**Minutes of the Old Bordenian Association Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 24 September 2020**

**Members present**: Mark Bailey (chair), Ashley Tomlin (President elect), David Palmer (secretary), Neil Hancock, Mick Pack, Mark Sayer, Keith Shea, John Sherlock, Marc Stewart, Chris Terry, Donal Watkin

**Apologies for absence**: Norman Wigg

Mark Bailey welcomed the new Head of the school to the meeting, following the resignation of Jonathan Hopkins.

**Minutes of AGM 2019 and matters arising**: The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 6 September 2019 were agreed.

Matters arising from the 2019 AGM and outcomes, in italics, are as follows:

Trustees (Mark Bailey and Donal Watkin) to raise the need to maintain contact with pupils after they leave the school at the next Trustees meeting. *To be carried forward*

Chris Terry would produce material to be posted on the currently empty OBA noticeboard in school entrance. *Chris Terry to carry forward when school reopens fully.*

Keith Shea to provide a copy of a list of previous attendees at the Sheppey dinners to Neil Hancock. *This was provided, but this is not being taken forward under the current Covid restrictions.*

Chris Terry would draft a note raising the profile of the Association, to be handed out at the Annual Prizegiving on 12 September 2019. *This was produced, but the previous Head did not want the information distributed.*

Mark Bailey to approach the school to suggest either he or Donal Watkin converts to an OBA Trustee, leaving a Parent Governor vacancy, as no expressions of interest have been received from other members. *Mark Bailey has now taken on the role.*

Donal Watkin would take forward the required activity to change the mandate with Barclays Bank. *This was completed.*

Keith Shea would inform current members of the change from the subscription-based membership and also send a separate email to those names held on the database as lapsed members. *This would be taken forward as part of a separate ‘Communications / Membership’ meeting to be held in the next few weeks.*

Chris Terry would email individual members of the Old Bordenian LinkedIn group who are not currently known to the Association to try to get them involved. *Chris contacts members via LinkedIn as an ongoing process.*

Mark Bailey, Chris Terry and Keith Shea would agree an action plan for communication activity. *This is being taken forward as part of the separate ‘Communications’ meeting, noted above. The meeting to also include Donal Watkin and Mark Sayer.*

**Election of Officers and Committee:** The following officers and committee were elected for 2020/21.

| **Role** | **Elected Officer** |
| --- | --- |
| President | A Tomlin |
| Chair | M Bailey |
| Hon. Secretary | D Palmer |
| Hon. Treasurer | D Watkin |
| Membership secretary | K Shea |
| Dinner Secretary | M Bailey |
| Communications / Digital / Publicity representative | C Terry |
| OBA Trustees | M Bailey |
| Football representative | K Shea |
| Hockey representative | D Palmer |
| Committee | N Hancock, I Hazell, M Sayer |
| Accounts examiner | P Taylor |
| Archives / Remembrance representative | M Stewart |

**Treasurer’s Report**:Donal Watkin provided the approved accounts (attached to these minutes) and provided an overview of income and expenditure. It was noted that income was less than expenditure, but this was expected due to our commitment 2 years ago to fund the school minibus over a four-year period. Mark Bailey suggested we go out to members requesting them to sign up to an annual donation, with the need to cover the minibus expenditure as an example of our current commitments. Donal Watkin thanked the previous treasurer, Mick Pack, for handing over meticulous accounts.

**Membership secretary’s report**: Keith Shea presented his report (attached to these minutes). Keith is still trying to contact the families of two deceased members whose standing order is still active. He has emailed one of the families and Neil Hancock offered to contact the family of Dennis Simmons. If these attempts fail, he will contact the respective banks for advice on how to proceed.

A separate Communications / Membership meeting will be held to discuss how to gain more active & donating members.

**Football Report:** Keith Shea presented his report (attached to these minutes).

**Hockey Report:** David Palmer presented his report (attached to these minutes). Neil Hancock informed the meeting that Old Bordenian Andrew Wilson has now been appointed head coach of the Canadian Women’s national hockey team.

**Dinner Report:** Mark Bailey presented his report (attached to these minutes). He said that the payments for the 2020 dinner would be held over until 2021. He suggested that we plan to hold the 2021 dinner later than usual to allow the Covid situation to become clearer. A number of potential speakers were discussed, but these would need to be approached when we had a firm date. It was agreed that the dinner should be held at the school. Mark Sayer asked if we could invite a number of prefects or School Captain to the annual dinner. Mark Bailey replied that we had done so a couple of years ago, but there were issues with inviting students to an event at the school where there is alcohol available and so it would not be possible.

**Communications Report:** Chris Terry presented his report (attached to these minutes).

**Remembrance Report:** Marc Stewart reported that last year’s Remembrance Service went well, with the School Captain and 2 prefects in attendance. This year’s service will not be possible in its usual format. Ashley Tomlin said that a service could be held in the school with Form captains and a bugler present. He suggested an OBA representative could also be in attendance.

Following a discussion, Mark Bailey asked Ashley Tomlin to identify possible logistical solutions to enable the Association to hold a service on the Saturday prior to Remembrance Sunday, bearing in mind the current Covid restrictions. Ashley said that he would take advice and let us know how we can take forward.

**School Update**: Mark Bailey presented his report (attached to these minutes). Ashley Tomlin gave a brief summary of his background. He is an Old Gravesendian who, following his university graduation spent 4 years in the Metropolitan Police. He then retrained as a teacher (history). He spent 11 years at Gravesend Grammar School on the teaching staff before moving to Thomas Tallis School, Kidbrooke. He left Kidbrooke to become Head of Borden Grammar.

He stated that no students had, to date, been sent home with Coronavirus and the school had currently 94% attendance. He gave an overview of the current Covid situation and practical issues being dealt with. This included the suspension of any assembly.

For the future, he said that arts and sports were to be developed. He also said that Borden values need to be clearly identified. Students are currently considering them. ‘Striving forward together’ is a phrase that Ashley wants to push, based on the school motto ‘Niterre Porro’. He wants to incorporate a blend of modernisation and traditionalism.

Neil Hancock asked about the proposed additional form of entry. Ashley replied that he wants to be able to offer a place to all those that pass the 11+ and are eligible / want to come to the school. However, he acknowledged that the school needs more space.

**Meeting dates for the forthcoming year:**

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the committee needs to meet more often than once a year. The next meeting should be held in about 14 weeks’ time, via Zoom. A separate meeting, discussed above, will be arranged to discuss specific communications and membership issues. Ashley Tomlin said that he might not be able to attend the whole of future meetings but would be happy to make himself available for a particular slot, if required.

Annual dinner: as discussed above, this will be arranged when the Covid situation becomes clearer.

AGM 2021:to be arranged and notified via email and on the website.

**Any Other Business**

The OBA Constitution was not readily visible on the OBA Website. It may also need updating in line with the change from subscription-based membership to all those eligible automatically becoming members. David Palmer would check the current constitution and draft an amended version if required.

A number of other points were raised during the meeting – these will be noted here and taken forward as part of the upcoming Communications / Membership meeting.

Ashley Tomlin asked if we had surveyed the membership to identify what they want from the Association. He said that a Google Forms survey might prove useful. Chris Terry said that he would look into it.

Mark Sayer said that the Association needs to be relevant to the recent batch of school leavers to encourage them to become involved in its activities.

Mark Sayer had also emailed a number of points related to sustaining the Association in advance of the meeting.

The online subscription / donation forms need to be reviewed to ensure they reflect the current donation model.

There being no further business the AGM closed at 20:55.

**2020 AGM Reports**















Additional presentation from Treasurer:

