

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**10:00am Saturday 27 November 2021****Held at Royal Russell School, Croydon****Committee Members present:**

Adrian Edwards	(AE)	Chair
Rob Fisher	(RF)	
Aazim Ihsan	(AI)	
John Piggan	(XJP)	
Danny O'Rourke	(DOR)	
Nigel Reed	(NR)	Treasurer
James Strudwick	(JS)	
Ian Walsh	(IW)	

In attendance:

Neil Cufley	(NC)	
Victoria Deadman Gatt	(VDG)	
Julia Powell	(JP)	OR Correspondent
Michele Stone	(MS)	OR Secretary (Minutes)

Apologies for absence:

Brian Angel	(BA)
Colin Cameron	(CC)
Kemal Chaudhri	(KC)
Charlie Froy	(CF)

MINUTES**ACTIONS****1. Notice of the meeting and confirmation of a Quorum:**

Notice of the AGM had been announced and the Agenda was posted on the website in accordance with the rules.

2. Apologies for Absence:

CF is in Lapland, KC in France and CC in Cambridge.

JP then informed the committee that BA has been admitted into a care home but unfortunately no visitors are allowed due to a Covid outbreak in the home. It was also reported that his room had been ransacked although nothing had been taken. JP explained that it would be advisable to reach BA on his mobile (please leave it ringing for longer to enable him to get to the phone) and not to contact him via email.

JP to send
card from OR
Committee

3. Minutes of previous AGM:

The minutes of the previous meetings held in 2019 and 2020 were approved and signed by AE.

Proposed by Nigel Reed and seconded by Ian Walsh.

4. Chairman's Report:

The Pandemic created an unwelcome two year hiatus in all our plans, interrupting all the good work we have achieved over the last several years. Hopefully we will be able to move things forward next year, re-establishing our events calendar once again.

We have published a Spring and a delayed Autumn Newsletter (which will go out at the end of this month) giving news of ORs, future OR events, and updates on developments in the school which might be of interest to ORs. As ever, these newsletters are very well received and often generate additional contributions from ORs for future publications.

Only one OR event was organised for the last two years, the summer ORGS golf tournament. This summer we were joined by two new members (both leavers in 1965) who have helped increase our membership to a good size with further interest from other more recent leavers.

Plans are now in place to once again look at arranging events that had to be cancelled during the Pandemic and these will be listed in forthcoming Newsletters.

I would also like to thank the OR committee for giving up their time to attend occasional Zoom meetings and the recent informal committee meeting to appraise our position and how we as a Committee plan to negotiate our way forward.

I would finally like to thank our recently departed OR secretary Vicky Rees for all her hard work, attending our meetings, assembling material for the Newsletter, along with updating the website and database which are so important in regard to keeping ORs in touch with the school and each other. Vicky has been replaced by Michele Stone who will take up this role having been at the school for the last 13 years!

Please use the email or@royalrussell.co.uk to send correspondence through for the Newsletter and the website.

AE mentioned that he had sought and gained permission from a photographer to include a photo of Andy King for his obituary in the next OR Newsletter and for the website.

AE reported on the recent Golf Day at Woldingham GC and recounted how Tommy Sherlock had excelled and won every prize bar one.

AE also reported the sad news that Jeremy Lloyd-Jones (JLJ) (previously Director of Development) had recently passed away suddenly at home. It was agreed that members of the committee would like to attend the funeral and NC stated that he felt that would be welcomed by the family. NC will pass on the date when it has been arranged.

NC to pass on
date of JLJ
funeral

Here's to successful year.

5. Treasurer's Report:

There was a discussion regarding previous bank accounts and that subs went down in 2020/21 however they have risen in the latest report received. The balance is looking very healthy and NR discussed whether the committee could come up with ideas to use the monies.

A discussion followed regarding Year 13 leavers paying subs but that this is not directed at Year 11 leavers. NC indicated that there are 3 exit points for leavers: at Year 6, Year 11 and Year 13 and VDG and NC agreed to look into this and report back at the next meeting. NC then explained that the 1853 Society (the Royal Russell parents' association) contribute to items that the school requires. They recently contributed to a half-basketball court and an inscribed plaque will be attached. XJP asked whether both Headmasters could be approached for ideas to contribute to. NC explained that there is a "master priority" list which the school has and that he is happy to share the list with the OR committee.

VDG/NC to follow up on leaver exit points.

NC to share "master priority" list of requirements with AE.

A further discussion took place regarding signatories for the accounts to avoid fraud as the current members have inherited a somewhat faulty set-up.

NC asked whether a safeguarding plan has been put in place.

6. OR Correspondent's Report:

Unlike previous years there is very little to report due to the pandemic. Many thanks must go to Adrian who managed to get the very successful annual ORGS event run last summer. This was unfortunately the only event to be run.

Likewise former Russellians visits ceased except one during the summer when Mrs Mayo, her son and daughter came back to school. Mr Mayo was a former Head of the Junior School who left in 1969. Mr Hunt had just moved out of the Headmaster's house by the Junior School so we were able to go in and look around bringing back so many stories especially for his children.

There have been several requests about information from OR families that I have luckily been able to retrieve from former magazines.

Perhaps the best news is that we now have an archive room that has had extra shelving put in. The workmen have left the room tidy but needed to move a lot of material that now needs sorting into some semblance of order. Our thanks to James Ward and his team for this.

NR recalled a memory of the Junior School flooding several times and the boys at the school would use buckets to empty Mr Mayo's flat – it was called "bailing out with the boys".

AE reported that BA still has some archive material which is believed to be in his flat. JP explained that we would need access to the flat and she would contact Helen (BA's daughter) to see whether we could get access.

JP to contact BA's family re archive material

It is understood that the family would very much like the school to have the archive material.

7. **AOB:**

There was no other business.

8. **Delay of Election of Officers & Committee postponed until 2022:**

There were no objections to the postponement and it was agreed to elect officers and committee members every 3 years starting again in November 2022.

It was agreed that notification of the AGM will be broadcast to all OR's in the next newsletter, social media and via the website.

MS to add date to website in next newsletter.

9. **Date of next AGM:**

The date for the next AGM will be toward the end of November 2022 and will be advised.

The meeting was closed at 10:49am.