

(Ch)₃ Affinity Group Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 21st October 2017

Meeting commenced at 17.40

Present: Martin Grossel [MCG] (Chair), David Dunmur [DD] (Treasurer), Richard Wayne [RPW], Alex Robinson [AR], Allan Chapman [AC], and Timothy Barendt [TB].

1. Apologies had been received from: Fiona Holdsworth, Alex Ashcroft, David Franks, David Wheeler, George Marston, Graham Allatt, Ian Jones, Kiri North, Mike Tuddenham, Sarah Allatt, Simon Hall, Tony Law, Will Peveler, Ann Holloway, and Simon Newstead (invited).

2. Election of a Secretary:

MCG agreed to take notes for this meeting and will produce the minutes but flagged the urgent need for the election of a new Secretary for the Committee.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was noted that a draft version of these had already been circulated and appropriate corrections had been made. Accordingly, in the absence of any further comments, they were approved.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

e-Newsletter – It was understood that, given the pressure on undergraduates throughout their course these days, the current tutors felt that this should be dropped at present though the idea might be pursued with the 2nd year students through the use of a write-up of the content of the presentations that they give in Hilary Term. An alternative would be for the Part 2 students to provide a short description of their project work, though in that case there was the issue of potential confidentiality.

Careers advice – It was agreed that the idea of a “Careers Event/Evening” involving old members should be explored.

Meeting dates – It was agreed that the dates of next meetings should be provisionally set as 27th January 2018 and 12th May 2018.

Website and minutes – No-one present was aware as to whether the contents of the website were up-to-date, though the (unapproved) Minutes of the May meeting were apparently available.

Distruc events - DD noted that there was likely to be a repeat event on 1st July 2018 but this might be hosted at another college.

5. Treasurer’s Report:

DD said that there had been no activity in the accounts. MCG noted that there had been a small profit from the March '17 WW event, but that this was being retained at the moment in order to cover some potential costs associated with the erection of a Blue Plaque on one of Angel’s Oxford residences (which had now been approved subject to planning permission etc.). It was noted that the Blue Plaque Committee should be encouraged to approach the Royal Society of Chemistry, and MCG the Governing Body, for financial support.

DD suggested that the Chairman of the local RSC Committee (Mike Moss, Head of the University Careers Service) might be invited for dinner in Christ Church in the near future. This was agreed, it being noted that there should be a significant Chemistry presence at such a dinner.

6. Paul Kent memorial event (September 1st 2018)

RPW stated that a number of potential speakers had already been approached. DD tabled a hypothetical programme and budget. This included a list of speakers who had already agreed to participate. It was felt that this should just be an afternoon programme, since the event was on a Saturday. This would allow the attendees to meet up earlier in the day if they wished to do so.

Dinner would also be available in college. Most participants would probably be ChCh alumni and so would be entitled to dinner (and potentially to bring a guest subject to the Steward's approval). The Hall had been booked for this event. MCG suggested that for financial reasons it would be better if the latter was regarded as a High Table event in Hall, since costs would be lower and members of the GCR etc could then attend.

DD anticipated a potential overall cost in the region of £45 per head. It was agreed that there should be no speeches after dinner. It was noted that the Dean would need to be invited to both the afternoon event and the dinner. Either he or David Neuberger could be asked to open proceedings.

The list of potential speakers was reviewed. The possibility of contributions from one of PWK's associates in Durham and from Oxford Brooke's was also discussed. It was also suggested that an opportunity be provided by MCG for attendees to record memories of PWK in the morning in the Lee Building

A preliminary budget for the event was tabled. It was hoped that the event would be supported by a grant (ca £1200) from GB (MCG suggested that the Lee Fund might be used). Covering the cost of the proposed symposium publication was then discussed. It was suggested that a charge of ca £5 might be made for this publication. It was hoped that each of the speakers might provide an abstract for their talk which could also be used in the booklet. It was also suggested that reproductions of PWK's key publications or reviews might be included. David Smith had been approached to act as editor for this project. It was also noted that support from Oxford Brookes and Van Mildert College might be sought.

MCG suggested that a full tribute to PWK should be included in the 2017 Christ Church Annual Report (this should be arranged via Jackie Webber). It was also proposed that the printers of the Annual Report be approached for a quotation for production of the Symposium booklet. DD noted that he would like registration to be opened in the New Year.

The issue of the Memorial Service was also discussed. MCG commented that this was being organised by the Sub-Dean (Edmund Newey) and it was likely that this would take place in Hilary Term 2018.

7. Future Events.

Plans for the Dinner in 16th March 2018 were progressing though there were concerns about accommodation in college, the dinner taking place on Friday of 9th week. It was agreed that the AGM would take place that afternoon together with some talks but that RPW, AKC and MCG would not give lectures.

8. Constitution

AR reported on progress with the Constitution. He commented that it was now almost in its final form and that he would circulate the final version before the next Committee Meeting. He was thanked for his work on this.

It was proposed that the Committee adopt the Constitution at its next meeting and that this would allow for an AGM to be held in March.

9. AOB

AC reported that in the summer Andrew Eve (matric 2013) had gained a prize for the best thesis from the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (presented at the Maison Francaise) for his Part 2 dissertation (supervised by AC). It was agreed that this news should be reported on the website.

The meeting ended at 1900.

MCG