# OLD CRYPTIANS CLUB

## Minutes of Meeting held at the School on Thursday 7th January 2016

Present:- Richard Briggs, Richard Browning, Mike Beard, Peter Hobbs, Duncan Miller, Nino Pelopida, Ivor Smith, Bob Timms.

### Apologies for absence:-

Nick Dyer (Headmaster), Richard Brooks, Paul James, Steve Mace, Eric Stephens.

### Minutes of Meeting (held on Thursday, 8th October 2015)

All members of the committee had received the minutes via email with no reported problems.

The President thanked Richard Brooks for taking the minutes in October.

### Matters arising

Richard Browning reported there had been an update of the accounts and some discussion followed.

### President’s Business

Most of the President’s business would be covered by various agenda items. On behalf of the OCs the President offered congratulations to the school for an excellent and moving Remembrance Day service.

### Headmaster’s Report

In the absence of the Head his report, very encouraging and positive, was read by the President. (The report is attached.) In it the Head suggests that the club could contact Y13 and tell them about the OCs prior to leaving and encouraging them to join. The Club ought with the permission of the School, to acquire Leavers’ emails so that direct contact could be established.

### Honorary Treasurer’s Report

A first draft of the Income & Expenditure Account was presented on behalf of Richard Brooks.

Richard Browning repeated his earlier concerns about non-paying members. He suggested a vigorous chasing up of these non-payers. He hoped that these members had merely forgotten to pay rather attempted to avoid paying. Discussion followed on how to increase the payments. There was a positive response to the idea of Direct Debits. However, the major banks seemed reluctant to offers such facilities to smaller organisations.

It was suggested that Richard Brooks investigate whether there was a suitable bank which would offer us direct debit facilities.

It was noted that 2014’s unpleasant deficits had gone!

### Centennial Bursary Fund

Richard Browning, using figures provided by Clive Thomas, reported that the fund had £56537 in various accounts including a recent donation of £540. This year 9 bursaries were awarded at £250 each. He added it was time to start the process for 2016’s awards. There was some discussion as to whether 8 or 9 were awarded.

### Cenotaph Parade – report and 2016 arrangements

This year’s parade went well with 6 OCs and 6 pupils attending. Rail travel was fraught but the party and supporters arrived on time.

After three years of organising Richard Briggs has passed on his duties to Nino Pelopida. As the new convener Nino will ask for an increase in tickets to 18.

### AGM and Reunion Dinner, March 2016

Draft letters about the Dinner were being written and would soon be sent. Thanks to Paul James we have Jason Smith as guest speaker. Jason is the chair of ‘Marketing Gloucester’ and an Old Cryptian who has attended recent dinners.

### Founders Day 2016

Howard Allen has offered to help and will liaise with the caterers and the Cathedral.

Bob Timms offered to again organise the golf day and would extend an invitation to pupils after the successful participation of two pupils in 2015. They enjoyed their day and it was good to see them.

### Membership

Work on the last meetings suggestions was ongoing.

The President apologised that a letter on an increase in fees has not been despatched and suggested, based on the Treasurer’s analysis, that it was worth a determined appeal to non-paying members. If successful, this would delay the increase in subscriptions. The situation will be placed before the AGM.

The President confirmed the scale of the task to keep membership records up to date. However it was clear that an Honorary Secretary, to deal with all other matters of Club administration, was very necessary.

It was suggested that this Hon. Sec. should be Gloucester based.

### Website and Communications

It was felt there was a need to update the website and various web designers were being spoken to. Richard Briggs should be involved in any update as he has the necessary skills.

A one click to the De Crypt Project should be included. It was also felt that an OC with some marketing experience and flair should be involved, Jason Smith perhaps. Until one was found Richard Briggs was happy to be involved.

### The Cryptian

Duncan Miller spoke about the need to cut down expenditure which means a smaller Cryptian! There was no disagreement.

###  Discover De Crypt Project/School History

Richard Browning reported that the Project was delayed because of funding problems. £600K was needed and the Project needed to match 50% of the required funds. The lottery fund needed to know by June 1st that the project had 80% of its share - £240K.

A joint appeal with the school was suggested with OCs being encouraged to contribute.

###  Any Other Business

There was some discussion about Charlie Hannaford’s proposed book. It was felt that while individuals could get involved the committee and Club should not. He will be at the dinner and individuals could discuss any personal involvement.

### Date of next meeting

After closing the meeting at 7.50 p.m., the President gained agreement for the next meeting to be held on **Thursday 12th May 2016** at the usual time of 6 p.m.

Nino Pelopida/12.01.2016

**Headmaster’s Report to the OCC Committee Meeting January 2016**

I apologise for not being able to attend your meeting but look forward to seeing you all at the next one and certainly at the OC Annual Dinner in March.

You will be pleased that the School is thriving.

Our summer examination results have now been judged as ‘outstanding’ by Government. We expect that to continue to be the case next year too.

There has been a rich programme of sport last term, with our Y9 rugby team perhaps performing the best, with the possibility of them proceeding to the County finals to be held at Kingsholm later this term.

We have enjoyed a range of musical concerts since September, arranged by our new Director of Music Julian Whittaker, including the Autumn Concert and the Carol Service.

The School Play was a great success — 12 Angry Men — and witnessed some wonderful individual performances, particularly by Vincent Ashby in Year 13.

There have been numerous trips and 70+ pupils are now looking forward to the annual ski trip in February. A rugby tour to South Africa is planned for the summer.

We are planning to increase our Pupil Admission Number from the current 112 to 140 in September 2017. However, that increase is not as dramatic as it sounds, as we already have 135 in our current Year 7 anyway. There have been very few local objections to this change. Other local grammar schools are also expanding - HSfG, Pates, Marling and Stroud High — the result is that in effect a new grammar school has been created within the existing schools. This has created some tensions with other comprehensive schools, but demand for grammar places is rising and financial constraints are pushing all schools into seeking additional forms of revenue.

We have submitted two bids to the Education Funding Agency: one for the redevelopment of the Sports Hall and the other for the creation of a new three classroom teaching block. We will hear in March if we have been successful. As reported in October, we would like to replace the old School Pavilion, and would seek to raise funds to enable this to happen. The cost would be about £100-150,000 dependent on size. If the OC Club were keen, the School would create a fund-raising plan that would aim to raise funds via the OC Club, current parents and through the use of some of our own reserves.

Our Year 13 cohort contains 130 students and ¡t would be wonderful if they were all encouraged to join the OC Club in July. The School will be very happy to help facilitate this, as of course we are very keen for them
to stay in touch with us in the future too.

Finally, I am very sorry to hear of the news of the death of Tony Pugh. When I was appointed as Deputy Headmaster in 2009, Tony was on one of the panels - I can thank him in part then for my appointment here. Thereafter, I was very pleased to have got to know Tony. He had a passion for his old school, loved all its traditions (and invented some new ones too) and was extremely proud to be an Old Cryptian. He will be sorely missed for his wise counsel and friendship to all.

All best wishes.

Nick Dyer, Headmaster