# OLD CRYPTIANS CLUB

## Minutes of Meeting held at the School on Thursday 8th October 2015

Present:- Richard Briggs (President), Rich Brooks (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary), Richard Browning, Peter Hobbs, Steve Mace, Robert Timms, Duncan Miller, Eric Stephens, John Mitchell, Nino Pelopida, Ivor Smith, Nick Dyer (Headmaster)

### Apologies for absence:-

Paul James, John Hughes, Mike Beard.

### Minutes of Meeting 12th May 2015

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

### Matters arising

Richard Briggs discussed the matters arising from the previous meeting.

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| **Action no.** | **Action summary** | **Actioner(s)** | **Status** |
| 8.1 | Produce scale of fees for discussion | Richard Briggs | Ongoing and covered by item 8. |
| 11.2 | 2016 Dinner | Steve Mace & OCC Committee | Ongoing |

### President’s Business

Richard Briggs reported to the committee that he had an enjoyable time at the opening of the new Maths and Engineering block, and wanted to commend the school for the outcome and the remarkably short turnaround.

He also attended the Prize Giving Day with Richard Browning. They both had a great evening and mentioned how enjoyable it was to see the different personalities of the students.

### Headmaster’s report

Nick Dyer started his report by thanking Richard Briggs for attending Prize Giving.

He explained to the committee the layout of the new block which includes five maths rooms, two physics labs and a robotics lab. Renishaw were getting involved for one day a week for a course in advanced technology.

It was a busy start to the year, with 901 pupils in the school. There were 134 Year 7 students, with now five forms in the year. There were 273 students in the sixth form with 143 Year 12s.

The reputation of the school continues to improve, which is leading to more students wanting to attend. The reputation has been aided by good results in the summer, and the best ever AS Level results. He believes that there are a number of Year 13 students who appear to have Oxbridge potential.

There had been a number of staff changes, most notably with the departure of Head of Music, Ian Hiscock, being replaced by Julian Whittaker. There were around 8 or 9 staff promotions and retirements.

The Headmaster reported that the budgets are, as they always have been, under pressure, but was hoping to remove two small buildings and put a new block be built in their place. A cricket pavilion would also be built, and the headmaster wondered if the OCC would want to be involved. This project is of course money dependant.

The Headmaster then mentioned the plans for the Remembrance Service on 11th November and invited the committee to attend.

### Honorary Treasurer’s report

Richard Brooks handed out two forecasts that he had prepared. One forecast showed the current income and spend of the club, the second reported on what the club should ideally be aiming for.

He reported that if the current level of spending continued, with the same levels of income, the club probably only has around 4 or 5 years left “in the black”. He then explained to the committee a number of possible opportunities to change this:-

* signing up members to GoCardless so that memberships can be increased as and when necessary without the need for members to change their standing orders
* increasing membership fees
* increasing stock sales by better advertising and by sending stock details out to members so that they are aware what is available to be purchased.
* making each Annual Dinner a “Reunion” Year. For instance, in 2016 pinpoint Old Cryptians from 1996, 1986, 1976, 1966, 1956, 1946 etc. and advertise it as a reunion, as well as the usual annual dinner.
* increasing website sponsorship by getting more advertisers.

The committee then discussed the best way to improve the finances. It was decided that it may be necessary to split the raffle money from the annual dinner between the club and the bursary fund. It currently all gets paid to the bursary fund.

It was also decided to have sub-committees for each event; they would set up and control the budgets.

### Report on Centennial Bursary Fund

Richard Browning reported on the work of the Bursary Fund trustees.

Clive Thomas was a previous chair of the Fund, and Richard was struggling to get information from him. Clive had dealt with the Fund since 2001. The last meeting was in February which was a handover. Clive remains Treasurer.

Richard Browning mentioned that the budget would need deciding now, and the bursary should set a target to pay £250 to 8 students each year.

Richard also mentioned the Just Giving being set up for the Fund. It would cost £15 per month. The charitable status of the Bursary Fund is a big advantage when linked to JustGiving or a similar website.

### Membership Secretary Report

Nino has been undertaking a data cleansing exercise and doing various roles of a membership secretary and had been having meetings with Sue Wales. They were looking at ideas of how to increase membership and how to increase involvement with members.

They are currently working on draft letters to send out to prospective members. Peter Hobbs said it may be worth spinning the idea of the membership from “What can The OCC do for you?” to “What can you do for The OCC?!. Membership should be sold as a way of keeping in touch.

Nino mentioned that the membership list is not yet refined or fully updated, but that they are working on it. Sue has been a massive help with this task

It was then decided at this stage to discuss the possibility of increasing the membership fees to £25. A vote was called on whether there should be an increase from £20 to £25 for all ages (unless in full time education/apprenticeship) on 01/01/2016. Eight members agreed to the increase, three disagreed.

### Founders Day 2015

It was generally agreed that the Cathedral Service and the Supper afterwards were very enjoyable. Steve Mace, who had not attended in the past, was favourably impressed with the evening venue and the buffet.

### Cenotaph Parade arrangements

Richard Briggs had asked the British Legion for 18 tickets, but had only been allocated 12. Six were allocated to the School, and six were left to distribute through the committee. All who went to the parade last year were keen to attend again. Sue Wales would be organising transport from Gloucester.

### Annual Dinner 2016

Steve reported to the committee that the dinner would be held on 12th March 2016. Gloucester are not playing at home on this date, and there would be an England v. Wales (Six Nations) match on the day. Therefore it would be the same format as last year, with the bar being open from 4pm, followed by the AGM and the meal. Steve will be looking into costs and how the students will be covered. The event would benefit from increased marketing.

There seemed to be general agreement that the current venue at Kingsholm Rugby Club should be kept, and that members should pay the full cost of the meal, with non-members paying an additional £2.50. The Raffle worked well previously, and Steve would prepare the letter to send out.

The committee agreed that the ticket prices should be £35.00 for members, and £37.50 for non-members.

It was decided that Paul James may have some contacts one of whom would be able to speak at the dinner.

### Website

This has been fairly inactive. Richard Browning had been speaking to Helena Cornish about a new website. He said he believes it sounds very cheap. The new website would only cost £250. She had completed the website for The Holy Trinity Church in Longlevens and it was impressive. Richard Briggs will decide on how to take this forward and how to sort it out.

### The Cryptian and Communications

Duncan explained how the magazine was printed in black and white in order to reduce the costs. Next year’s version will be much slimmer.

Duncan also gave his thanks to Richard Browning for posting 75 copies of the magazine. The committee also gave a big thanks to Duncan for his work on this. He explained that he is happy to carry on the role in future years.

Richard Briggs will be looking at the possibility of issuing electronic newsletters in the Autumn and Spring terms.

Richard Browning mentioned to the committee that he discovered that a number of the deliveries he made, were to old addresses of the members. He concluded that Old Cryptians were not telling the Club when their contact details changed.

### Discover De Crypt Project

Richard Browning summarised the progress to date. His report is attached.

Peter mentioned it may be a good idea for Richard Briggs to write a letter to help this along and Richard Browning will bring this up at the next Bursary Fund meeting. Richard Briggs will speak to Peter and Richard Browning about this.

### Any Other Business

Ivor mentioned that Charlie Hannaford is progressing well with his book on The History of The Crypt School (from Podsmead onwards).

### Date of next meeting

After a brief discussion it was agreed to hold the next OCC Committee meeting on **Thursday 7th January 2016** at the usual time of 6 p.m.

R T Brooks/14.12.2015

(Final edit R H Briggs/21.12.2015)

**Discover DeCrypt Progress report October 2015**

The project vision for Discover DeCrypt remains to transform St Mary De Crypt church and the Old Crypt Schoolroom from historical buildings in danger of decay and dilapidation into a sustainable heritage attraction, educational resource, cultural venue and community facility in the heart of Gloucester which is open and available to all

The project will bring the buildings back to life, engaging and involving the community in their past and future: young people and volunteers will be involved in the renovation work as they learn about heritage and acquire skills in building conservation. There will be interactive interpretation to engage people (including schoolchildren and families ) in the rich Christian heritage of the site; and the buildings will be available for use by communal projects and for private lettings.

The consultation process undertaken to develop the full activity plan to the Round 2 stage delivery phase submission to HLF in November 2015 has encompassed a range of organisations across key thematic areas – faith/churches, heritage, arts/culture, music performance, building conservation, formal/informal learning. These and other aspects have been put together during the development phase over the last 2 years.

The latest project meeting reviewed the following features:

(i) Activity plan. The main concern is under resourcing and shortage of volunteers

in both delivery and operational periods. A manager will be appointed for 20-40

hrs per week to supervise activities. Volunteers from the Civic Trust need to

be complemented from other sources.

(ii) Lighting design has been approved at £4,000.

(iii) Proposals for Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) are satisfactorily covered.

(iv) Full range of architect drawings from Purcell reflect the latest proposals.

(v) Quality Surveyor report from Mildred Howells with budget estimates largely

accepted.

(vi) Furniture budget estimate accepted of £35,000 subject to some manoeuvre

for change.

(vii) Agreed that first floor schoolroom should be reserved for directed activities

and ground floor for undirected pursuits, e.g. Storytelling sessions.

In this summary much detail has been spared on individual aspects which can be supplied on request. As mentioned, final submission to HLF should take place in November

Richard Browning 08 October.2015