

Llanelli Grammar School Old Boys' Union and Graig Former Pupils Association

Extraordinary General Meeting

Meeting place and time

The Extraordinary General Meeting of the Association was held at the Stradey Park Hotel on 28th April 2015 .The meeting was called to order by the president, Mr Barrie Lewis, at 7.05 p.m. There were 23 former pupils in attendance. (Full listing presented as Attachment 1)

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Mel Williams and Mr Phil Cooper. Mr Peter Lane mentioned that a further 20+ former pupils had replied online that, for various reasons, they were unable to attend but asked to be copied on all correspondence.,

Minutes

Mr. Wyn Oliver reported that as follow up to the reference to School bursaries mentioned in the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 24th February, these passed to Carmarthenshire County Council when the School closed. Enquiries into their status via the Head of Finance to the council were not persued. This was duly noted and the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 24th February were accepted as a true record (Proposed Mr. G. Anderson; Seconded Rev. Eldon Phillips)

Agenda Items

1 Report of the Working Group

Mr Ken Board, as Chair of the Working Party tasked with reviewing the Association structure opened the discussion regarding;

- **To Continue as a Charity or Not**

The question was raised why the Association was registered with the Charity Commission? Mr Allan Jones replied stating that the registration went back to the time the School was functioning and when the Association actively supported charitable donations and bursaries. Registration with the Charity Commission continued from that point onwards. Mr Ken Board moved that following this clarification the Association continue as a registered Charity. This was seconded by Mr Paul Oram. There being no objections to the contrary the motion to continue as a registered charity was carried

- **The Constitution**

Mr. John Buckee presented a summary of the review of the current constitution (dated September 1997) this is presented as Attachment 2 for reference.

Accepted as a true record

Signed

Position

Date

Mr Allan Jones stated that the 1997 constitution was compliant with Charity Commission requirements prevailing at that time and whilst recognising that update was necessary no request/ comment or complaint has been received from the Charities Commission. This fact is duly noted.

Mr Jeffrey Phillips questioned if Trustees must be independent overseers of the workings of the Association. The November 2013 Charities Commission model constitution states that trustees are serving members of the Committee charged with ensuring the management of the Association. This was accepted.

Discussion ensued over the name of the Association but it was concluded that the name as lodged with the Charity Commission stands i.e. Llanelli Grammar School Old Boys' Union and Graig Former Pupils Association

Mr Paul Oram proposed that the revised Constitution be accepted. This was seconded by Rev. Eldon Phillips. There being no objections the new Constitution was accepted as of this date.

Post adoption note: Although the 2015 Constitution is formally accepted as presented, Mr Wyn Oliver asked that the new committee consider inclusion of the position of President. This was duly noted.

- **Charitable Aims**

These are as described in the new Constitution (accepted)

- **Membership**

The concept of paid membership to the Association is as described in the new Constitution (accepted)

- **Website**

Mr Peter Lane reported expenditure to date in securing web space (total £102) and that one estimate for setting up a web page was in excess of £900 and as such outside the budget of the Association. Whilst willing to develop a basic website model, Mr Lane asked the assistance of Ms. Claire Rumble in securing the assistance of Graig former pupils in developing the detail further. This was agreed.

The web page of Aberdare Boys' Grammar School (<http://www.abgs.org.uk/>) was cited as a good example of a functioning website whose format may be considered.

Mr Ashley Tolley emphasised the value a functional website can have to the Association but this required commitment to update and maintain.

- **Future Dinners**

Mr Barrie Lewis explained the rationale behind the current date of the last Friday in January (based on the Rugby fixtures calendar) and drawbacks of other months of the year.

Mr Peter Newman made the suggestion that the month of October could be considered especially for those who choose to drive distance to attend the dinner (daylight hours, typically before start of inclement weather) A show of hands of those present indicated October as a preferred date, The Committee are charged to canvas a larger audience and secure consensus for date of future dinners (again with reference to rugby fixtures)

Accepted as a true record

Signed

Position

Date

2. Election of Officers and Trustees

Mr Barrie Lewis called on the Rev. Eldon Phillips to chair this item of the agenda, Voting for Officers was by show of hands and is summarised in the Table below

Position	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by	Elected
Chair	Barrie Lewis	Graham Davies	Wyn Oliver	Ken Board
	Ken Board	Paul Oram	Keith Thomas	
Vice Chair	Barrie Lewis	Claire Rumble	Noel Rees	George Parker
	George Parker	Ken Board	Steve Edwards	
Treasurer	Allan Jones	Keith Thomas	Peter Lane	See Note (1)
Secretary	John Buckee	Ken Board	George Parker	John Buckee
General	Claire Rumble	John Buckee	Peter Lane	Claire Rumble
	Paul Oram	Steve Edwards	Ken Board	Paul Oram
	Peter Lane	Ken Morgan	Keith Thomas	Peter Lane

Note (1)

Mr Allan Jones expressed his displeasure in the fact that the long serving president of the Association failed to secure a position on the 2015 committee. As a sign of support to Barrie, Allan respectfully declined the nomination.

Side discussion continued with Mr Allan Jones willing to reconsider his decision based on future committee recommendations viz a ve Mr Barrie Lewis and his role in any new organisation. Duly noted.

Mr Steve Edwards suggested that the wider population of former pupils be canvassed (on line) to see if any person would be willing to accept this role.

3 Date of next meeting

Mr Barrie Lewis as outgoing president called on Mr Ken Board to set a date for the transfer of office and advise former pupils of the date of the next meeting in accordance with the 2015 Constitution

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to both Mr Barrie Lewis and Mr Allan Jones for their guidance and energy in maintaining the Association a viable entity over some difficult years.

Accepted as a true record
Signed

Position
Date

Attachment 1 – List of Attendees EGM, 28th April 2015

Anderson	Gordon
Board	Ken
Buckee	John
Davies	Graham
Edwards	Steve
Evans	Wynne
Jones	Peter Owen
Jones	Allan
Lane	Peter
Marshall	David
Morgan	Ken
Newman	Peter
Oliver	Wyn
Oram	Paul
Parker	George
Phillips	Eldon
Phillips	Jeffrey
Rees	John
Rees	Noel
Rumble	Claire
Thomas	Keith
Tolley	Ashley
Williams	Peter

Accepted as a true record
Signed

Position
Date

Attachment 2 **Review of the Constitution (Summary)**

The working group reviewed the current constitution brought into force in September against two clear parameters

1. Compliance
2. Relevance

Compliance

The 1997 constitution is not compliant with regards to structure and content currently recommended by the Charities Commission. The “Revised” Constitution presented for consideration is based on the Charity Commissions “Model Constitution” of November 2013

Relevance

- A) Under its Objects the 1997 Constitution focuses (and limits) the Association to the advancement of the education of former pupils through grants and scholarships. No grants have been made in recent years and the finances of the association are such as to make any such grant or scholarship minimal in cash terms.

In rewriting the objects of the Association we feel that the wording better reflects the actual workings of the Association whilst still allowing contribution to the education of any former pupil (notwithstanding the fact that the youngest former pupil would now be 34)

- B) Membership. The 1997 constitution implies formal membership is required (former pupils may join the Association). In the past Membership has been “voluntary” – voluntary in that some attendees at the annual dinner paid and some did not. Voluntary in that there is no record of a fixed membership fee (if paid)

The constitution proposes that membership is compulsory at a fee to be set and agreed. Honorary members can be conferred on any member or any other person who has provided exceptional services to the school or Association

- C) Management of the Association

Based on the 1997 constitution the current Committee of the association numbers 15 with a further 13 vacancies. There are 7 Honorary members.

In reality management of the Association has fallen on but a few stalwart members.

The “revised” Constitution proposes as minimum a committee of 7 of which 4 are considered as essential officers of the Association i.e. Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with a minimum of 3 ordinary members (no maximum set). The working group do however recognise that in managing the Association of the future then such officers as Membership Secretary, Fundraising Secretary and Webmaster are advantageous to the efficient management of the Association of the future.

Accepted as a true record

Signed

Position

Date