

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 27th September 2015 at Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford, Oxon.

Present: Steve Barriff (Chairman), Sam Hearn (Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary) Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Roy Bailey and Gerald McGregor.

Apologies: None.

Minutes of Last Meeting: These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising:

Roy reported that he still had several boxes of the John Adair biography at home and he wondered whether Sam wanted them at his home.

Membership Matters:

Sam asked Gerald if he had managed to contact the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to see where any students at doctorate level would be interested, but he is concentrating on the Parliamentary line at present. However he has done some research on A-Level subsets to see whether it would be possible to get the Society inserted into some of the exam books as a source of reference.

Executive Committee Issues:

Roy's decision to retire next year leaves us with the problem of editing the newsletter and the running of the website.

Derek Lester - current situation:

It was agreed that we would employ Greg Moss of Garner Channing to handle the problem of the reclamation of the library from Derek by whatever legal action he deemed necessary, if he had received no response to his initial letter..

The Patriot:

With regard to the next edition of the newsletter, Roy had very little to work on at present and some discussion took place as to what articles might be forthcoming.

Financial Report:

Sam reported that the only money we had spent since the last report was to Sarah Large in respect of the web site. Apart from that there have not really been any bills to pay. Sam wants to get another Gift Aid claim in and Gerald offered to help Sam with this but Sam felt it would be quicker for him to do the job himself rather than try to hand it over at this stage, though he will keep Gerald's offer in mind for the future.

Sam had again written to both banks about electronic banking.

Website:

Roy had some slight reservations about the suggested design of the new website but he was happy with the way it was being put together. The sub-committee will have to meet and start working on it seriously now.

Once Sarah Large has set up the all singing-all dancing website, this should be easier to manage by Trustees. Anthea is a joint manager of the Members' Google Group, which does not require a lot of work and Roy feels that she will be able to deal with this without too much difficulty once he hands it over.

Location of 2016 Wreath Laying:

It was agreed that we should try to lay a wreath at the Houses of Parliament again next year on 24th June.

Sam commented that the Chalgrove monument will need a lot of money spending on it at some stage. It is owned by Chalgrove Parish Council.

Buckinghamshire Local History Network:

Sam reported on this event which he and Jim Rodda had attended. They sold £32 worth of books and received two enquiries about talks and noted contact details in order to arrange these. Quite a lot of leaflets were distributed and we have been invited back to next year's event. Sam emphasized that he feels it is worth the Society turning up at these events which do

generate quite a lot of interest but it does need a minimum of two people on each occasion. Sam also commented that David Thorne, who organises the event on behalf of the BHLN, would welcome some help with doing this. It might be worth canvassing our membership to see whether anyone would be interested in helping with this, which would be good publicity for the Society.

Future Events:

Steve will Doodle the committee about suggested dates for meetings in 2016. It was suggested we need at least four meetings plus the AGM.

It was unlikely that we would be able to attend the Thame Charities Fair this November due to other engagements.

AGM 2016 - It was suggested that we might ask whether we could hold this at Hampden House again and Anthea was asked to see whether she could book this. The suggested dates are 17th or 24th April. Anthea will e-mail Sue Passaro and find out whether they can accommodate us on either of these dates.

Any Items not on Agenda:

Roy had not ordered any more leaflets as he thought Sam wanted him to make some alterations to the publication.

Anthea reported that she has not yet purchased a further supply of stamps, but would do so when sending out the next edition of the newsletter, at which time she will stock up as a hedge against a probable price rise next spring.

The question of where we will house the library once it is retrieved from Derek was raised. One suggestion was Wendover Library.

Jim Rodda attended for a short while and reported on his involvement with the refurbishment of the Ship Money monument at Prestwood, as he has taken over responsibility for this from Barney Tyrwhitt-Drake.

Date and Venue of next meeting:

The date for this meeting was agreed as 8th November at the same venue, commencing at 2.00.