



The New Beacon

Parents' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on

5 December 2023 at 9am

Present

Head	Sarah Brownsdon
Chair	Cheryl Leonard
Treasurer	Kate White
Deputy Treasurer	Benedict Gilman
Deputy Secretary	Stephanie Belcourt
Class Representatives:	Annabel Byk
	Antonia Rumball
	Sarah Hinds
	Natalie Wilkinson
	Perry James
	Ivy Jing Li
	Sasha Grobler
	Harriet Ashdown
	Astrid Henwood
	Julia Westland
	Andrew Jameson
	Lucy Cleaver

The attendees constitute a quorum for the purposes of the AGM.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Clair Court (Secretary), Angela James, Yasmin Marar, Ashling Saunderson, Aleksandra Watney, Bonnie Tan, Lou Moodie, Lizzie Humphries, Julie Lucas and Kym Walker Herregods.

Adoption of Minutes from the last AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM held on 23 November 2022 were accepted as being a true and correct record of the proceedings with no matters arising.

Their adoption was approved with a majority vote.

Chair's Report

Please see below for the full report.

Treasurer's Report

Please see below for the Treasurer's full report for the year ending 31 August 2023.

Appointment of an Independent Reviewer

The committee must comply with the provisions of the Charities Act 2022 for the keeping of financial records. During the AGM, the committee put forward a motion to instruct Jane Ashcroft a chartered accountant, registered auditor and independent reviewer under the Charities Act 2022, to conduct an independent review of the NBPA accounts, financial year ending 31st August 2023. The cost was advised to be in the region of £400 + VAT.

This motion was passed with a majority vote.

Constitution amendments

The NBPA constitution is more than twenty years old and deserves our attention again. A motion was put forward to amend the constitution in order to allow virtual and telephone attendance at our meetings.

This motion was passed with a majority vote.

Election of Committee and Sub-committee

The committee elected and recorded the following appointments, which were all approved with a majority vote:

- Cheryl Leonard as Chair
- Clair Court as Secretary
- Ben Gilman as Deputy Treasurer

Details of the Committee and the Sub-Committee are set out at the end of this report.

Head's Report

Please see below for the full report.

AOB

No other business was raised. There being no further business the Chair thanked the Head, all parents and volunteers for their attendance and hard work and the meeting ended at 9.30am.

Committee and Sub-Committee of The New Beacon Parents' Association 2023/2024

Chair	Cheryl Leonard
Secretary	Clair Court
Treasurer	Kate White
Deputy Secretary	Stephanie Belcourt
Deputy Treasurer	Benedict Gilman
Merchandising	Lucy Cleaver
School Shop	Jane Peterkin
Seals	Sarah Hinds
Nursery	Annie Abbott
Reception	Yasmin Marar
Reception	Angela James
Reception (Events)	Ashling Saunderson
Year 1	Karin Boreham
Year 1	Julia Westland
Year 1 (Events)	Edita Lamb
Year 2	Natalie Wilkinson
Year 2 (Events)	Aleksandra Watney
Year 3	Ivy Jing Li
Year 3	Bonnie Tan
Year 3	Mo Ekiugbo
Year 4	Antonia Rumball
Year 4	Ning Wang
Year 4 (Events)	Joanna Botten
Year 5	Harriet Ashdown
Year 5	Richard Lawrence
Year 5	Nancy Jones
Year 5	Alex Garfield
Year 5	Emma Dowell
Year 5 (Events)	Lucy Ching
Year 5 (Events)	Sarah Hinds
Year 6	Holger Binding
Year 6	Phil Tippin
Year 6	Louise Moodie
Year 6 (Events)	Clarissa Sumovskij
Year 6 (Events)	Annabel Byk
Year 7	Lizzie Humphries
Year 8	Sasha Grobler
Year 8	Julie Lucas
Year 8	Kym Walker Herregods

NBPA AGM Chair's Report

As we gather here today, it is important for us to reflect on the achievements and challenges we have faced as a Parent's Association over the past year. We have witnessed remarkable growth and progress in various areas, be it fundraising efforts, community engagements, or advocacy for our son's education. Together, we have made a significant impact on The New Beacon and the lives of our sons.

First and foremost, I would like to commend our hardworking and dedicated committee members, Reps, School Shop, Seals Swimming and parents who have volunteered countless hours to ensure the success of our association. Your passion and determination are truly inspiring, and we owe you a debt of gratitude for your unwavering commitment.

I would like to extend our gratitude to Gary and his team, as well as Theresa, Nicola, Alison and all the staff and teachers, for their support and dedication. Their hard work has been instrumental in our success.

We are also delighted to have Mrs Brownsdon as Head of The New Beacon, and we greatly appreciate her innovative ideas and ongoing support. I think you will all agree that Mrs Brownsdon has made a really positive impact already.

Community engagement has been a priority for us, and we have strived to foster a sense of belonging and togetherness among our parents, teachers, staff and boys. By organising our events, we have created opportunities for everyone to connect and build lasting relationships.

The Christmas Fayre was a fantastic occasion. We introduced new elements such as Santa's Grotto, various game stalls, and a token card system. The boys, parents, staff and teachers all enjoyed themselves and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Mr Piercy's farewell event was a resounding success, with a strong turnout that included former New Beacon student Ben Earl, who is now a successful England rugby player. The atmosphere was delightful, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The biannual Summer Ball fundraiser, "An Evening Under the Stars," swiftly followed. It required a tremendous amount of hard work from all those involved to create a truly spectacular evening. We were fortunate to have the support of Knight Frank as our sponsor and welcomed a New Beacon dad as our auctioneer. I am proud to say that 50% of the funds raised through the auction and the "Buy a Cork" game were generously donated to a very worthwhile charity, Friends for Families. The night was filled with joy as we enjoyed wonderful food, bid for our son to be "head for the day" and danced to the live band.

It didn't stop there, a few weeks later the entire school united once more to organise another large-scale fundraising event, the Summer Fete. We introduced new features such as an online raffle, a card payment system, fun cards, and a year 8 tug of war, with Wellington taking home the trophy. Despite the challenges we faced, including the unpredictable British weather, we persevered and worked as a team. The result was an engaging and enjoyable day filled with fun activities for our children, as well as a chance for parents, friends, and families to relax and enjoy themselves.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible dedication and hard work of Jane Peterkin, Lucy Cleaver and their team in running the school shop. Their tireless efforts have made it our biggest contributor to fundraising. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers who generously give their time to provide this valuable service for our community. Let us all remember when visiting the school shop to say thank you.

Seals Swimming has been a fantastic resource for The New Beacon families as well as providing them with the opportunity to use the school swimming pool at a reasonable price during the holidays. Sarah Hinds has done a remarkable job running Seals for many years. However, we are facing a challenge this year and we need your help. For us to continue offering Seals, we need to encourage more families to take advantage of this wonderful service. If we are unable to increase the number of users, we may have to consider closing, which would be a great loss for the families who benefit from it.

Sarah and I are currently working with the school to publicise the Seals Swimming. In the meantime, it would be greatly appreciated if we could all share with our parent community the great fun that our children have at Seals. By spreading the word about Seals and its benefits, we can hopefully attract more families and ensure the continuation of this valuable resource. Thank you for your support in keeping Seals Swimming alive.

As you may already know, we have implemented some changes within the committee and subcommittees. We now have in place a Deputy Treasurer and will soon be looking for candidates to fill the role of Deputy Chair and Secretary to join the committee in September 2024. We have also welcomed an Event representative from each year group. These changes will allow us to build on the successes from last year.

We are proud to share that our fundraising efforts have resulted in significant contributions to The New Beacon. In the past year, we were able to provide new choir robes and four outdoor table tennis tables, enhancing the experiences and opportunities for our boys.

Currently, we are in discussions with the school regarding the theatre renovation project. This is an exciting opportunity for us to further improve our facilities and create a space that will benefit the entire New Beacon community. We will keep you updated on the progress of this project and appreciate any support and contributions towards making it a reality.

The NBPA has actively collaborated with staff and teachers to address parents' concerns, provide constructive feedback, and contribute to decision making processes. Through open lines of communication, we have been able to work together to create an environment that nurtures our sons' growth and development.

In conclusion, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together as a Parents Association. We have made a positive impact on our son's education, fostered a sense of community and been advocates for their needs. Together, we can make a lasting impact on their education and overall experience at The New Beacon.

Cheryl Leonard, NBPA Chair, December 2023

NBPA AGM Treasurer's Report

I would like to present the summary draft accounts for year ended 31 August 2023

Balance Sheet

As at end of August 2023 the NBPA's funds amounted to £77k (2022: £70k). This includes £79k in the bank and £12k worth of stock, offset by £11k of pledges outstanding to the school and £4k bursary fund to pay.

Financial activities

In the past year the NBPA has had another successful year through the hard work of the Committee and many other parents and New Beacon staff. After taking account of resources expended there was a net inflow of resources for the year of £7.1k (2022: £24k).

The School Shop generated the biggest net profit of £11.0k (2022: £18k, 2021: £5k). Thank you to all the parents who work so hard in the school shop.

Fundraising from events last year raised £7.4k after all costs (2022: £15k).

Main events were:

- Summer Fete raised £5.0k (2022: £6.7k)
- Summer Ball which raised £3.2k (2022: £5.6k)
- Seals Swimming Club raised £0.4k (2022: broke even)
- Christmas Fayre £1.2k loss (2022: £1k profit)

Members Subscriptions were £3.1k

Total donations made by the NBPA amounted to £7.5k (2022: £10k).

- This includes a donation to the School's Bursary Fund is made each year which is the largest of 10% of its profits or £1k. For last year the net profits were £8k and therefore the bursary fund donation will be £1.0k (2022: £2.6k)
- The NBPA pledged £3.4k for 4 new outdoor table tennis tables
- In December 2022 the NBPA received a £1.0k donation pledged specifically for new choir robes.
- £2.1k will be donated to Friends for Families for 50% of the profits from the Summer Ball auction.
- NB: In the previous year(s) the committee pledged but hasn't yet paid for £1k towards the rifle club and £5.7k towards the conker area. We are in discussion with the school on transferring these pledges over to the new theatre pledge.

Other expenses:

- £5.9k on Mr Piercy leaving - including £3.0k expenses paid by the NBPA for the evening (all expenses apart from food which the school paid for). His gift was a £10.0k travel voucher of which parents contributed £7.1k and the NBPA contributed £2.9k towards his leaving gift.
- £1.2k - Gifts to general staff (2022: £1.2k)
- £0.4k - General expenses (incl Quickbooks and insurance) (2022: £0.5k)
- £0.4k – New joiner and reps drinks (2022: n/a)

These accounts will require formal review by an independent reviewer (Jane Ascroft). Any material changes from this will be presented back at the next meeting.

Kate White, NBPA Treasurer, December 2022

NBPA AGM Head's Report

It has been a pleasure and privilege to begin my time as Head at The New Beacon working with such a supportive and dedicated Parents' Association.

I would like to record my thanks to Astrid, Gina, Cheryl and Kate as the Trustees who oversaw my transition into School and provided so much support and information as I settled into post.

The Summer ball was a fabulous event, which had clearly involved a great deal of work prior to my arrival, including the challenge of a change of date. The teamwork resulted in a wonderful occasion that was well-supported and highly spoken of by all the attendees.

The Summer Fete followed hot on its heels; another large scale event and enormous success bringing the school community together. Challenges with payment systems: iPads, funcards, were overcome by sheer determination and goodwill and once again, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. It was delightful to see tractor rides, welly throwing and toy stalls still entertain and engage our children in 2023!

Small changes to uniform that were both pupil and parent led have been managed with enormous patience by the uniform shop; Lucy Cleaver and Jane Peterkin in particular, have been instrumental in ensuring that boys are smart, comfortable and practically prepared for school. We are immensely grateful to them and the new members of the team who have joined the school shop keeping this vital resource for our families, and school, alive.

Communication was a matter raised by class reps in my first meeting and the new Section Mailings appear to have been met with a very positive response. I would like to record my thanks to Mrs Alteirac, Mrs Taylor, Mr Knipe and Mr Probert for producing this information for parents and Mrs Ells for her ongoing work ensuring that the comms reach home!

Our extended Clubs and Activities programme has also been well-received and I am delighted that we now offer 40+ clubs, without extra charge, before, during and after school to cater for our boys' wide-ranging interests but also to support parents with their working day. The enhanced extended day provision has also been a positive addition that I hope we will continue to review and develop.

Table tennis has become enormously popular at playtime thanks to the outdoor tables purchased by the NBPA. While the location of the tables seems to work well, the estates team are looking to improve the surface on which they stand so that we can have all four operational at once. I am sure it will only be a matter of time before this is another sport in which we have teams competing!

Looking ahead to the Christmas Fayre, we are delighted to see the boys take greater responsibility for their fundraising efforts, choosing charities and running stalls but are, as always, grateful for the NBPA assistance ensuring the event runs smoothly. The decorations, Santa's grotto, fun cards and provision of prizes will, I know, be hugely appreciated by the boys. It will be good to review this event in the New Year and see how this slightly altered format has worked for us all.

The theatre renovation project is one we hope to continue working on with the NBPA with quotes being gathered this term to update sound, lighting, seating and overall decor. The theatre is not just a showcase for drama; musical concerts, debates, assemblies and guest speakers will all benefit from the renovations supporting our co-curricular offer for boys from nursery right through to Year 8.

We are delighted to have appointed a new librarian for school from January so that we can put a renewed focus on reading for our boys. This appointment will hopefully give both libraries a new lease of life and be a potential project for future NBPA support.

The opening of the new Nursery building is another exciting venture for school including a move to extending our outdoor teaching provision. Feedback from parents via form reps suggests that this is something our families want to see more of for their children and we look forward to potentially working with the NBPA on this in the future as well.

As you can see, our development projects for school are informed by the boys' needs but also parent input. The lines of communication have felt positive and constructive which is so important and we remain grateful for the interest and commitment of our busy families. My thanks to Cheryl, Clair and Kate for taking us forward.

Sarah Brownsdon, Head, December 2023