**Old Cryptian’s Club**

**Minutes of Meeting Held**

**At the Crypt School**

Action

**21 May 2012**

**Present:**

The President: Ivor Smith

John Mitchell

John Hughes

Peter Hobbs

Derek Howell

Howard Allen

Michael Beard

Eric Stephens

The Headmaster

Richard Briggs

Clive Thomas

**1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Richard Browning

Paul James

Bob Timms

Matt Cass

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Proposed by Peter Hobbs , seconded by John Mitchell that the minutes be signed as a true record, carried nem con

**3. Matters Arising**

None

**4. Matters Arising from AGM/Dinner**

There was general discussion about the Dinner and it was generally agreed that the following matters be considered for the next Dinner:

Hall to be partitioned to give intimacy

Tables decorated with candles to provide ambient lighting and “atmosphere”

More waiters to ensure quicker service; possibly “school-leavers

School Captain to be invited as official guest: his own table?

Steve Mace to be co-opted

**5. President’s Business**

The President explained that he had taken increasing the membership of the Club as the prime task of his presidency. It was an uphill task but at least a start had been made on which further steps could be built.

His term as president had been a very interesting and enjoyable one and among the highlights were his attendance at the “leavers dinner” (from which he believed there were lessons to be learned) and the Prize Giving.

He thanked the committee for its support in the year.

**6. Headmaster’s Report**

The Headmaster reported that the large building programme involving nearly £1 Million was nearly complete including a New Gym ,Food Technology Centre, and much needed access. The old Gym would be converted to a drama room and fitness centre.

He revealed, although not at that time officially released, that the latest OFSTED inspection rated the School Outstanding in all categories. This was the result of a lot of hard work by the staff.

**7. Honorary Treasurers Report**

Clive Thomas explained that the Treasurer was away, but that a report would be forwarded to all on his return.

**8. Report on Centennial Bursary Fund**

It was reported that the fund had made no awards but that plans were in hand to make awards in the near future. It was also reported that the fund stood at just under £50,00. The £50,000 was important as it was a watershed beyond which interest rates on investment rose sharply.

It was proposed by Peter Hobbs and seconded by Michael Beard that the Club Treasurer be instructed to lend £10,000 of Club funds to the Bursary Fund. Such loan was to be for an initial period of 12 months and at an interest rate not less than that which the Club would normally obtain. Approved *nem con*.

**9. Membership Secretary’s Report**

The Membership Secretary reported that 14 under 21 Old Cryptians had joined under the new membership scheme and that letters had gone out to al leavers as part of the “Leavers Package”.

**10. Web Site**

Richard Briggs reported that he had looked at the present Web Site and that he was liaising with the present “Webmaster” to update it. He also suggested that a complete reworking of the Website was desirable to provide a better service to members and also, possibly, to restrict access to some parts to members as a benefit of membership. A professional rework would involve some cost. It was reported that possibly some Old Cryptians were in that line of business and that they should be given first refusal.

It was proposed by John Mitchell and seconded by Clive Thomas that Richard Briggs prepare a specification and obtain quotations. Approved *nem con.*

**11. Founders Day**

It was reported that the golf match would be at Rodney Hill as the previous year with a first tee-off at 0900. Michael Beard expressed some concern at the low number of acceptances for the supper.

**12. Cenotaph**

It was confirmed that the Cenotaph parade would be on Sunday 11 November and that tickets etc were being organised by Mike Nuth who would welcome larger numbers.

The Memorial Service at the School would be on 9 November.

**13. The Cryptian**

Howard Allen reported that the Cryptian was ready for the press and that this years edition should be a “Bumper” edition. This year it would be available on CD but he was not sure that it would be available as usual for Founders Day because of the early date of that event

**14. Life Membership**

At the previous meeting the question of a life subscription had been raised. This would not be “Life Membership” which was a category of membership reserved for those who had been awarded it for signal service to the club. Payment of a one-off subscription would make a “Member for Life”. There was discussion about at what age such a payment could be made, so that it would not result in major loss of income to the Club, and about the scale of the payment. The Membership Secretary reported that he had agreed to payment from one senior member who lived in Australia. The matter was not the subject of a decision but there seemed a general feeling that there was a mutual advantage when it involved overseas members who could incur substantial exchange costs on relatively small annual amounts.

**15. Any Other Business**

a. “Flag” John Mitchell produced the Crypt “Flag” that he had had produced to general approval. It was suggested that it be consecrated at the annual carol service and John was congratulated on his work.

b.Honours Boards. Honours Boards were to be purchased for placement in the School Hall Past Presidents of the Club at a cost of £440, for Cryptians who gained Oxbridge places £200.( the lower price was because that board would be from 2011 unlike the president’s board that goes back 100+ years). There would also be a board to celebrate Life Members.

c.Oxford Dinner Richard Briggs was thanked for his efforts in organising the Dinner. There was some concern about the cost particularly when accommodation was included. It was suggested that the use of a minibus be considered.

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 8 October