

Minutes of the OBFA Board Meeting held at the residence of Maqbool Sultan on March 7th 2016 at 4:30 pm.

Present:

Maqbool A Sultan (MAS) – Chairman
Shawqi A Sultan (SAS) – Secretary General
Saleh Taleb Zakwani (STZ) – Member
Chris Breeze (CB) - Member
Khalil Khonji (KK) - Member

AGENDA

- 1) Unofficial visit of the Lord Mayor to Muscat
- 2) UK Conference on 22nd July
- 3) Members' subscription fees
- 4) Website finalization
- 5) AOB

The Chairman welcomed the attendees and confirmed that Pankaj Khimji, Andre Long, Nicholas Pattison and Ahmed Al Araiimi had sent their apologies.

1. **Lord Mayor's Visit:** HMA Jon Wilks had informed OBFA of The Lord Mayor's unofficial visit to Oman on a holiday and had suggested that we should hold a meeting with him followed by a dinner at which OBFA's Board and a few selected members would attend. There would also be a list of some senior Embassy and UKTI staff that the Ambassador will provide. This event will be held at SAS's residence on the 28th of March 2016. An invitation will be sent within the next week.
2. The Chairman then spoke about the **Summer Conference** scheduled to take place at Mansion House in London on the 22nd of July 2016. He and SAS had sat with HE Yahya Al Jabri and representatives of the 3 commercial and Mina As Sultan Qaboos Ports, CEO of Oman Air and of Duqm Zone and representatives from the Ministry of Transport, to air the topic that would be discussed at that conference with emphasis being laid on Logistics, tourism and Duqm. It was a very useful meeting and at the end it was agreed that the adviser of Oman Logistics Centre at The Ministry of Transport & Communication, Mr. Peter Young would prepare a paper that will be distributed. The Chairman also said that like last year there will be a reception in the evening at the Anglo-Omani Society and hopefully HRH Prince Andre, Duke of York and HH Sayyed Haythem bin Tarek would both attend.
3. SAS explained that with regards the **annual subscription**; OBFA has received RO 500 from 21 members each. However, as majority of these were cheques paid directly into the account, it was proving difficult to identify the payers. SAS has requested from HSBC assistance in resolving this issue. Meanwhile a letter has to be sent to those members who have not paid requesting either immediate payment or confirmation that they are not interested in continuing as OBFA members. SAS will draft something appropriate.

4. SAS informed the Board that the **Website** is almost complete and will be on line soon. He wondered if all members should be given a new email address. The Board felt that there are already too many addresses and it may be better to ask the members if they have a preference. Those present wanted to use the same address as the ones they have rather than have a new one.

5. SAS told the Board that OBFA was still waiting for Moore Stevens to finalise the **audit** of the 18 months for the period ending 31st December 2015. It was agreed that a letter would go to the auditors requesting an immediate action and or if they are not interested to appoint another firm to carry out the audit.

With there being no other business the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 5:30 pm.