

**Minutes of the BWSPA meeting held on
Tuesday 14 November 2023 in the Sixth Form Study Room, BWS**

Present: Charles Tavener (Acting Chair), Nicolette Beardsmore Acting Secretary), Dr Stuart Smallwood, Gulin Gunce, Katharine James, Kate Doyle, Bea Longthorp (Secretary), Kenecki Nduka-Richard (Assistant Secretary) and Sarah Robertson (Treasurer)

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies received from Onur Gunce (1000 Club Co-ordinator),

2 School Update and Funding Requests (SDS)

No new funding requests.

1 Year 12 recruitment for 2024 in peak season. 2 x webinars just before the half term break and then Open Evening 2/11/2023 heavily attended despite Storm Babet. SDS attending Year 11 assemblies weekly at other schools. Lots of interest.

2 DfE performance data shows BWS' Progress 8 as 0.56 (classed as well above average); this shows that BWS students gain over half a grade better results than similar students nationally. This replicates the outcomes here in previous years.

3 Cyber attack on school system on 1 November, probably due to a student clicking on a phishing link. The attack was detected first thing in the morning by the network staff who swiftly limited the damage. System recovery took just 2 days; we will almost certainly be enhancing security further in due course.

4 Bishopgate development has been amended following advice from the planners. We are aiming to convene a site meeting at school for the architect and planning officers as soon as we can.

5 Interviews for the new Head commence on Thursday 16 November, 4 candidates. A second round, if needed, will be held a week later.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19 Sept 2023 & Matters Arising (Chair)

Minutes available at BWSPA Constitution, Committee Membership and Minutes

No amendments, agreed and proposed CT, seconded NB

4 Forthcoming Events/Activities

a) Grammar Christmas Fair – Saturday 25 November 2023 (NB)

Nicolette Beardsmore and a number of other volunteer co-ordinators from BWS and SWGS have attended planning meetings. Over 50 stalls have booked and volunteers are signing up via the Grammar Christmas Fair website, though the numbers are down from last year. Another email will be posted shortly asking for volunteers to help set up, clear away, man the car park and cafe/stalls. Posters were also distributed for display.

Emails have also been sent out this week requesting donations of bottles for adult tombola, chocolate for the children's tombola and baked goods (including savoury items) for the Cafe

b) Lecture and Dinner (CP)

Still hoping to pin down Mark Labbett 'The Beast' (BWS old boy) to give a talk as a BWSPA fundraising dinner during the academic year. Ralph Fiennes also suggested.

c) Quiz Night (NB)

Following on from last week's successful quiz night hosted by Nicolette and Phil Beardsmore (raising in the region of £1000 - TBC) Phil has agreed to act as Quizmaster - possibly next March - but someone else will need to organise the event, including catering. Sarah Robertson and Gulin Gunce agreed to take this on. The previous quiz was priced at £15 a ticket, £7.50 on dinner, £2.50 drink leaving £5 clear profit plus bar and raffle sales.

d) Wine Tasting (CT)

Charles Tavener is happy to host another wine tasting evening - possibly in the summer term. Drinks on the lawn also suggested.

e) Summer Event at Wilton House (GG)

Gulim and Onur Gunce meet weekly with their Rotary Club (Wilton) and as the Rotary chair is a BWS old boy the Earl of Pembroke has offered the use of Wilton House for an event "for use for the boys and girls of BWS". Suggestions included hosting the 'Rain or Shine Theatre Company' there or Mr Edney's Summer Concert could be held there, possibly with BWSPA running a bar.

5 Finance Update

Currently there is a total of £19,720.56 in all accounts.

Recent highlights include Quiz night, skittles nights for the Y7 families and second-hand uniform sales.

Smarties tubes - only 3x returned largely due to lack of communication. Need more publicity if we plan to repeat in 2024.

Payment of £500 has been made towards a preloved sofa for 6th Form Common Room but has yet to be bought.

£700 to be paid to the school for video equipment.

The 6th Form girls' netball tour is going to Dubai, BWSPA to match fund up to £1000 raised by the girls, which they were on their way to doing by providing afternoon teas at fixtures.

6 AOB

General communication methods discussed. Given previous issues, SDS would prefer that all formal communications with parents continue to be sent via the School's email service.

Kenechi Nduka-Richard has agreed to take over the current social media accounts, eg Facebook, etc.

Suggestion of a sixth form boy and girl to take the lead as a link between BWSPA and School to improve communication. Charles Tavener to speak to Nikki Mesnard, Assistant Head Sixth Form, and explore this further.

Date of the next meeting is either 16 or 18 January - TBA