



**THE RUSKIN FELLOWSHIP**  
**MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON**  
**SATURDAY 2 JULY 2011**

1. **Present:** D.Hollingsworth (President), A Shepherd (Secretary), B. Anderton, P Hamilton, O Murphy, B Smith, J Hurlston, R Sealey
2. **Apologies:** A Potts, A. Wright, C. Orgell-Rosen, A Sieve, R Maher, J Kimberley, A Mullender, S Courtney.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 17 April 2011:** Agreed a correct record
4. **Matters arising**
  - i) 2012 Calendar (min 4i refers): Debbie reported that the printer had requested a 'mock-up' of a calendar to enable a correct estimate to be given. After a brief discussion it was AGREED that graphics from the first reunion meeting should be, at least, one of the pictures on the calendar.
  - ii) Fellowship Archive (min 4ii refers): The Secretary reported that the papers for the Fellowship had been collected from the library and that minutes for Fellowship meetings were available only from January 1970. It was suggested that the Bodleian Library may hold some Ruskin records. Roger Sealey AGREED to check OLIS and let the Secretary know. It was also suggested that Harold Pollins be contacted regarding any information that he might have.
  - iii) Health and Safety (min 4iii refers): It was reported that the Principal had confirmed that *internal* staff health and safety training was not organised but that staff attended courses organised *outside* of the college. There was a suggestion that the Health and Safety Representatives course may be available. NOTED
  - iv) Fellowship Fees (min 7 refers): It was confirmed that the three fee amendments that had been agreed at the last meeting would need to go forward to the AGM for ratification. It was confirmed that there were several motions that would need to be raised at the AGM by members of the Executive, including one on fees. The Secretary AGREED to circulate the motions for consideration.
  - v) Organisation for the Reunion/AGM (min 8.1 refers): The President confirmed the position of the following items:
    - i) Booking forms- amended and ready for sending out
    - ii) Prizes-some had been bought in by Pauline Hamilton. Other prizes were needed for the lottery and the quiz. **Executive members were asked to provide some appropriate prizes.** Contact would also be made with appropriate suppliers. NOTED
    - iii) The entertainment would be provided by a member of the group that performed on the Saturday evening last year. He would be joined by a female partner to complete the duo. NOTED
    - iv) Rooming would be confirmed with Beryl by the President. NOTED
    - v) The Facebook page remained to be established. NOTED

vi) Speakers: Audrey Mullender and Stephen Yeo had been confirmed. There had been a misunderstanding with the booking arrangements for Hilda Kean. It was AGREED that the President would check with Hilda the precise content of her talk.

The Secretary read out the planned programme for the day. This included a proposal that the members of the Executive take responsibility for one of the 'year groups' that would be organised to enable members to reflect on their time at Ruskin. This would include taking notes of proceedings in the groups. Members present AGREED to the proposal.

vi) The Student Fund (min 8.2 refers): It was reported that there was no expenditure on Levellers' Day and likely to be none on 'Tolpuddle'. This meant that the request from the Principal for the 'chairs for Headington' appeal needed to be considered at the next meeting. AGREED

Owen Murphy raised the issue of making contributions to the Student Fund. Owen was requested to circulate a paper prior to the next meeting so the Executive could discuss his proposals. NOTED

vii) Fellowship Notice Board (min 8.2 refers): The Secretary reported that a noticeboard would be identified for the Fellowship when items had been identified for display. It was AGREED that the papers related to the Reunion should be displayed in the first instance.

viii) Membership forms for Tolpuddle (min 9 refers): The Secretary reported that the current Fellowship Application forms would be used at Tolpuddle. Amended forms should only be issued *after* the AGM had ratified the proposals for amendment.

ix) Report from O and R Fellowship Representatives (min 10 iii refers): It was AGREED that reports should be made available the future.

x) Brian Smith (minute 10iv refers): Brian commented on his email sent on 4 March regarding holding meetings on a Sunday. He said that the reasons why he, and other people, could not attend Sunday meetings should be written into the minutes. A lengthy discussion took place on what should and what should not be included in the minutes. Roger Sealey stated that minutes should only record decisions. Owen Murphy stated that some details should be included. Owen also raised the point that the reason that he found Sunday meetings difficult was because he occasionally went to church. Bob Anderton reminded the Executive Committee that religious issues should not normally be part of the Fellowship's decision making process.

The President said that the dates of next year's meetings would be agreed at the first Executive Committee meeting after the election of a new Executive at the AGM.

NOTED

xi) Diana Cant and Don Liversedge (min 10 vii refers): It was confirmed that the Secretary had sent a card to Diana and Don thanking them for their very informative letter.

NOTED

## 5. **To consider Section 4.1 of the proposed Constitution**

It was reported that a paper had been circulated by the Secretary that outlined the options for membership of the Fellowship. It was AGREED 6 votes in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions that the following proposal be adopted.

That membership is open to all ex-Ruskin students who accept the Constitution of the Fellowship and agree with the Objects of the College.

The President reported that she had been in touch with Angela Potts regarding the status of Life Vice Presidents and had clarified the position with Angela. John Hurlston said that he had felt concern for some time that, whilst not being an elected member of the Executive, he still had a vote in the decision making process. NOTED

6. **Any other business**

- i. It was moved, seconded and AGREED that there be a suspension of the minutes for 5 minutes.
  - ii. Owen raised the issue of Regional Groups and said that they had been “tested to destruction in the 1990s”. NOTED
  - iii. Roger proposed that a standing item be added to future Executive Committee agendas that would ensure discussion on “Membership”. AGREED
7. There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30pm.

**ADDENDUM:**

There was some business that needed concluding that arose *after* the closure of the meeting. I discussed with the President the best way of dealing with this and we agreed to raise the necessary issues with those people who attended the meeting. This addendum explains what these were.

There were two issues:

- 1) **The issue of Group Fees.** The proposal is that, where a group of 10 or more people want to join the Fellowship as ‘Life’ members, the fee be reduced to £20 each (from £25). This will need to be moved by a member of the Executive Committee at the AGM.
- 2) **The issue of Associate Members.** This issue was actually raised at the 1998 AGM and unanimously agreed but it was not subsequently written into the Constitution. The form of words used in 1998 was:

*(d) Other person not meeting the above criteria may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, join as Associate members. Associate members shall be granted speaking rights during debates, but shall not be eligible to stand for election to the Executive Committee, hold any Fellowship office or have voting rights*

*(d) Associate membership of the Fellowship shall be subject to either an annual fee or five yearly fee. The level of associate member annual or five yearly fee shall be prescribed by the Annual General Meeting.*

This has now been incorporated into the proposals that we will put to the AGM.

These two issues were raised in an email to the members present at the meeting on 9 July and I asked for response by 16 July on the basis that, if I received no response to the email, I would assume agreement with the proposals. I subsequently received no replies and therefore have assumed agreement.

A.S.