



EX CORDE VITA.

KING ALFRED SCHOOL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 122nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON 11th FEBRUARY 2020

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 11th February 2020 at 7.00 p.m. in the Main Hall.

<u>Present:</u>	Kara Conti	President
	Annabel Cody	Chair
	Council members	
	71 other KASS members	

<u>In attendance:</u>	Robert Lobatto	Head
	Julie Saunders	Secretary

President's welcome

Kara Conti, President of KASS, welcomed members to the 122nd Society AGM. In her opening remarks Kara paid tribute to two giants of King Alfred School who had died in the previous year. Dawn Moore, KAS's own "homegrown", adored by the children and who had given the best years of her life to the school before her tragically early death at the end of 2019. And Areta Hautman, a parent and Council member whose forty years of service to the school had laid down the benchmark for a good school governor, an example and inspiration to all and not least to be remembered for her drive that gave us the school history in the green book!

Kara then spoke of how the Society had spent the subscription money this year including financing educational research and a second very successful TEDx event, which again saw a mix of parent, staff and pupils speak.

Before closing Kara asked those standing for Council to stand up to identify themselves in advance of the ballot to elect new Council members.

Chair's Introduction

Annabel Cody, Chair of Council, welcomed everyone and noted that she would be updating the meeting on the past year from a Council's point of view.

Annabel gave a brief introduction to Council for those who were new to the, outlining that it was a group of 21 members, many of whom were present at the meeting. She explained

that the role of Council was to oversee the financial, strategic and educational direction of the school, to make sure everything is in place ensure the school is able to operate correctly and to plan for the future, in the short and longer term. It did not get involved in the running of the school as this was the responsibility of Robert and his senior leadership team.

Annabel explained that the guiding principles to all the work done by Council was the KAS ethos. The founders of the school had called their brand of education 'rational', or in today's terminology cutting edge or research-based. and they established KAS to be a model school, putting children at the centre and fostering independent learning in a close and informal community. Council's job as governors is to oversee the proper running of the school -all the time with those promises of our founders whispering in our ears.

Annabel went on to review the past year, which had not been without its challenges. A significant challenge at the start of the year had been when the Treasury announced a 45% increase to employer contributions to the Teachers' Pension Fund. Annabel highlighted the potential impact this could have had on the school's finance and how it had been resolved, as a community, in consultation with the teachers to come up with a four part approach which enabled KAS to stay in the TPS whilst being accompanied by a package of measures that shared the burden across the board, with the intension that this would not only to cover the short term but also provide a template for the future.

Annabel also mentioned that perhaps the most evident development of the past year had been the new sixth form building. Annabel noted that Council, SLT and Estates had all worked intensively over the year on the planning and demolition of the old building so that the school in readiness for the building work to begin.

Annabel went on to explained that Council now had an agreed strategy and objectives which it would review annually. Annabel took the opportunity to thank all Council members for their unparalleled commitment over the past year.

Annabel highlighted the work that the new Development office, headed by Tamlyn, had been doing over the past year. They had now built networks through events, social media and just taking the time to talk to people, hear their stories and make connections. The school is pleased to now have an expanded community of Old Alfredians.

Finally, Annabel also remembered with appreciation Areta and Dawn. Areta had been an outstanding and committed member of Council for over 40 years during which time her enthusiasm for school was unwavering. Dawn was at Kind Alfred's for 29 years and was Head for 13 of those years. One of Dawn's strengths was that she always put the children first, putting her right at the centre of the KAS philosophy.

Annabel closed by looking forward to the year ahead and to Council's aim to take a deeper and more strategic look at how KAS should approach its public benefit so enable the school's education to best benefit others.

Apologies: No apologies were recorded.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 121th February 2019: There were no matters arising and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

Chair of Grounds and Buildings' Report

Fiona Hackett, Chair of Grounds and Buildings, gave her report. Fiona explained that the role of the Grounds and Building Committee is to help the school prioritise projects big and small, oversee how these are implemented, ensure that new buildings and alterations are in

keeping with the ethos of the school and help to maintain the cared for yet informal feel of the grounds.

Fiona explained that it had been a busy year for Grounds and Building preparing for the start of the Sixth Form Building and overcoming the many problems that inevitably arose when carrying out a project of this size. But all the work done had ensured that the project has finally ready to start.

Fiona closed by thanking the Estates Team and in particular Zah who had held his nerve through the torturous preparation process. Fiona also thanked to Julie who had kept the team up to speed with the financing of the project. Fiona closed by noting that she very much looking forward to seeing the finished building in just over a year's time.

Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st July 2019

Nick Friedlos, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, gave his report on the finances of the school. Nick started by outlining how Council and the Senior Management Team managed and monitored the school's finances. Nick noted that the business of the Finance Committee fell in to two broad areas: regular monitoring and oversight of the finances; and consideration of the broader financial issues that might affect the school over the medium and longer term. Nick highlighted the importance to the school of having a financial strategy that ensured it was able it to continue to deliver an excellent education to its students, meet its broader charitable objectives and invest in and improve the school's facilities going forwards.

Nick went on to review the accounts for the year ended 31 July 2019, highlighting that the school did not, unlike some independent schools, have a financial endowment to fall back on and that the committee was therefore always mindful in its planning of the potential impact its decisions could have on fees.

Nick reported that overall, the school was in a good financial position, with the year under review delivering another year of reasonable financial results. Nick noted that the cash position of the school was good and although an overdraft facility had been maintained for prudence, it had not been used in 2018/19 and was not expected to have to be used the current year. However, Nick did acknowledge that there were always potential shocks waiting around the corner, which could hurt the school. Nick concluded by summarising the current financial position as being comfortable but still needing to be mindful of the future and the risks and opportunities that the school might have to face.

Before moving to the formal business Nick expressed his thanks to Julie and the bursary team for their hard work in managing the school's finances and getting it to the position it now is in.

Nick proposed the adoption of the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31st July 2019. This was seconded by Sarah Phillips. The Report and Financial Statements were unanimously approved.

Election of Officers and Members of Council

The Secretary reported that Kara Conti had been nominated for the office of President. There being no other nominations, she was elected unanimously as President.

The Secretary reported that Nick Friedlos had been nominated for the office of Treasurer. There being no other nominations, he was elected unanimously as Treasurer.

The Secretary noted that there were retirement and reported the nominations for Members of Council as follows: retiring by rotation; Sandra Denicke-Polcher, Sam Jukes-Adam, John Nevin and Sophie Silocchi; new candidates; Shay David, Michael Jaffe, Kathie Reed, and Harry Wingate. It was noted that voting would close before the commencement of Robert Lobatto's Report.

Appointment of Auditors

Nick Friedlos proposed that Haysmacintyre LLP be appointed as the school's auditors for the year 2019-20 and that their remuneration be fixed by Council. The proposal was seconded by Philip Whale and carried unanimously.

Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 7:50 PM.

Julie Saunders Secretary

Following the AGM Robert Lobatto gave his report.