

**MINUTES OF THE 97<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HILLHEAD HIGH SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL TRUST HELD IN HUGHENDEN, 32 HUGHENDEN ROAD, GLASGOW G12 9XP ON THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2019**

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies for absence were received in respect of V Kidd, L Legendre, H Lockhart, L Melville, L Robertson, S Ross, P Soden and D Welsh.

**NOTICE OF MEETING:**

The Notice of the Meeting, having been duly circulated to the members, was taken as read, on the proposal of Mr Green, seconded by Mr Trotter.

**MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the previous AGM held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018, having been previously circulated to the members on the website, were adopted on the proposal of Mr Kitchener, seconded by Mr Green.

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

**DIRECTORS' REPORT:**

The Chairman reported on the year 2018

- Tough year financially in 2018
  - Deficit before tax of £22k (c.f. £37k surplus last year)
  - Finished year with £56k in bank (£50k last year)
- Investment in Grounds Equipment
- Investigative works in water usage
- Appointment of new Maintenance Contractor
- New Gym Manager
- Recruitment of Membership Administrator
- Continued contribution of Club and Hub Coordinator
- New Social and Communications Operative

Sporting achievements

- Rugby Ladies winning premier league
  - Sadly defeated in Sarah Beany Cup Final
- Cricket remained in Div 2
- Rugby Gents remain in Div 3
- Tennis – 1 team gained promotion, other gents teams remained, tougher year for the ladies
- Enhanced indoor programme
- Continued affiliations with Glasgow Mid-Argyll Shinty Club and Glasgow Ultimate Frisbee Club
- Tartan Touch (rugby) will return this year after a successful inaugural season at Hughenden

Initiatives

- Cricket Practice Nets
  - Installation taking place in May
- Rugby Training Lights

- Awaiting Grant Award to assist with funding
- Ongoing rolling Gym Equipment replacement planning, dependent on availability of funds
- Renewal of telecom mast lease
- Investigation of advertising lease options near GWR
- Review of Parking given upcoming challenge

In response to a question, Mr Taylor said that negotiations are taking place about the renewal of the telecom mast lease but that he could not give more detail at present because of commercial confidentiality. He did say that there had been a delay in the negotiations caused by the implications of a recent legal ruling about a mast on a sports ground in England.

The new parking regulations in the local area will present us with problems but the Board is looking at solutions to parking inside our grounds for essential staff users and a limited number of places thereafter. Pop up poles at the parking bays are one possibility. Parking for visiting teams is being organised and once details are known about this and about when the regulations come into force, the members will be notified by newsletter.

### **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:**

The Chairman outlined the financial overview of 2018, then handed over to Ms Lawton.

- Total Turnover £261.6k for 2018 (2017: £303.7k)
- Excluding tennis court donations in 2017 of £38.1k underlying turnover for 2017 was £265.6k
- Operating expenditure £232.7k (2017: £225.5k), up £7.1k or 3%
- Deficit of £(22.0)k for 2018 (2017: surplus £37.4k)
- Underlying deficit for 2017 excluding tennis court donations was £(0.7)k
- Total cash balances at 31 Dec. = £55.8k (2017: £49.6k)

Ms Lawton explained that the 2017 accounts had shown a large figure relating to donations for the tennis courts; also there had been quite a bit of membership income which related to unpaid subscriptions from earlier years so the lower 2018 figures are explained. She said that the water figures are being closely monitored, and we are hopeful of managing to get something reimbursed from the period with the leak. In 2017 the accounts only showed half a year of depreciation on the tennis courts, whereas 2018 shows a whole year. Mr Green asked if the work done by Lizzie and Shona is showing a return on this investment; he was told that it seemed to be doing this with the figures catching up on unpaid memberships and the work now being done to improve communication between the playing sections and the membership administrator to avoid any future problems. He asked about Glasgow Life's input and was told that this went directly to assisting the sections. Mr Mitchell suggested Lizzie should attend Rugby section meetings; he was told that she already supplies membership information to the sections and that they can raise concerns at the Membership Sub-committee. A question was asked about the gym and Ms Lawton said there had been a recent dip in members numbers here, perhaps caused by the opening of new local gyms. In response to a question about whether we collect information about why people leave, she said this would be passed to the Membership Sub-committee for possible action if it is feasible. Mr Mitchell noted that the deficit of £22,000 was a cause for concern, but also that cash in the bank had increased. Mr Frame asked if the cash in the sinking fund was ringfenced for certain projects; he was told that this was the case, and that the sinking fund cash is kept in a separate account. Ms Lawton acknowledged that cash is tighter at the moment but hoped that trading over the summer would help to bring it back up.

There being no further questions about them, the accounts for 2018 were adopted on the proposal of Mr Frame, seconded by Mr Kirkpatrick.

#### **SECTION REPORTS:**

Reports were given in respect of Cricket, Rugby and Tennis. The Chairman thanked them for all their activities during the past year which had made the club's name so well known.

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS:**

There being two nominations for seven places, Mr Kirkpatrick and Miss MacDonald were declared duly elected.

#### **ELECTION OF AUDITORS:**

On the proposal of Mr Frame, seconded by Mr Kirkpatrick, Messrs French Duncan LLP were elected as Auditors.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

(i) Mr Mitchell expressed his concern that there was a conflict of interest in that the Chairman is also Finance Director and Ground Convener, as well as groundsman. Mr Bond assured him that he took responsibility at Board level for arrangements relating to work on the grounds and the annual review – he had sought feedback from the sections. Miss MacDonald noted that she authorises payment on grounds related invoices. Mr Fowler noted that he too had been Chairman and Finance Director; during that time, he also had been involved in the tendering for work on the ground and writing the subsequent agreement. Mr Frame noted that the same question had been raised at a previous AGM and discussed then.

(ii) Mr Grove said there was a feeling amongst the Rugby section that they were not getting full value out of the pitches. He said that there had been a problem about a late cancellation during this season. Mr Taylor said that this had been unavoidable on the particular date this season but procedures had now been established to make sure it was not repeated. Mr Grove asked about the floodlights and was told that the application for a grant had been submitted on this project and that it would go ahead as soon as the money became available. He said that the rugby had not been able to train this season, and was told that the Board had provided additional funds to hire alternative pitches when Hughenden becomes unplayable; this has sometimes to be introduced earlier than normal so that the playing surface is not damaged and thus becomes unusable for a longer time. Mr Grove asked if there was any possibility of a 3G or 4G surface; he was told that the Board had looked at what was possible across the whole ground area in the past and considered a variety of improvements; the outcome of these discussions had been to support the work on the floodlights for the rugby and the establishment of the practice nets for the cricket. He was assured that the Board is always looking at possible schemes to improve what we can offer within the Hughenden grounds.

(iii) Mr Mitchell commented on the introduction of the parking restrictions and said that he felt this could cause the club a lot of problems.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2129 hours with a vote of thanks by Mr Mitchell to Mr Taylor.