

**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, 21 MAY 2008**

Present: The Rev Baroness Richardson of Calow  
OBE (President)  
Mr R B Howarth (Chairman)  
Mr G T Kingsley (Vice-Chairman)  
Rev D Tennant (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr D A Swain (Treasurer)  
Mr H Barclay  
Mr J Bell  
Ms L Broadbent  
Mr M E Carrick  
Mrs E Charlesworth  
Mr R E Dimsdale  
Mr P Fishpool  
Mrs A Hillyard  
Mrs Diana Hoy  
Prof S R Hodgkinson  
Mr J Kidd  
Ms S Lane  
Mr M Roger  
Miss R E Stephens  
Mr A Stevens  
Dr E Tomlinson  
Dr E I Waitt  
Miss G Wood  
Mr B York

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

Convening Notice: The Secretary read the Convening  
Notice at the request of the President.

Welcome: The President welcomed all those present and  
particularly Robert Rouse, the Society's Auditor, Belinda  
Lawrance on the staff of the BFSS, and the guest speakers,  
Jane Orr from the Bloomfield Learning Centre and Colin  
Morrison and Jane Rigby, both from the Royal Wanstead  
Children's Foundation.

Prayer The Reverend David Tennant, Vice Chairman,  
led the meeting in prayer.

**AGM08/01**

**Apologies for Absence** were received from The Rt Rev John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, Reverend Professor S C Orchard (Moderator of the URC), The President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, Dr H Bagworth-Mann, Mr R E Barrett, Dr J Biggs, Dr G P Collins, Mr V Craggs, Ms J Green, Dr D K Jones, Mrs M E Knights, Mrs C Purkiss, Mrs M Rogers, Mrs M Rollason, Mr F Stephenson, Professor L Thomas, Dr I Turner, Mr C Winlow.

Reverend Professor Stephen Orchard was particularly sorry to be away in his Vice-Presidential year. The Director said that Mrs Bowers, who maintained the Society's accounts, was also sorry not to be present.

**AGM08/02****Minutes of the AGM held on 23 May 2007**

These were approved subject to two amendments:-

- a. AGM 07/05. The penultimate line should read "by which Hillingdon Council, Brunel University and the Society in partnership were due..."
- b. AGM 07/07. The section covering the Chairman to be amended so that the word "President" is replaced by "Chairman".

The President then signed the record.

**AGM08/03****Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**AGM08/04****Annual Report 2007**

The Director introduced his report for 2007 by pointing out that, over the passage of time, the Society had moved gradually from a position of being property rich and cash poor to the reverse with now little property and the bulk of the endowment invested in equities and other financial instruments.

The rent review for the George Dent Nursery in Darlington had resulted in a smaller increase in rent than had been hoped for but it was difficult to argue a case with few comparators available.

Commenting on the sale of the Saffron Walden site, the Director acknowledged the frustrations he had experienced in dealing with the Bell Educational Trust. However, the part of

the site that had been sold following the vacation of the premises had raised significantly more than the valuation on the Balance Sheet and significantly more than the price which had been proposed to Bells should they decide to continue as tenants but with an option to buy at a later stage. The remaining element of the site was subject to a planning application, but the Director was less confident of successful completion since the application seemed to be generating significant opposition.

Turning to the other investments, the Director said that the last year had been a difficult one, due partly to the well known downturn in the markets, particularly at the end of the year, and partly to the significant outflow of cash to settle the adverse possession claim in Saffron Walden. As a result, the investments managed by Brewin Dolphin had not achieved their targeted return but it had to be remembered that the target was set for a rolling three year period and one adverse year could well be balanced by a more favourable one. In any event, the unexpected appreciation of the property assets when sold had meant that the overall endowment had adequately met what was expected of them. The challenge for the future would be to ensure that there was sufficient income to support the Society's charitable activities.

In making grants totalling £448,455 the Society had not only met the target set by Council for the year but had once again exceeded the previous record for grants given. However, the Director felt that, with the current state of the markets, the Society should not look to matching last year's target let alone exceeding it. He felt that the Society should be proud of the fact that they were contributing to education in so many different countries around the world. He highlighted the SEN Project, the Village Education Project, Kilimanjaro and HopeHIV which had been identified as signatory projects for the Society in the Bi-centennial year. Comment was made on the success of the International Awards Scheme and tribute paid to Mike Carrick who had been Chairman of its Committee for many years.

In conclusion, the Director drew attention to the Balance Sheet which showed a healthy increase over the year and stated his belief that the Society was soundly based to continue its activity in the future.

Having invited questions, the President told the meeting that the Report had been accepted by the Council and it was recommended for adoption. The meeting so agreed.

**AGM08/05****2007 Audited Accounts**

The Treasurer made a brief report on the Accounts and endorsed the view that the Society was in a sound financial state. He drew particular attention to the increase of nearly £4million in value of the Society's assets and also commented that, other than property, returns on investments had been somewhat disappointing. He felt that the costs of administration were very reasonable for a charity with assets of this size. He proposed a vote of thanks to the Director and staff of the office which the meeting approved.

Having invited questions, the President told the meeting that the Accounts had been approved by the Council and were recommended for adoption. The meeting approved their adoption unanimously.

**AGM08/06****Archive Report**

The President invited Brian York, Secretary of the Archive Committee, to make a short report. He highlighted the fact that the archive was still at Runnymede on the old Brunel Campus but that it could only remain there until the end of 2010. There was therefore a pressing need to find suitable accommodation that met the standards required for archives. There was some concern over the staffing after September when current contracts expired, but this was being discussed by the parties involved. He mentioned the recent re-opening of the Lancasterian Schoolroom in Hitchin which had been well attended. He also drew the meeting's attention to the fact that Richard and Yvonne Burnett had retired from the Committee after many years service.

The President thanked Mr York for his report.

**AGM08/07****Appointments****President**

Baroness Richardson had indicated her willingness to continue as President and was re-elected with acclamation.

**Vice-Presidents**

The Director read the list of Vice-Presidents who were re-elected unanimously.

### Chairman

Mr Roger Howarth was confirmed as Chairman for the second year of his current 3 year term.

### Treasurer

Mr David Swain was confirmed as Treasurer for the second year of his current 3 year term.

### Auditors

The Treasurer proposed and the Chairman seconded that Messrs James Worley and Sons be re-appointed as the Society's Auditors. This was agreed unanimously.

### Members of Council

The Chairman proposed votes of thanks and appreciation to the two retiring members of Council:-

- Angela Hillyard who had served for 6 years and was a stalwart and active supporter of the British School at Hitchin. She was also a meticulous scrutineer of Council papers.
- Mike Carrick who had been a member of Council for 15 years and during that time had been a pillar of strength for the International Awards Scheme, Chairman of the British School Charity, and member of the Executive and Durham University Committees. He would be sorely missed and was thanked for his commitment to the Society.

The meeting endorsed the Chairman's remarks.

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

Mr Peter Fishpool  
Mr Graham Kingsley  
Mr Tony Stevens  
Miss Gillian Wood

In addition, Dr Emily Tomlinson had been proposed as a new member of Council and was willing to stand.

All were elected unanimously

**AGM08/08**

**Presentations**

The President introduced Mrs Jane Orr who thanked the Society for its continued support and gave a most interesting talk about the work of the Bloomfield Learning Centre which does very valuable work teaching children with Special Needs, particularly severely dyslexic ones, to read.

Following questions, the President thanked Mrs Orr for her presentation and then introduced Mr Colin Morrison, Chairman of the Royal Wanstead Children's Foundation. Having thanked the Society for their generous support which was helping to fund 5 children whose difficult circumstances dictated that they needed to be in a boarding school, Mr Morrison gave an overview of the work of his charity which was only slightly younger than the Society and whose founders had known each other. He highlighted the lack of boarding places generally and in the state sector in particular.

The President thanked Mr Morrison most warmly for his presentation.

**AGM08/09**

**Date of Next Meeting**

The President announced that the next Annual General meeting would be held on Wednesday 20 May 2009 at 2.00pm.

She then declared the meeting closed at 3.15 pm.

Minuted by:

Secretary

Authenticated by:

Chairman

AGM08.Mins/CC/brl