Jackie Dawson on two fronts – firstly, the new newsletter ‘The Clock Tower’ and secondly, the reunion in 2012 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the amalgamation of the Ripon Boys and Ripon High schools. This will be in a similar fashion to the 450th anniversary reunion that took place in 2005, and will take place on July 14th 2012.

The President wanted to make one final point. A few years ago, there was a member who, after resigning from the committee, proceeded to email the members complaining about the committee. One of the points this member made was “the majority of the committee are not former pupils of the school”. The President wished to make it clear that she is the only member of the committee who is not a former student of the school - and this was the case when the comment was made - and today, we have the smallest number of former members of staff (one) ever on the committee. Anne Harrison added that there is no reason to apologise for having former or present members of staff on the committee, as they had worked as hard, if not harder, than anyone to keep the Association in existence. They should be welcomed.

The President concluded her report by quoting something that Martin Pearman had said in a committee meeting in 2009. He said, “I would like to get back to the core purpose of the organisation, which is to recruit new members and support the school”, and the President feels that the Association is now fulfilling that purpose.

Treasurer’s report

Accounts were presented to the meeting.

The Treasurer outlined the work he had done during the year. The main thing that he had done was tidy up the financial situation of the Association – closing dormant accounts and looking into investment opportunities for the Association, so it could generate a bit of income from the funds sitting in the current account, which is paying no interest. No decisions regarding investment have been taken; it is simply research at this stage in order to

present a case to the committee in the future. Finally, working with FE Metcalfe, the accounts for the year were drawn up.

The finances stand healthy, with the merchandise stock slowly decreasing. New life memberships stand at £310.

The Treasurer pointed out a couple items on the expenditure. The first was the expense for RGS News. The previous year it had been nil, the reason for this being that last year's expenses had been paid in the year prior. This is down to when the school presents the receipt to the Association. Postage charges have increased, signifying that more members are receiving the communications from the Association. The second item highlighted was the post match catering for last year – this was because the food order had been doubled with the expectation of more people attending.

The Treasurer thanked FE Metcalfe for their assistance in certifying the accounts, and Jenny Bellamy for her guidance and all she does for the Association.

The President noted that once the new lease has been signed and completed, the rent of the field will increase to £1100 a year and it is expected that the Association will be able to backdate the new rate to when the new lease should have been signed.

Election of Committee and Officers

Committee

Louise Watson – proposed by George Ooram, seconded by Anne Harrison. Carried unanimously.

Euan Raffel – proposed by Helen Mackenzie, seconded by George Ooram. Carried unanimously.

Nicky Woolfenden – proposed by Helen Mackenzie, seconded by George Ooram. Carried unanimously.

Simon Hebb - proposed by George Ooram, seconded by Emil Brown. Carried unanimously.

Officers

President: Jenny Bellamy. Proposed by George Ooram, seconded by Emil Brown. Carried unanimously.

Secretary: Euan Raffel. Proposed by Jenny Bellamy, seconded by George Ooram. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer: George Owrap. Proposed by Helen Mackenzie, seconded by Euan Raffel. Carried unanimously.

Proposal of changes to the constitution

There was an issue that arose from the House of Commons dinner. A couple of people at the dinner were very keen on being a member of the Association, but are currently ineligible as they are not former students or staff. They do however have a connection to the school, for example being the sibling or parent of students of the school.

The proposal that is was put forward for discussion is that the constitution be amended to create a new tier of membership – Associate membership – where those who have a connection to the school can join the Association, but have limited privileges in the form of no voting rights.

The proposal was put to the meeting for discussion. Helen Mackenzie and Euan Raffel voiced their support, saying that it could only be beneficial to the Association and that they couldn't see how such a tier of membership could have a detrimental effect. George Owrap said that the Association needs to recruit more members to the Association and this could be a key way forward. Jenny Bellamy said that this new tier of membership would need to be promoted properly in order for it to be beneficial.

George Owrap proposed that a vote be taken for or against the committee preparing a change to the constitution, to permit a new, Associate, tier of membership. All present voted in favour of the proposal.

Date of next AGM

The date for the next meeting was provisionally set as Saturday, 15th December at 12.00pm.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 12.45pm.