



The Old Cicestrians' Committee



Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at The Park Hotel Chichester on Friday the 13th January 2017

The following were in attendance:

Elected Members

Colin Snook (President) (**CS**)
Geoff Wills (Hon.Secretary) (**GW**)
John Child (Hon.Treasurer/Membership Secretary) (**JC**)
Richard Dudley Wood-Kneller (Webmaster) (**RDWK**)
Maurice Hall (**MH**)
Clive Sayer (**CSa**)

Members to be proposed for co-option

Bill Allen OBE (**BA**)
Alan Green (**AG**)
Denis Sheppard (**DS**)
Nigel Smith (**NS**)
John Wood (**JW**)

1. Apologies for Absence

All members were present.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held at the Park Hotel Chichester on Friday the 30th September 2016 were confirmed as being a true record of that meeting. There were no matters arising other than those to be dealt with on the Agenda of this meeting.

3. Formal co-option of new members

As a result of the committee's appeal at the Christmas Lunch **JC** had five members offer to join the committee (as shown above). Following the offers, four of them went on to meet with **JC** on the 10.01.2017 to discuss the committee's needs and how they might help. Due to the distances involved **BA** had not attended this meeting but it had already been agreed that he would assist **RDWK** with the website. **AG** did attend the meeting and confirmed his willingness to become the Association's Archivist to replace Martin Dawes-Chew. **JC** would be arranging a further meeting with **DS NS** and **JW** to discuss their possible future input and **would report back at the next committee meeting**. The Chairman (**CS**) thanked both **JC** for his input in this matter and also the five members for coming forward and offering their services. The Committee confirmed their formal co-option.

4. The Website

RDWK confirmed that the new website was "up and running" and that he was now very much enjoying the additional support and experience of **BA** in developing the site. He explained for the new members

present that at a previous committee meeting it had been agreed that the future of the Association largely depended on a vibrant and regularly up-dated website. Whilst the new website was providing these opportunities there were still a number of issues in the process of being addressed.

RDWK explained the reason for introducing the concept of a dedicated OC's group on Facebook that now has 56 registered members. **BA** stated that the Facebook section should be regarded as a "facility" as it gave the opportunity of posting and exchanging topics of a personal nature rather than having them posted on the website. It was again confirmed that news postings on the website would be very much welcomed but they would only be uploaded by either **RDWK** or **BA**.

JC raised two issues concerning membership of the O.C's. Firstly, if anyone could access all aspects of the website without paying a subscription that provided them with 'members' access, what was the incentive for people to pay to be members of the Association? Secondly, on the old website there had been a section where Old Cicestrians could apply to become members, giving their details and completing the appropriate form to pay the £5.00 annual subscription. This had allowed the membership secretary to register people as members (hence full access to the website) or conversely cancel the membership of people who had not paid their membership.

RDWK explained that it had become apparent that to create a similar membership database on the new website would have been prohibitively expensive. **BA** suggested that an application form and details of how to pay could be made available on the new website; upon completion, this could be sent to the Membership Secretary. The committee thanked **RDWK** and **BA** for their time and expertise devoted to creating the website. It was again stressed that its success was dependent on regular contributions from members to ensure it was both informative and worthy of regular viewing. This would be particularly relevant in announcing the dates of any events.

5. Christmas Lunch and AGM

The annual Christmas Lunch was again held at The Park Hotel and enjoyed by 46 members. The guest speaker was Old Cicestrian - David Wood OBE – a leading writer and director of plays and musicals for children, with a host of successes to his name, He was awarded the OBE in the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours List for his services to literature and drama. His after lunch presentation was of the highest order and most enjoyable. The Hon Secretary, **GW**, made arrangements for a book token of £50 to be sent to David with a card of thanks on behalf of all members who had the pleasure of being entertained in such an enjoyable style. David Wood himself had written saying how much he had enjoyed the occasion.

A copy of the minutes of the last AGM, held on the 3rd December 2016, was circulated at this meeting. There was little comment. **JC** presented the Committee with a data sheet indicating the venues and numbers attended at the Christmas lunches since their introduction in 1999.

6. Future Membership of Old Cicestrians

GW raised the question of future eligibility for membership of the Old Cicestrians following the creation of the new co-educational school, CHS from July 2016. With the passing of CHSB (which had included 6th form girl students) would the O.C's accept students from the new school? The constitution stated that membership was open to former students and staff of the Chichester High School for Boys. **JC** pointed out that membership did include one former female student. This is a matter for future consideration.

A few members had expressed their disappointment with the radical change in colour of the school blazer together with the school badge. Whilst recognising that it had *replaced* the original CHSB, the committee agreed that they wished the newly formed school and its students every success in the future. **NS** said that he felt that it should be considered to be a *successor* to CHSB.

As the Committee had confirmed that every support would be given to the new school and that it would be considered to be the successor to the former CHSB, **JC** offered to make contact with Tracy Waller

- the Marketing and Publicity Co-Coordinator at the CHS – and endeavour to obtain both her views and those of the Head Teacher regarding this matter. **JC will report back to the next Committee meeting.**

7. Financial Report

JC presented the committee with the following figures:

General account - £2,533.58

Savings account - £1,541.59

Currently, there are 133 paid up members. (144 in September 2016) and £638 in subscriptions has been received to date. **JC** stated that the main item of expenditure had been the replacement of the website (approximately £1,180) Sundry items amounted to approximately £300 whilst the future hosting of the site would be approximately £180 p.a.

A general discussion ensued with questions ranging from what a member gets from his membership subscription to the possibility of raising funds by various other means. **(DS)** The provision of “prizes” to current students in the form of book tokens, together with other monetary awards including scholarships, was also considered but dependent on the outcome of **JC**’s proposed meeting with Tracy Waller (item 6).

8. Archives

AG had expressed his willingness to become the Archives Officer and his offer was gratefully accepted.

Archive material was currently stored in four boxes at the home of Martin Chews-Daw who has relinquished his position of Archives Officer. **JC** had spoken with **MCD** and he had agreed to pass all of the archive materials in his position on to **AG**, included an original Old Cicestrian blazer. The need for a future storage facility was discussed. It was understood that the Chichester Records Office would receive written or printed material but not clothing or other similar objects. Following receipt of the items, and after consideration, **AG will report back to the next Committee meeting.**

9. Review of Committee Members areas of responsibility

JC produced and distributed a list of his proposals for the future make-up and responsibilities of Committee, for future discussion. He will be arranging a further meeting with **DS, JW** and **NS**. **This item would again be placed on the agenda of the next Committee meeting.**

10. Any other business

AG commented that 2018 would see the 90th Anniversary of CHSB. **It was agreed that the Committee would discuss this topic at the next Committee meeting.**

CS referred to those Old Boys who had fallen in WW2. Whilst there was a mounted commemorative plaque in the school, he felt that there should be an in-depth document produced on each individual who had fallen in WW2. This would provide a brief history of their time spent at CHSB together with their service life and the circumstances surrounding their passing. The Committee felt that there was merit in pursuing this suggestion and asked **CS** to consider the most advantageous way of producing such a document. **CS to report back to the next Committee meeting.**

GW noted that as the Committee membership had now considerably increased in number, with 10 members lunching at the Anglesey Arms, it would be helpful in future to notify the Anglesey Arms in advance of the number anticipated. Members will, therefore, be requested to advise the Hon. Secretary **GW** if they did **NOT** intend taking lunch by return following receipt of the agenda of the applicable meeting.

(For information, at the start of the meeting **JC** had produced a substantial personal folder for each committee member containing up to date documents and data relating to the committee's recent deliberations and suggested that it be used for the filing of future minutes and other relevant documents pertaining to the needs of the individual.)

Date of the next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting was fixed for **Friday 19th May 2017** at the Park Hotel commencing at 10.30am.

This meeting commenced at 10.30am and terminated at 12.50 pm. Ten members took lunch at the nearby Anglesey Arms

Approved and confirmed to be a true record of the meeting.

SignedColin Snook (Chairman)

Date: