



EX CORDE VITA.

KING ALFRED SCHOOL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 119th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY 2017

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 7th February 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in the Main Hall.

Present: Kara Conti President
Vaughan Thomas Chair
Council Members
and 65 other KASS members

In attendance: Robert Lobatto Head
Alan Dinham Secretary

President's welcome

Kara Conti introduced herself and welcomed members to the 119th Society AGM. Kara emphasised that KASS was a society for its members, urged all to be involved in furthering its aims and spoke briefly about its activities.

Kara commended the success of the October 2016 KASS Conference, "Breaking the Mould", which, for the first time, had taken place in the Phoenix Theatre following its recent refurbishment. Stephen de Brett was pressing ahead with his book on the school's Village Project, for publication by the Society. Kara gave special mention to Shelly and Neil Frazer, who had been continuous parents of the school for 30 years.

Kara gave a vote of thanks to Vaughan, who would step down as Chair of Council in the summer. She commended him for his diligence, tireless effort, consultation and feedback, and for his clarification of Council's role. In doing so he addressed many of the issues identified in the school's ISI inspection report in 2014. Kara then handed over to Vaughan as Chair of Council.

Chair's Introduction

Vaughan welcomed everyone present and said that the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements covered the period from 1st August 2015 to 31st July 2016. He said that he would comment on the 6 month period since and, in particular, cover the activities of Council in its

formal governance roles during this time. Vaughan then turned to the first two items on the agenda for the meeting.

Apologies: Apologies had been received from Council members Christine Prowse, Lisa Keane, Stephen Morrall and Ian Laming.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 9th February 2016: There were no matters arising and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

Governance. The January 2014 ISI inspection report on the school rated Governance as "sound" only. Vaughan had reported at last year's AGM on work that had been completed to fundamentally alter the Governance of the Society, including review of Governance procedures, modernising the Articles of Association, restructuring Council committees to meet the formal governance role and changing Committee agendas to match Council roles. There had been a number of further changes in 2015 – 16. Additional work included: a full review of safeguarding procedures and governor training, appointment of external educators to Council and the newly established Education Committee, development and approval of a Council training curriculum, annual self-evaluation of Council members and Council member evaluation of the Chair and comparison of Governance practices against best practice.

Strategy. The primary role of Council was to set the strategy for the school and, this year, Robert had substantially developed the KAS 2020 initiative, incorporating feedback from parents, the Leadership Team and Council. A number of work streams were in progress and the school could look forward in due course to a strongly supported and robust strategic plan.

Education. The Education Committee was chaired by Sophie Ricard, a trained educator. The Committee included several new and long standing Council members, bringing educational and other experience. Appropriate members of the Senior Leadership Team attend meetings. Two additional members with highly relevant experience have joined the committee. They are Polly Bennett, an Old Alfredian and an experienced primary school head teacher, and Alistair McConville, the Deputy Head (Academic) at Bedales. The Committee had been considering the key stages of the curriculum and had debated the merits and results of the KAS experience.

Finance. At the previous AGM Vaughan had mentioned the Society's inability to fund a purchase of Ivy House. In order to be able to capitalise on similar developments in future, Council would need to focus on building the school's financial capacity. Vaughan identified four main financial pressures that the school faced: the need to build up financial reserves, development and maintenance of the physical infrastructure of the site, how to deal with an increasing pension liability whilst honouring the school's commitment to staff, and the school's high cost model of small pupil to teacher ratios. Vaughan said that there was a commitment to move fees slowly and that the school would be looking at innovative ways to raise funds beyond fees. The school was in a very good place but, with continued work, could be even better positioned to support future generations. Council was also in an excellent position with a good balance of professional skills, brought by new and experienced members.

Vaughan thanked members of Council who were stepping down at the AGM or had done so during the year for their contribution: Sue Spaul, Ian Levene, Lisa Keane, Georgia Masters, Ruth Leeney, Stephen Morrall and Andrew Senior.

Chair of Grounds and Buildings' Report

Fiona Hackett, Chair of Grounds and Buildings, gave her report.

Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st July 2016

The Treasurer, Sarah Phillips, gave her report.

Sarah moved the adoption of the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31st July 2016. This was seconded by Philip Whale. The Report and Financial Statements were unanimously approved.

Election of Officers and Members of Council

The Secretary reported that Kara Conti had been nominated for the office of President. There being no other nominations, she was elected unanimously as President.

The Secretary reported that Sarah Phillips had been nominated for the office of Treasurer. There being no other nominations, she was elected unanimously as Treasurer.

There had been 5 nominations to fill places on Council. The nominations were:

- Stacy Eden, Sandra Denicke-Polcher, Sam Jukes-Adams, John Nevin, Sophie Silocchi

By a show of hands, each of the nominees was elected unanimously. The Chair congratulated and welcomed them as new members.

Appointment of Auditors

The Chair said that Kingston-Smith LLP acted as the school's auditors last year and were willing to continue in that role. Sarah Phillips proposed that Kingston Smith LLP be engaged as the school's auditors for the year 2016-17 and that their remuneration be fixed by Council. The proposal was seconded by Philip Whale and carried unanimously.

Any Other Business

Vaughan said that he believed in rotation of members on Council and was excited about the new influx. He himself had been on Council for nine years and had chaired for three; he would not therefore be running for Council again when his turn for rotation came up in 2018. There would need to be an election for a new Chair in May 2017. Vaughan said that it had been a huge honour and privilege to serve on Council and to act as Chair and thanked everyone who had worked with him.

Vaughan said that he had been thrilled to work with Robert over the last 12 months; there had been difficult issues to deal with but Robert had always come up with a measured and balanced approach, no matter what the challenge. Vaughan commended him for his very impressive start in leading the school.

Alan Dinham
Secretary