

## **The Old Alfredians' Club Summer Dinner and AGM The Bear Hotel Wantage July 5th 2014 Minutes**

### **The Summer 2014 Dinner was attended by**

J Wilkins 1954-59; D Haynes 1954-59; J Moland 1954-59; D Harrison 1944-50; A Snowdon 1964-71; Chicko Snowdon GUEST; J Nicholl 1954-59; B Downs 1953-60; C Walsh 1976-77; R Martin GUEST; L Martin (nee Haddrell) 1996-03; S Mears 1970-77; D Williams 1957-65; N Doody 1953-58; M Haddrell 1969-76; C Haddrell STAFF; R Harris 1952-58; D Ross 1968-71; A Mathewson 1969-76; S Gordon Walker 1971-78; M Stevenson 1943-49; J Haddrell 1943-48; N Mercer 1966-73; J Mercer 1966-73; S Smith 1969-76; R Taylor 1976-83.

### **Apologies were received from:**

R Austin 1951-57; G Wall 1943-46; C Brooke Smith 1926-34; I Stoter 1957-64; N Dunn 1969-76; S Clayton 1968-75; P Turle 1954-59; D Harris 1944-50; D Gibbons 1971-78; R Kearvell 1953-59; I Hobbs 1942-46; M Hainge 1968-75; G Baker 1940-52; W Arnold 1938-39; D Free 1936-43; E Winning 1944-47; A Knight 1932-45; J Mayall 1944-52; R Evans 1949-54; J Prentice 1975-82; M Booker 1937-42. The Headteacher, Simon Spiers, also sent his apologies as he had a commitment at the School Leavers' Ball. He showed a selection of Old Alfredians around the school prior to the dinner.

The President, Des Williams welcomed members and guests and said Grace. After Dinner he proposed the Penney toast and Old Alfredians remembered Mike Cornley of Faringdon who had passed away since our last meeting. In the absence of the Headteacher, The President reported on developments at the school. The next five years will see significant changes as the school grows in size to 2300 pupils with significant Academy funding providing for a new Art block and a new three storey building where the old Bailey, Butler, Lloyd House blocks currently stand. A new Science block is planned for 2017 and in due course a brand new Sixth Form Centre on the Recreation Centre side of Portway. East Site (formerly Icknield School) will be sold and Years 7-8 will be taught on West Site (the former Segsbury campus) with Centre Site accommodating Years 9-11. An entirely new school is likely to be built on the old Grove airfield to meet the growth of population consequent on significant house building in the Wantage-Grove area. King Alfred's will be 13 form entry in September 2014.

The Minutes of the 2013 AGM which had been circulated with the dinner letter and tabled were accepted on the proposal of Mathewson, seconded by Doody.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted on the proposal of Harris, seconded Taylor. The Treasurer Stephen Smith noted a small loss of £5.30 over the year explaining that for the two most recent dinners we have charged members the cost per meal which has been paid to the Bear with no allowance for expenses.

There is currently no President Elect and Des will serve a second year as planned handing over in Summer 2015. Nominations for the post are welcomed from the membership.

The Committee was re-elected en bloc on the proposal of Mathewson, seconded Taylor. President: Des Williams Sec. & Archivist M. Haddrell, Treas. S. Smith, Auditor G. Holliday, Cricket Marcus Haddrell, Soccer D Williams, Membership Secretary R. Taylor. Committee: D. Gibbons, G Mabbett, D Ross, N Doody.

Robert Harris proposed the toast to the school, recalling his time as a boarder in the 1950s when the school was much smaller. He spoke with affection of the tin chapel, the fire escape, secret smoking locations and the eavesdropping opportunities afforded by the cupboard between the prefects' room and the masters' room.

There was some discussion about the venue for the dinner with plaudits for the Bear's food and some reservations about it being a public venue. The Committee will keep the matter under review, giving due consideration to representations from the membership. The refurbishments at the school will in due course provide a new potential venue.

David Haynes enquired about the Old Armoury which currently seems to be safe from demolition and a small discussion reflected on the change of name from OTC to CCF.

Requests were made and answered for outstanding payments of dinner money. The dates of the next meetings are November 29 2014 July 4 2015

