

OXFORD FRIENDS OF HOPE AND FAITH SCHOOL

Third Annual General Meeting

Held at Cumnor United Reformed Church on 21st October 2017 starting at 11 o'clock

1. Rev'd Nigel Appleton opened the meeting with prayer.
2. The Chairman (Malcom Townsend) welcomed participants and explained the order of business.
3. The Treasurer (Richard Dewar) presented his report. The accounts for 2016 showed an income received for Wyn Cornish Awards in the year amounted to £13,300. His projection for the current year is that income to support awards will be around £11,000. He reminded those present that awards were made on the basis of a commitment for the whole length of the course: two, three or four years, money flowing in and money flowing out in any given year might not therefore match. Awards made in the current year amounted to £14,600. In addition the Appeal for laptops had raised £4,300 in the current year and a single donation from a Private Trust had contributed £5,000 divided between the Women's Business Centre and the Laptop Appeal. Richard reminded the meeting that Cumnor United Reformed Church, through its Epiphany Fund had contributed £6,500 in 2016 to the general support of the school and £18,500 had been raised in 2016 to enable additional land and property to be purchased. The Treasurer reported that the 2016 Accounts had been approved by the External Examiner as part of the Cumnor URC Accounts. The meeting therefore took note of the accounts and expressed thanks to the Treasurer for his work.
4. The Chairman presented his report, beginning with a recollection of the two remarkable women Wyn Cornish and Rosemary Mumbi, and of the development of the School and its facilities . He reported on the number of children currently in school and on new and current holders of Wyn Cornish Awards. Whilst the Oxford Friends could not support every qualified pupil who completed their education and sought funding for higher or trade education it could provide at least a part of an answer to the question "where does education lead?" Rosemary Mumbi had recently carried out a survey that established there were thirty pupils coming to the end of their secondary education, or "waiting at home for something to turn up", who could move on to higher or trade education if funding were available to them. Malcolm explained that the rate of inflation in Zambia in 2015 (21%) had driven up the cost of the Science Labs and the school had borrowed funds from a Government agency to fund the overspend. Whilst entirely

understandable the level of interest and capacity of the school to maintain repayment remained a source of concern. Some facilities and equipment were still lacking.

5. Rev'd Nigel Appleton reported on initiatives at the School since the last AGM and on his visit to Ng'ombe in June. He spoke of the development of the work of the Women's Business Centre and the increased capacity of that work through the funding of additional equipment. The need for laptop computers, identified during Malcolm's visit in March, had been magnificently responded to and it had been possible during his visit to purchase fourteen computers locally. Two were presented to members of staff and the remainder vested in the Women's Business Centre and leased to Wyn Cornish Award holders. The need for further land acquisition and buildings remained, although the cost seemed to be beyond reach of an organisation such as ours. MOLE Architects of Cambridge had undertaken to prepare a feasibility study for a modular approach to the provision of Assembly/Dining Hall and ancillary facilities that could be used in fundraising. Amos Mulenga had qualified as a Motor Mechanic and through two generous donations it would be possible to make him a "Business Start-Up Award" for the purchase of basic equipment and other expenses. Nigel also reported on the visit of the Vice-President of Zambia to the School and on the recognition of the School's work within the community of Ng'ombe that this signified.

6. Malcolm introduced the dilemma that that had been brought to the meeting by the Committee to seek their guidance. Originally the Wyn Cornish Awards covered only tuition costs. In the case of those students living on campus this had been extended to include accommodation costs. It had become clear that some of our award holders had no access to funds to feed themselves and meet other costs of maintenance. Individual circumstances varied but Rosemary Mumbi was obliged to support some of these out of her own pocket. To simply extend the value of grants within the current envelope of resources would result in a smaller number of awards being made. Discussion followed and it became clear that there was support in the meeting for a suggestion that an amount of money be made available to Rosemary from which she could make small grants to Award holders for their living expenses. Nigel Appleton proposed and Rev'd Pauline Main seconded the proposition that: "A sum of three thousand pounds should be made available to Mrs Mumbi from which she could make small grants to Award holders to meet their living expenses. The use of the funds to be monitored and the future of this addition to the programme be considered by the Committee. An appeal will be made for the funds to make this funding available in addition to the envelope of support for awards." This was passed unanimously by the meeting.

(Subsequent to the meeting Mr Robert Harris made a commitment to providing ten thousand pounds to be made available over three years for this purpose.)

7. Malcolm recorded that two members of the Committee: Mrs Glenda Appleton and the Treasurer, Mr Richard Dewar are appointed by Cumnor United Reformed Church. He proposed the names of the three other Committee members: Ms Anne Gow, (Organising Secretary), Rev'd Nigel Appleton and Rev'd Pauline Main to be elected to serve for a further year. This was passed unanimously.

Malcolm then relinquished the Chair and withdrew. Revd Nigel Appleton assumed the Chair and spoke of the leadership that Malcolm Townsend gave to the organisation, of Malcolm's intention to serve for only one further year, and then proposed his re-election. This was seconded by Anne Gow and Malcolm was unanimously elected to serve as Chair for a further year. Malcolm returned to the meeting and, with some concluding remarks, drew it to a close, inviting Rev'd Appleton to lead in prayer.

Members shared lunch together in the Church Hall as guests of Rev'd and Mrs Appleton