



**DRAFT**

## **Minutes of the BWSPA meeting held on Tuesday 19 September 2023 in the Sixth Form Study Room, BWS**

**Present:** Rob Jones (Acting Chair), Nicolette Beardsmore (Acting Secretary), Sathya Caddick, Zainab Dangana (Assistant Treasurer), Yasmin Fatima, Gulin Gunce, Onur Gunce (1000 Club Co-ordinator), Alex Howarth-Jones, Katharine James, Emma Jones, Faisal Kunyil, Bea Longthorp, Nancy Makamda, Mohib Murtaza, Kenecki Nduka-Richard, Aine Olateju, Caroline Popham, Oliver Popham, Sarah Robertson, (Treasurer), Barry Smith (Bursar BWS) and Neera Vashisht

### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies received from Charles Taverner (Chair), Kate Doyle and Amanda Thomas,

### **2 School Update and Funding Requests (BS)**

- a) A good start to the year: Year 7 have arrived and some new additions to year 9 where there had been vacancies so almost full cohort for lower and middle schools. 350 offers made for year 12 and 195 students have started. Always a difficult balance to make enough offers to fill places.
- b) 11+ exams have just been held for over 360 boys on Saturday for around 160 places and results should be out shortly.
- c) Very pleased with GCSE and A level exams this year despite the national suppression of grades by exams boards. 20 students were offered places at Oxbridge, more than in previous years but this perhaps reflects the fact that this was the largest year 13 cohort to date.
- d) As far as Estate management goes, the School is still fundraising for the artificial grass pitch, (MUGA) and hopes to complete that by the end of the year. The Mac Suite for the Music Department ran into difficulties when it became apparent that the new Macs also required new monitors, so the decision was taken to purchase 16 Macs and monitors and raise money for the additional 8 required. The biggest project at present is the proposed build behind Bishopsgate. Objections from local residents and advice from the planners has required a change of design; originally it was proposed to have a more boxy building to reflect the buildings around the site but the redesign will now be

more traditional in appearance with a pointed roof. This will hopefully be submitted and approved by Christmas but it will make it difficult to ensure completion before the start of the new 2024 academic year as originally planned.

- e) Funding requests: the School would be happy for the BWSPA to support the purchase of a new minibus as planned. However, as a result of the delay between the bid for Government funding for the Bishopsgate development and the completion date has grown, costs have risen substantially and the School is likely to need significant external support to complete it and would appreciate support from the BWSPA with this.
- f) In light of the recent concern about RAAC, it was confirmed that there is no RAAC in any of the School's current buildings.

### **3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 15th June 2023 & Matters Arising (Chair)**

Minutes available at [BWSPA Constitution, Committee Membership and Minutes](#)

No amendments, agreed and proposed SR, seconded NB

### **4 Forthcoming Events/Activities**

#### **a) Second Hand Uniform Sales update (Emma Jones)**

Sales are planned for the second Saturday in each half term, except next term when the sale will be held in conjunction with the Grammar Christmas Fair. Sales have been improving over the last 3 years – 2020/21 – c £3k; 2021/22 - c£2.5k; 2022/23 – c£6k.

Reasons for the significant increase this year include the move into the former Uniform Shop,

It was suggested by new attending parents that Whats App groups had been set up in each of the classes, unfortunately with confirmation from the school we as a Parents Association cannot support the use of these methods to communicate our events as there is no moderation guaranteed within these groups. We the BWSPA will therefore continue to communicate through our school website and through existing channels

#### **b) Y7 Skittles evenings 2023 (All)**

Bookings have closed for 7P (almost full) and 7J (full) Skittles Evenings but families are welcome to come to their non-house evening.

Max number is 50 to include 2 prefects and 2 BWSPA volunteers

A couple of families requested alternative meals due to allergies but the pub can't cater for this so parents will be offered a refund or invited to donate payments already made.

Volunteers should be at the Black Horse pub by 6.30pm to set up banner, display boards, meet prefects and set up raffle.

Last night changes to availability of volunteers meant Neera and Kenecki offered to help and will be supported by current Committee members.

Some confusion about ensuring the year 13 prefects would be hand is being

resolved by Head of Lower School.

It was agreed that raffle prizes would be 2 bottles of wine and box of chocolates and raffle tickets would be sold @ 50p or £2.50 a strip of 5.

**c) Quiz Night Autumn Term 2023 (NB)**

Normally held in Feb/Mar, it was agreed last term that an additional quiz night would be held in November. Date has been set for Friday 10 November at 7 pm to be held in the Dining Hall at BWS. Max number is 90. Tickets will be sold via the website as usual.

Quiz masters are Nicolette and Phil Beardsmore

Catering is likely to be Domino's Pizzas. Assuming pizza prices to be around £4.50 for extra small and £10 for medium pizzas, it was provisionally agreed that ticket sales would be £7 and £14. Nicolette to confirm details with Domino's shortly.

Two volunteers would be needed to co-ordinate allocation of pizzas on arrival and two volunteers to run the bar.

Bea Longthorp, Oliver Popham and Neera Vashisht volunteered to help on the night.

Hopefully, Charles Taverner's contact for drinks sales would be able to help with the purchase of drinks for the bar.

**d) Grammar Christmas Fair – Saturday 25 November 2023 (NB)**

Looking for new organisers as Nicolette Beardsmore will be leaving the School in June so to ensure handover, at least 2 or 3 new organisers are needed to work with Friends of SWGS and coordinate stall holders, volunteers and the cafe as well as set up and take down. Email will be circulated shortly, inviting people to attend a planning meeting.

**e) Lecture and Dinner (CP)**

We are still hoping to pin down Mark Labbett 'The Beast', BWS Old Boy, to give a talk at a BWSPA fundraising dinner during this academic year.

**e) AGM -Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 6.30 pm (RJ)**

Meeting to elect new Committee role holders, specifically, the Chair (as Charles Taverner is stepping down) as well as Vice-Chair, Secretary and Communications Secretary (all currently vacant and being managed in an ad hoc manner by current members who themselves are leaving the School in June 2024). The Committee is also seeking volunteers to run specific events.

Any queries about these roles, please email [info@bwspa.org.uk](mailto:info@bwspa.org.uk)

**5 1000 Club (OG)**

This monthly raffle, funded by monthly subscriptions, urgently needs more subscribers. Currently it yields around £2.5k in profits per annum to the BWSPA but with only just over 100 subscribers there is the potential to raise much more. At present there is £1,358 available to transfer towards new funding initiatives.

**6 Finance Update**

Currently there is a total of £18,376.18 in all accounts. Recent highlights: Cricket Bash raised £521.93, Uniform sales since April raised £3650 and various Parents Welcome Events raised £194.85. An exact profit from Rain or Shine Theatre event is still to be confirmed.

The Summer Drinks party had to be cancelled unfortunately but hopefully this will go ahead 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 school for video equipment.

Chair has received a request from Sports Department to support the 6<sup>th</sup> Form girls' netball/rugby tour. £10k is needed in donations and Richard Demain-Griffiths has asked if the BWSPA could fund £1k. There was broad agreement in principle, but more precise details were requested before final approval given.

It was suggested that if the girls are looking for fundraising opportunities, they could take a stall at the grammar Christmas Fair.

## **6 AOB**

Zainab Dangana is liaising with School Careers' Advisor, Sally Armstrong, to provide careers opportunities and events for students via her employer. Further details to follow.

### **Loungers Clothing update (NB)**

The proposal to sell Loungers to students and families as a new fundraising initiative has been put on hold but hopefully with so many new members, we can find someone to take this forward. Deferred to the next meeting.

**Date of the next meeting is Tuesday 14 November at 7pm, directly following the AGM at 6.30pm**