



## **Society for the Preservation of Dr. Graham's Homes Minutes of Open Zoom Meeting**

**Date:** 8th December 2024

### **Agenda:**

- Topic of Discussion: Our Recommendations (Based on the recent Joint OGB Workshop organised by GO)
- Q&A
- Final Comments & Take Away

### **Better Collaboration:**

- Institute best practices.
- Foster mutual trust and respect amongst OGBs.
- Lay the groundwork for a stronger OGB network.

### **Our Recommendations – A Positive Way Forward:**

1. **Working Together to Fulfil the Recommendations of the Independent Report (IR):**
  - **Need for a different approach to governance.**
  - **Need for better management at the school level.**
  - **Need to review the model of school operations.**
  - **Need to fix long-standing issues and move ahead.**
  - **Need for operational excellence at school.**
  - **One-time campaign for major fundraising and developing ongoing alternate funding avenues.**
  - Additional operational excellence issues identified during the IR: a) Absence of systems and processes b) Dropping student numbers c) Need to fix basic infrastructure d) Need to improve academic and other school outcomes and university admissions for students e) Need to create motivation among employees f) Better financial management and controls

## **The Vision of Dr. Graham:**

- Dr. Graham's vision, while ahead of its time, needs to be brought up to date.
- The IR addresses the issues facing DGH and makes important recommendations. If implemented, these changes will put DGH on a great footing for recovery and instill positivity among its supporters.
- The need for transparency and accountability is urgent, and all stakeholders need to collaborate to make this happen.
- New members on the BOM are a great start and are very encouraging.

## **Wish List for 2025:**

### **1. Wish List 1:**

- Our group recognized the immense contribution of Rev. John Webster, former chaplain and farm manager. He also started a youth group called Quest, which became very popular among the older boys of DGH, with one group getting the opportunity to trek to Everest base camp. His inspiring fundraising ideas, marathon runs, and long-distance bike rides are a rich legacy left behind. We support him being invited to be the chief guest at the 2025 birthday celebrations.

### **2. Wish List 2:**

- The acceptance of our main proposal, the renovation of Willingdon Hostel. This will not only raise the standard of living conditions but also provide a great opportunity to upskill the workforce and lay the foundations for a proactive maintenance program, as per the proposal. The desire to upgrade the facilities of the SMH was also expressed.

## **Q&A:**

- Members discussed the recommendations and shared their views.

## **Final Comments & Take Away:**

- Emphasis on better collaboration, instituting best practices, fostering mutual trust and respect among OGBs, and laying the groundwork for a stronger OGB network.

