

**Old Retfordians' Association**  
**Annual General Meeting - Saturday 20th April 2024 - Minutes**  
**Ye Olde Bell, Barnby Moor**

**1. Attendees & Apologies**

**Present:**

Ged Moss (Sec)	Peter Kenworthy	Dan Needham
Alan Stennet	Jack Barber (Pres)	Paul Kerr
Brian Gabbitas	Robert Chambers	Simon Hart (Tre)
John Dernie	Tom Oxley	Chris Littlewood
Jonty Connor	Peter Holdsworth	Richard Stubbs
Robin Williams	Les Beldham	Robert Illet (later)

**Absent:**

Peter Skelton  
Peter Hulme  
Andy Farmer  
Steve Hill (refund)  
Chris Trend

**2. Minutes of AGM 2023**

Robert Chambers diligently read out the entire minutes of the 2023 AGM (these can also be found on the ORA website). They were proposed by AS, seconded by RC, and approved with the correction of having omitted JO and PK both present in 2023.

**3. President's Report**

Jack Barber opened his address with a summary of Association members, 33 life (paid) members, a smaller new of part paid from an overall total of currently 181 pupils registered.

Jack regaled us with his first Old Retfordian gathering in 1965, the bellowing of Tash Illingworth, the lounge suit dress attire, and the presence then of the Headmaster. After the merger of the two schools (1979) he discontinued teaching at Sir Frederick Milner's and shared insight into his subsequent career in the NHS.

Jack concluded his speech with a thanks to the association officers for their work and proposed a formal toast.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Simon Hart's Treasurers report was short because we've experience some problems adding access to the Nat West account to new officers. A posthumous report will be circulated with the minutes .

## 5. Election of Officers

The Secretary reminded the group of both the importance of the organising committee, the light load resulting from its sharing, and encouraged those present to step forward as they felt able.

- a) President – incumbent **Jack Barber** re-standing, no further nominations. Nominated by PH and seconded by TO
- b) Vice President – new candidate **Robin Williams**, no further nominations. Nominated by PH, seconded by TO
- c) Treasurer – incumbent **Simon Hart** re-standing, no further nominations. Nominated by RW, seconded by TO
- d) Assistant Treasurer – no nominations, vacant
- e) Secretary – incumbent CT having resigned, **Ged Moss** will offer himself. No further nominations. Nominated by TO, seconded by LB
- f) Assistant Secretary – no nominations, vacant.
- g) Reunion Organiser – incumbent **Simon Hart** re-standing, no further nominations. Nominated by CL, seconded by DN.

There are voluntary positions not subject to election

- a) Bassetlaw Museum Liaison – **Robert Ilett**, acknowledged and appreciation noted
- b) Archives Co-ordinator – **Tom Oxley**, acknowledged and appreciation noted
- c) Zoom Host – **David Waterfield**, not present, acknowledged and appreciation noted

## 6. Constitution Changes Proposed (attached)

Peter, having been “confronted by some High School girls” introduced a paper (attached) containing changes to the constitution was presented by PH in respect of

- Associate membership for Retford pupils outside of the King Edward VI (grammar) school
- Formalising the £25 x 2 payments membership option, exercised, but not officially in the (2021) constitution.
- Both amendments, were proposed by PH, seconded by GM and approved without dissent.

## 7. Archival of Memorabilia

How to deal with members memorabilia was raised by JB.

Photos and documents can be scanned/submitted, or passed to the webmaster for scanning but not possible for physical items such as the school bell\* (allegedly) still possessed by JB.

\* The item was interspersed with Jack's anecdotes of copying school keys left attended, and CID interrogations following the theft of school Mercury. The association has no official storage (Retford Oaks school has been approached without success) but please bring them to a meeting and we will endeavour to transfer physical items to the museum via local members such as RI.

## 8. Any Other Business

- (1) Membership **subscriptions**. TO reminded group of the need to extend these to sustain the website in particular. Anyone present, not yet subscribed was urged to do so and bank details shared. CL noted he had paid which GM confirmed to be the case.
- (2) A **list of ORA subscribers** or "benefactors" can now be found at [http://www.oldretfordians.org.uk/0-AboutUs/LIST\\_BENEFACTORS.PHP](http://www.oldretfordians.org.uk/0-AboutUs/LIST_BENEFACTORS.PHP)
- (3) SH volunteered the possibility of commemorating, later in the year, the **anniversary of the Fives Court**, a memorial to the life of service man and pupil, William Eyre - more information to follow.
- (4) Email addresses – everyone was reminded of the importance of letting the Secretary know if your email address changes.
- (5) Thanks were made for the work of the Secretary

## 9. Date and Time for next AGM, 2025, and interim zoom calls, are suggested

*[The meeting was temporarily paused whilst the meal starters were served and consumed].*

- a. 2025 AGM – 19<sup>th</sup> April will be Easter weekend, so **26<sup>th</sup> April 2025 agreed**
- b. Summer zoom call – dates pre-agreed with David will be circulated with the minutes
- c. Autumn zoom call
- d. Winter zoom call

## 10. Meeting Close