

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
BRITISH & FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY HELD AT
METHODIST CHURCH HOUSE, 25 MARYLEBONE ROAD,
LONDON AT 2.00PM ON WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY 2007**

Present: The Rev Baroness Richardson of Calow
OBE (President)
Rev Prof S C Orchard (Chairman)
Mr R B Howarth (Vice Chairman)
Mr D A Swain (Treasurer)
Mr H Barclay
Ms L Broadbent
Mr R E Dimsdale
Mrs P D Draycott
Mr P Fishpool
Dr A Haigh
Mrs A Hillyard
Prof S R Hodgkinson
Mr J Kidd
Mr G T Kingsley
Ms S Lane
Mrs S Phoenix
Miss R E Stephens
Mr A Stevens
Rev D Tennant
Dr E I Waitt
Miss G Wood
Mr B York

In Attendance: Mr C M C Crawford (Secretary)
Mrs B R Lawrance

Welcome: The President welcomed all those attending and said she was delighted to be able to take the chair this year. She welcomed Belinda Lawrance from the BFSS staff and the guest speakers, Mr Humphrey Barclay, a member of the Society and Chairman of The Friends of Tafo and Mr Alex Cook from Love Russia. She expressed her sadness at the death of Mr Alan Hart, a member of Council and Chairman of The Property Committee.

Prayer The Chairman led the meeting in prayer.

AGM07/01

Apologies for Absence were received from The Rt Rev John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, the Moderator of The Free Churches Group, Dr H Bagworth-Mann, Mr R Barrett,

Mr J R Bell, Dr J Biggs, Mrs J M Bingham, Mr R H Burnett, Mr M E Carrick, Dr G P Collins, Mr V Craggs, Mrs F Dodwell, Dr D K Jones, Mrs M E Knights, Mrs C Purkiss, Mrs M Reed, Dr M H Richardson, Mrs M Rollason, Mr D W Spencer, Mr F Stephenson, Professor L Thomas, Dr I Turner, Mr C Winlow, Miss E J M Woodland.

AGM07/02

Minutes of the AGM held on 17 May 2006

These were approved subject to the inclusion of Mr Alan Hart among those present and the amendment to line 5 of paragraph 2 of item AGM06/05 to read "Society's archive together with the other two archives.....". After amendment the Chairman will sign the record.

AGM07/03

Matters Arising

The Secretary reported the Archbishop of York had now accepted the position of Vice President and had expressed an interest in the work of the Society.

AGM07/04

Annual Report 2006

The Director presented the Annual Report for 2006.

He started by emphasising that the Society relied upon its investments to generate the income from which it made grants in accordance with its charitable purposes. It was therefore most unfortunate that the Bell Educational Trust had declined to renew its lease on the College at Saffron Walden after negotiating for so long. Rental income from this property and the George Dent Nursery School in Darlington made up more than one third of the Society's income.

The Society was delighted that for a further year in succession more had been awarded in grants than had been achieved previously. Administration costs including the contribution to the Archive were well under control. The Director found it very exciting and stimulating that the Society was able to make grants to help support education in 26 countries around the world in addition to the individual grants made under the International Award Scheme. He highlighted the fact that Council had reviewed the criteria for grants and although little change had been made, greater emphasis had been placed on awards to institutions rather than individuals and on allowing grants to be made over a period of years which allowed recipients to plan ahead with confidence. He said that a

number of major new grants had now been approved. He believed the Society to be well found financially.

He concluded by thanking all members of Council and the BFSS staff for their support and he felt proud and privileged to be the Society's Director.

AGM07/05

Archive Report

Following on from the main report, Mr Brian York, as Secretary of the Archive Committee gave a brief report. He said that the Archive was now well established at the Runnymede Campus and a lot of progress had been made with its catalogue and organisation. He reminded the meeting that it was part of the Heritage Builds Bridges project with Hillingdon Borough Council who had secured Lottery funding for a further year. He commented that although the new facilities were very good they were difficult to access by public transport and this may account for the reduced number of visitors. Although the campus had now been sold, security of tenure of the archive building was assumed until September 2010 which was the deadline by which Hillingdon Council were due to have provided new premises.

AGM07/06

2006 Audited Accounts

The Treasurer made a brief report on the accounts, echoing the Director's view that the Society was in a sound financial state. He drew attention to the increased value of assets and believed the Society had adequate resources for its grant-giving programme. He was satisfied that administrative costs were well under control.

He invited questions but as there were none, he concluded by thanking the staff and auditors for their hard work.

The President proposed that the accounts be adopted as approved by the Council and this was carried unanimously.

AGM07/07

Appointments

President

Baroness Richardson had indicated her willingness to continue and was re-elected unanimously.

Chairman

The President started by noting that the Reverend Professor Stephen Orchard had decided to stand down after 11 years as President. She congratulated him on the successful way he had brought the Society through a difficult period and into a new era of greater resources and grant-giving. On behalf of the Society she expressed great thanks to him for all that he had done for the Society and presented him with a book as a present from the membership.

In reply Reverend Professor Orchard thanked the president for her kind words and the Society, and particularly the Council and staff throughout his time, for their support. He hoped to continue to support the Society as a member of Council in the future.

The President said that there was one nomination for Chairman, Mr Roger Howarth. He was elected unanimously.

Treasurer

The President proposed that Mr David Swain be re-elected as Treasurer for the second year of a three year term. This was carried unanimously.

Auditors

The Treasurer proposed the re-appointment of the Auditors, James Worley & Sons. This was seconded by Mr Howarth and carried unanimously.

Members of Council

The Secretary read the names of those members of Council who were due for re-election. They had confirmed that they were willing and eligible to stand. They were:-

Dr H Bagworth-Mann
Mr M Carrick
Mr V Craggs
Mr R Dimsdale
Mrs P D Draycott
Professor S Hodgkinson
Mr R B Howarth
Miss R E Stephens

All were duly re-elected. There were no proposals for new members of Council.

AGM07/08**Presentations**

The President introduced Mr Humphrey Barclay, a member of the Society, who gave a most interesting talk about the work of his charity, Friends of Tafo, and how it had used the BFSS grant to provide computer facilities in the schools of Kwahu Tafo.

Thanking Mr Barclay for his presentation, she introduced Mr Alex Cook, the CEO of the charity Love Russia who spoke about their work with orphaned children in Russia, which has been helped by grants from the Society. The President thanked Mr Cook most warmly for his presentation.

AGM07/09**Date of Next Meeting**

After a short discussion, it was agreed that the meeting next year would be at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 21 May 2008.

The President thanked all those attending for their presence and closed the meeting at 3.10pm.

Minuted by:

Secretary

Authenticated by:

Chairman

AGM07.Mins/CC/brl