

WHITGIFT SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

29 November 2016, 7.00pm, Old Library

MINUTES

Attendees

Alison Anderson	Kurt Robertson
Peter Ellis (Staff)	Anela Topalovic
Rev Alan Bayes (Staff)	Julia Matthews
Mary Braddon Philpott	Charles Blair-Ford
Trisha Gower-Smith	Caroline Revill
Shirley Carpenter	Leyla Blake (Staff)
Frances Robinson	Patricia Thompson
Vicky Harris	Julie Quan
Kathryn Coffin (Staff)	Richard Blundell
E Sewell	Angelica Sitnikova
Tracy Lee	J Lam
Harry Thompson	Olia Iwaniuk
Alison Barber (Staff Parent)	Jenny Blair-Ford
Elsbeth Pringle	Maud Chatriot
Francis Gower-Smith	Mark Endersby (Parent Governor)

Apologies for Absence

The Headmaster
Karoline Baird
Melissa Nighy
Lorna Sheldon
Katharine Cadogan
Veena Daga
Davina Arris
Justine McNeil
Sarah Simons
Ric Simons
Sam Smith
Julie Perrin
Jill Pendlebury

The AGM started at 7.30pm.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

Chair's Report

Mr Ellis gave a brief talk regarding the report from the Chair (circulated previously) and thanked all Officers and members of the committee for their continued support, paying particular thanks to Shirley Carpenter (Vice-Chair), Alison Anderson (Treasurer) and Working Group Committee Members Frances Robinson, Tracy Lee, Lorna Sheldon, Julia Matthews and Melissa Nighy. Kim Baptiste was thanked (in her absence) for her work with Second Hand Uniform Sales. Kim has now left the Committee following her son's graduation from Whitgift. Richard Blundell as the OW link and Leyla Blake for the administrative work were also thanked. A brief explanation as to the work of the WSPA was given alongside the full report which was handed to all attendees and is attached to these minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Alison Anderson gave a brief account of the events held by the WSPA over the year. Copy of the audited accounts is attached and shows an accumulated surplus of £27,595. This has increased a little due to October's Second Hand Uniform Sale. The WSPA will make arrangements to spend some of the funds on the purchase of benches for the School, from a local company, which is likely to be in the region of £5,000 – £10,000. Further spend will need to be discussed at Committee Meetings. Ideas were welcomed from attendees.

Unanimous agreement to continue to use Barclays for the WSPA banking. The accounts were approved by those in attendance.

Election of Officers

The following were elected unanimously to serve as WSPA officers:

Acting Chair – Peter Ellis (Second Master)

Vice Chair – Shirley Carpenter

Treasurer – Alison Anderson

There were no volunteers for any roles within the Committee. Peter Ellis explained that going forward, it would be preferential to have a parent-chair for the WSPA opposed to a member of school staff. Shirley and Alison both explained that this is likely to be their last year in their roles within the WSPA. Anyone interested in taking over the Treasurer role was asked to speak to Alison.

Election of Hon Auditors

The Meeting was asked to note that an independent Auditor was appointed to the WSPA Committee who has reviewed and accepted the accounts prepared by the Treasurer. Unanimous agreement to continue to use Helen Garrett as Auditor of the accounts.

Any Other Business

- The WSPA Constitution was agreed (no changes since last meeting).
- Rowing assistance: Elspeth Pringle and Alison Barber put forward a request for WSPA funding for the 60 boys who participate in Whitgift Rowing. This was particularly for some equipment to provide riverside shelter, seating and hot food for rowers which would cost approximately £500-600. This request was discussed in detail with most attendees voting to support this minority sport in this way. Mark Endersby queried whether this amount of funding should be made through school budgets rather than by WSPA funds. Peter Ellis accepted this point but explained that a major donation from the budget had been made for a new boat recently. He also explained that sometimes parents do like to feel they had made a contribution in some way, and that the WSPA have enough funds to make this donation. A query was raised as to what WSPA funds are used for compared with what the School should fund. Peter Ellis explained that the WSPA will fund anything that is not already budgeted for which would enhance the opportunity and provision of education for the pupils eg. I pads and benches. Tracy Lee and Shirley Carpenter added that purchases are sometimes items that are not seen as particularly ‘necessary’ but would benefit the boys. One parent suggested that this rowing funding request should be acted on quickly, regardless of where funding comes from, in order for the boys to benefit. Peter Ellis agreed to speak to the Director of Sport and Head of Rowing to see what the department could offer and whether WSPA funds were required for this particular request.
- Entrance interview hospitality: Vicky Harris agreed to run the parent volunteers rota for the interviews this year. Peter Ellis thanked Vicky for this and explained that parent assistance at this event is a major selling point of the School. Vicky agreed to liaise with Admissions for helper badges.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next WSPA Working Group Committee meeting is yet to be decided as the Lent calendar is still being finalised. Committee members and AGM attendees will be emailed with the date in due course.

The AGM finished at 8.05pm.