

OLD HUISH ASSOCIATION

President: David Gill

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Thursday 4th April 2007 at 7.00PM

Held at the Richard Huish College, South Road, Taunton

1. Welcome

The Chairman, David Gill, thanked those present for attending the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

29 apologies had been received.

3. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on Friday 20th April 2006.

These were signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising (if any)

None.

5. Chairman's Report including Membership

The Chairman reported a satisfactory year with several new members, but 7 losses through death including Hayden Sully, Peter Blackmore, L.J. Blackwell, John Day and Rev. W.J. Toop who would have been 100 in October! The Chairman advised he had sent messages of sympathy to those concerned. In addition we lost Fred Hutchings, our respected President (Huish 1926-32), and former College Principal Keith Knott. The first 5 will be remembered at the Dinner, while Fred and Keith were remembered at last year's Dinner.

Membership now stands at 287.

The Chairman continued that last year's AGM had an adequate attendance, 59 tickets were sold for the Annual Lunch and 91 sold for the Dinner, both very slightly down on the previous year. From the feedback the Chairman believed that both functions were enjoyed and fewer speeches at the Dinner were appreciated. The golf competition held prior to the lunch was also appreciated but there were disappointing numbers who took part.

The Chairman closed his report by offering sincere thanks to his fellow officers, Martin and Norman (not forgetting Doug our Auditor) for their hard work, to Peter our College Principal and Michael Short for their kindness and practical help, and to the Committee for their loyalty.

6. Hon. Treasurer's Report and, if thought fit, to Adopt the Accounts

The following is taken from the Treasurer's own report:

My report deals with the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2006.

In order to clarify our donations to charity from year to year, I have divided the accounts into two funds. We have the General Fund and now a separate Charity Fund.

Looking at the General Fund, we gained 10 new members during the year – a total of £100.

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The Spring Luncheon in May 2006 amounted to £737, which balanced out the cost.

The Annual Dinner in November 2006 cost £1917 of which we charged members £1638, giving a small deficit of £279.

I would like to briefly mention the expenses of Printing, postage and telephone. The total of £322 relates in the main to the Secretary's costs over 2005 and 2006 for photocopying, postage, etc. in sending out information and updates to the membership. E-mailing where possible and stamp-addressed envelopes for replies when required would be a great help to Martin.

The deficit then on the General Fund for the year was £516.

Turning now to the Charity Fund, we started with a balance of £391 to which was added the proceeds of the two raffles £125 and £317 respectively and your Committee made a donation of £153 to the Somerset Autistic Society for which I received a very warm letter of thanks and appreciation.

Our net cash balances for the year end totalled £5892, representing the balance on the General Fund of £5212 and on the Charity Fund £680.

My thanks to you all with a special thank you to Doug Dawe for his audit of the accounts.

(Accounts attached)

John Moore proposed the adoption of the accounts and this was seconded by Ken Marshall. This was carried.

7. College Principal Report

The Principal had presented his apologies and no report was received in his absence.

8. Election of Officers:

The Chairman began by explaining that the Committee had discussed the matter of the Presidency and did not feel it necessary to have a President for the sake of filling the position. Should it be felt that someone was deserving of the honour then this would be taken forward at that time. John Davies immediately proposed David Gill as President and this was seconded by Ken Marshall. David agreed he would accept the position, if it was the wish of those present, and a show of hands confirmed this.

The remaining officers were all prepared to stand and were proposed en bloc by Charlie Barker and seconded by John Sparrow. This was carried.

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|-------------------|---|----------------|
| a. Vice President | - | Dr Peter Avery |
| b. Chairman | - | David Gill |
| c. Vice-Chairman | - | Peter Gibbs |
| d. Hon. Treasurer | - | Norman White |
| e. Hon. Secretary | - | Martin Howe |
| f. Hon. Auditor | - | Doug Dawe |

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9. Election of Committee

The Chairman notified the meeting that Roger Silver was not making himself available for re-election to the Committee, but that all others were. John Davies proposed the en bloc re-election of the Committee, which was seconded by Steve Cole. This was carried.

Gent Musgrave
Alan Merrifield

Charlie Barker
John Moore

Terry Hunt
Neil Trood

10. To announce arrangements so far made for the Annual Luncheon to be held on Friday 11th May 2007 – Raffle Prizes required; price of raffle tickets.

The Chairman was delighted to report that [as at the meeting] 35 tickets had been sold. The actual cost of the meal had gone up by £2.00 per head, however the Committee had agreed that the price of tickets should be subsidised, thus keeping the price the same at the previous year i.e. £12.50. It was discussed and agreed that raffle tickets should be sold for £1.00 per strip. The Chairman asked those present if they would be kind enough to bring raffle prizes.

A brief discussion took place regarding alternative venues for the lunch, but it was agreed not to change at this time.

The Chairman concluded by explaining that Mike Short, the Estates Officer [Bursar] at Richard Huish College, was retiring. Mike had always been 'a good friend' to the Association and the Committee had discussed making a presentation to him, which the Meeting agreed was a nice gesture. The Chairman agreed to pursue this with a view to either making the presentation at the Lunch or the Dinner, whichever he could get him to!

11. To discuss, if necessary, plans for the Annual Dinner to be held on Saturday 17th December 2007 – Committee suggest an earlier time of commencement e.g. 6 for 7pm. Price of meal not yet known – shall we subsidise cost of ticket?

The Chairman first of all covered the subject of this year's Guest of Honour, who would be Gordon Chave. He went to great lengths to assure everyone that both the Speaker and his Proposer had committed to 15 minutes and 5 minutes respectively, thus avoiding the 15 minute over-run by last year's Proposer, John Harewood.

The Meeting supported the Committee's proposal to move the start time forward.

Gent Musgrave proposed that the decision of Subsidising the Dinner should be left in the hands of the Committee, which was seconded by John Davies and carried by the meeting.

12. Any other urgent business

The Secretary announced that dates had been provided for the Tour of the College, which had been suggested at last year's AGM. These were the 20th and 29th June 2007, at 10.30am. Those at the meeting who were interested were directed to speak to the Secretary after the meeting.

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Ken Marshall asked why the Minutes of last year's AGM were not circulated with the notice of the AGM. The Secretary responded that the cost to the Association in producing and adding further documents to the send out did not appear to warrant this and furthermore it was additional time and effort, which the Secretary explained as a father of two young children and just in the throws of growing a new business he did not have. The Secretary went on that he would be delighted to hand over the Secretarial role to someone else, but as no-one wanted it then he would continue to do the role to the best of his ability within the time constraints available.

It was suggested that the Minutes could be posted on a notice board at the Dinner, for interested parties to read, which the Secretary would consider. He did point out that the Minutes would be available on the Website in plenty of time for the next AGM, should anyone be interested.

John Davies asked if he could put a notice up at the Dinner to find out about friends he no longer sees. It was agreed this would be OK for him to do.

John Davies also suggested that more speakers could be invited to talk for about 5 minutes each, about their experiences of Huishs, which might be more interesting because of the variety. A broader discussion was had and it was agreed that the Committee would discuss the matter.

Geoff Gilham requested that dates at Huish be gathered for the Dinner so that rather than group people from different eras together, people of the same era can be seated at the same table. The Secretary agreed to add this request on the bottom of the Dinner Application Form.

John Davies asked if name badges could be used at the Dinner. It used to be done, but not now. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with the Secretary and take it to the next Committee meeting.

13. To confirm the date of the next Committee Meeting

Wednesday 26th September 2007, at the College, starting at 7.15pm.

14. Close the Meeting and following the business share light refreshments with the ladies.

The meeting closed at 8.13pm.