

THE OLD JUDDIAN SOCIETY

Minutes of the 120th Annual General Meeting held in person and remotely at 8:00pm on Tuesday October 2024

1. Attendance

In person: J Wood (President), H Dolling (Chair), P Greatrex (Hon Sec), G Newman, B Buck, K Gunn, R Randall, N Hassan and G Pettitt (all in person) and J Taylor (school rep) and S Lawrence via video link

2. Apologies for absence

S Challis, J Humphrey, C Wickham, E Prescott, G Webb and E Portlock

Minutes of the 119th AGM held on 6 December 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters not otherwise dealt with in the agenda.

4. Reports

4.1 Committee

The Chairman's report had been circulated with the notice of the meeting and was taken as read.

R Randall asked that a vote of thanks be minuted for HD's efforts in organising such a successful dinner. This was endorsed unanimously

The adoption of the report was proposed by K Gunn and seconded by B Buck.

4.2 Secretary

PG reported that the OJS Committee has met twice formally since the last AGM, in addition to a number of ad hoc meetings between Committee members as and when required.

Due to the difficulties with the Society's bankers, NatWest, as reported in the Treasurer's report, it had not been possible to pursue the distribution of any Benevolent Trust funds (other than the regular bursary payments which were paid out of the Society's funds and will be reimbursed from the benevolent fund in due course).

The main activity of the Committee in the period has therefore been the organisation of what turned out to be a very successful 100th annual dinner, as reported on further in the Chairman's report.

The adoption of the report was proposed by G Newman and seconded by G Pettitt.

4.3 Treasurer

The Treasurer had not been able to attend the meeting but had provided a report and set of audited accounts which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting and were taken as read.

PG, on behalf of the Treasurer, reported that the error that had been noted at the previous AGM in respect of the previous period's accounts had been rectified.

A question was raised as to what the donations of £500 in both the current and previous periods related to. It was explained that one was the payment of the M Carey Prize Fund money to the School, and the Treasurer would be asked what the other related to.

PG noted that there were still significant receipts from members who had not cancelled their direct debit payments which had been set up to pay membership fees in the past. It was noted that the intention was that these should be donated to the Benevolent Fund.

PG also noted that the accounts were misleading in that they showed a profit of over £7k on the dinner as the ticket sales monies had largely been received in the financial year in question but the costs had not been paid until the following year. There was some debate as to whether the accounts should be prepared on an accruals basis, rather than the current cash flow basis, to avoid this issue. However, it was agreed that the accounts should continue to be produced on a cash flow basis but there would be a separate addendum account for the dinner prepared on an accrual basis.

The adoption of the report was proposed by K Gunn and seconded by B Buck.

6. Future First

HD noted that he had received a number of complaints from members who were having difficulty in accessing the new database. A similar issue had also been mentioned in the letter from J Humphrey when furnishing his apologies.

GN acknowledged that to get the most out of the new database it needed to be more user friendly, and that clearer instructions should be provided for those setting up their details on the system, as well as the use of "Groups". He also commented that communications would initially, still need to be made by email, and – assuming a critical mass of OJS members registered on the system, it could in the future be used as a communication tool, but this would require a reasonable period of transition. He noted that he had already had one meeting with Hannah Jayne (who is responsible for administering Future First at the school) and the Head. He had a further meeting with HJ planned with the intention of having a relaunch of the product with additional guidance next year.

7. Resolution to change the terms of the Society rules

PG explained that although no donations had been made from the Benevolent Fund because of the banking issues, it had been realised that the existing rules were probably unnecessarily complicated and the members were therefore being asked to approve the change to Rule 17 that had been set out in the agenda.

After some discussion the change was approved unanimously by all of those at the meeting.

8. Election of Officers

J Wood accepted the role as President for a further year and put forward the following proposals for Committee membership

Chair: G Newman

Hon Secretary: P Greatrex

Hon Treasurer: S Challis

School Representative: J Taylor

Other members: H Dolling, N Hassan

Hon Auditor: J Ridley

These proposed Committee appointments were all accepted unanimously.

B Buck and Graeme Webb had asked to retire from the Committee and they were thanked for their past services. It was noted that ideally a Vice Chairman should be appointed so that the succession to the Chairmanship was properly established.

The members gave a vote of thanks to H Dolling, who was stepping down as Chairman having held this role for a number of years, for all of his hard work through what had been difficult times for the Society.

9. AOB

9.1 It was suggested that "committee email" accounts be set up (e.g. ojschairman@judd.kent.sch.uk) for the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and the President was asked to arrange this.

9.2 KG asked about the status of the past records of the Society. It was noted that these were now indexed and filed at the school.

10. President's Closing Remarks

The President reiterated how much the School values the support of the Society and congratulated it on the very successful 100th annual dinner this year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:15pm

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Chairman

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Date