

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 5th June 2016 at Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford

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

1. Apologies: Philip Broomfield and Gerald McGregor.

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

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising that will not be discussed later in the meeting.

3. Membership Issues:

Phil sent apologies but had had nothing to report as yet. Gerald was also unable to attend but had informed Sam that he has the contacts at Westminster and will be dealing with this matter.

4. Executive Committee Issues:

The Executive Committee has lost one member (Roy) and gained two (Jim Rodda and Phil Broomfield), so things are looking up, though Steve has stated his intention of standing down at the next AGM.

5. The Patriot:

Sam has received a lot of help from Sarah with setting up Mailchimp to produce the newsletter.

Steve asked whether anyone had a copy of all the past newsletters. Anthea and Roy both have paper copies and Roy also has electronic copies, which will eventually be loaded onto the website.

6. Financial Report:

Sam will tidy up the accounts before handing them over to Jim. These are set up using Quickbooks, which Jim is not yet familiar with, but Sam can retain computer access and oversee them if necessary. He has submitted the 2014 Gift Aid return and will liaise with Phil in connection with the 2015 return. He will then go through it with Jim before submission.

7. Website:

Steve was concerned that only about six members had registered on the member's section of the new website.

Roy will get together with Steve and hand over the control panel for the website, from which it is possible to change settings etc.

8. 2016 Wreath-Laying:

Wreath laying at Westminster will hopefully be arranged for later in the year, possibly in October, due to the date of the Referendum in June making it unlikely that we could hold it on the 24th as originally suggested.

With regard to the suggested wreath laying at the Ship Money Memorial, as very few people were going to be able to attend this event, it was decided to abandon the idea for this year possibly rescheduling it for next year, when progress has been made on ascertaining what could be done by way of upgrading the site.

9. Future Events:

The question of an anniversary dinner was discussed with no decisions being made. We have not been to Hartwell House for a long time, but if we decided to do an expensive meal for the Society anniversary celebration, this should be considered as a possible venue, as it has Hampden connections and is conveniently situated.

10. Any Items not on the Agenda:

Steve wondered whether anything had been done about the display boards, which need updating and refreshing. It is agreed that the pull-up banners are really more useful and Roy's contact Richard would do them for us, but we need to give some thought to the design of each one.

Sam reported that Philip is keen on working on a genealogy section for the Society, and once he has his new computer set up, Sam will set him up with access for this purpose.

Tracy Borman now has a new TV series backing up her new book, on the private lives of the Tudors and Sam commented that it might be possible to get her to come along and give us a talk on the subject.

Sam reported that The Battlefields Trust are doing a walk of the battlefield, which has been advertised on our website, and in which Sam is hoping to take part.

Sam felt that we should take steps to advertise the talks being arranged by the Battlefield Trust, not only ourselves, but should try to find other local history groups who would be happy to advertise it to their members.

11. Date and Venue of next meeting:

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 11th September at the same venue.