**OLD CRYPTIANS CLUB**

**Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2014**

**Present:**- Robert Timms, Matt Cass, Clive Thomas, Duncan Miller, Steve Mace, Eric Stephens, Ivor Smith, Richard Briggs, Richard Browning, John Mitchell, Howard Allen (part time)

**1 .Apologies for absence**:- John Hughes, Mike Beard, Paul James, Peter Hobbs, Headmaster.

**2. Minutes of Meeting 24th Jan.2014**

These were unavailable having been mislaid.

**3. Matters arising**

Members recalled that considerable time had been spent on planning the AGM and dinner to be staged at the Kingsholm Stadium on March 31st given the importance of the event coupled with the 475 book launch. More details are covered in agenda item 9.

**4. President’s Business**

In the President’s absence moving house, the Vice President took the chair. Together with the President, Matt Cass and Tony Pugh, a meeting had been attended on Feb 27th of the Heritage Lottery Fund Project Development (HLF) for the regeneration of St Mary de Crypt and the Old Crypt School room in Southgate St. This fine Grade 1 listed Church and Grade 2 listed Schoolroom are in danger of decay and dilapidation. Andrew Meredith Associates are steering the project . So far it has achieved a ‘Round 1 pass’ and it is planned to submit a final detailed bid in 2015 for around **£1 million**. The activity plan involves first consulting with community groups already using the site or those interested to use these facilities as a community or heritage venue.

**5. Headmaster’s report**

The main school news is an award of **£1.8 million** from the EFA for a new Science block. Details were provided of the placing of two additional Science labs and either three classrooms and a VI form common room or five classrooms. This development was enthusiastically received.

**6. Honorary Treasurer’s report**

The Treasurer reported at present the accounts were incomplete as several matters were pending. This mainly arises from the finances involving the March 31st dinner at the Kingsholm Stadium. The report will be circulated before October

The school had enquired whether Y13 leavers on signing up to become members of the OC Club could be provided a tie at half price. This was agreed at **£10ea**. Sue Wales and the Treasurer would discuss the number of ties required and their availability. For future demand it was also agreed to have in stock 10-15 bow ties at **£10ea**. Sales of School ties via the website with payment via Pay Pal have been encouraging.

The Treasurer concluded by giving notice that he was planning to stand down from his post for personal reasons at the end of the year.

**7. Report on Centennial Bursary Fund**

The Chairman said that the Bursary fund was currently **£54,230** made up from two separate accounts. The purpose of the Bursary fund is to advance the education of talented or gifted full time students at the Crypt School by awarding bursaries enabling them to improve or extend their educational skills. It is proposed setting up a 1539 Society honouring benefactors of the Bursary fund since inauguration in 2002 as well as those wishing to leave a gift in their will. For the future a leaflet is being prepared for Bursary award applicants that will be distributed at school. In the current year, 16 awards have been made (8 academic and 8 non academic) amounting to **£4,000**. The awards lunch will be at school on June 20th.

In 2015 the existing Trustees will have served their tenure and replacements would be welcome.

**8. Membership Secretary report**

The Secretary announced that the total current membership of 261 was 10% higher than the figure of a year ago. This compares with an earlier high point of 475 which had been pared down to try and eliminate non-payers.

**9. Dinner report**

Steve Mace summarised the main points of the annual dinner combined with the AGM held at the Kingsholm Stadium on March 31st Numbers attending were sharply up at 161. The corresponding ladies dinner also showed gains at 32. Everyone agreed that the location for the dinner was excellent. In this environment just after the 475 book launch, the AGM was difficult to stage. Although it was intended to keep this short, it should have been held in a separate room.

Feelings on the meal provided by the caterers were exchanged. Some had reservations about the quality of the food in relation to the cost of **£30**. Mass catering and its shortcomings came under discussion but overall the satisfaction levels were reasonably high. Steve was warmly thanked by the President and the Committee for coordinating the whole exercise in a very efficient manner.

**10 Founders day June 30th**

Founders day Service will be followed by a buffet supper in the Cathedral Parliament rooms. There is seating space for about 100 diners so entries will be conducted on a first come first serve basis. Howard Allen has written invitations to a number of special guests (15) past and present associated with the school. Richard Briggs has undertaken to do the emailing of the Founders day arrangements including the Golf using ‘Benchmark’.

**11. Web site**

Richard Briggs presented a profile of what the requirements were for the OCC site.The retainer for Adrian the site developer was **£300** which the committee accepted.

Under this heading, ‘Benchmark’, a commercial software application which is optimised for mailshots was explained. Licence for it’s use costs **£7/month**. A dedicated E Mail application as ‘Benchmark’ appears more reliable than ‘Outlook’ and provides considerable useful statistics

**12 Cryptian Editorship**

Howard Allen will shortly be retiring from this function after a number of years of very fine service. Duncan Miller who has helped with the current issue has agreed to take over and was congratulated by the Committee.

**13. School Librarian**

The school has insufficient funds for a Librarian and asked through the school financial manager if an OC might be interested in providing a few weekly voluntary hours for cataloguing. A few ideas were forthcoming including members of staff to share the task.

**14 Additional agenda items**

**a. Founders’ day cricket**

The school suggested starting a tradition of playing a 20 over cricket match on the afternoon of Founders day between school vs OCs. Finding an OC captain was a priority. The Committee were concerned on 2 counts namely, a clash with Golf followed by lunch and difficulty in finding OCs currently playing cricket. If later suggestions were revealed the school would be informed. On another matter of cricket a request for OCC to act as a sponsor for an overseas school tour was not supported.

**b. School Leavers meal 25th June**

An invitation has been received for the President or a member of the OCC to be present at the leavers dinner. The school will be informed.

**15 Any other business**

**a. Old Cryptians Rugby Club**

Close of season BBQ was being held at the club on 31st May

The OCRC are to be congratulated on a very successful season in winning the Gloucester Two title and the Junior North Gloucestershire Combination cup after their last success in1974.

**b. 475yr Anniversary Book**

Howard reported that the bookbinding problem should shortly be under control. To help publicise the sale of the book several sources were mentioned including Waterstones, Cathedral book shop and the Archives centre in Alvin St. The book has already received many compliments.

**c. Howard Allen**

For many years Howard has devoted countless hours supporting

tirelessly the Old Cryptians Club and steering it to the successful organisation it is today. This dedication is much appreciated by the Club. We wish Howard a well deserved retirement from many of the activities in which he has been engaged.

**d. Remembrance Sunday 9th November – Cenotaph Parade (Not covered**)

Sue Wales would be prepared to drive the school minibus to London to enable OCs to attend parade.The London OCC dinner is scheduled for the previous evening (Saturday 8th November) and this will influence travel plans.

Richard Browning 26/06/14