

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 11th September 2016 at Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford

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

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:

Sam had circulated a copy of the current accounts together with a list of members who had not paid this year's subscriptions, who had been chased up.

4. Executive Committee Issues:

The fact that there were only three members of the Executive Committee present at this meeting reinforced the opinion that we really do need to recruit more people to the committee.

5. The Patriot:

It was agreed that the first edition of the new-style newsletter was excellent and it had been well-received by those members who had commented on it. Sam has enough material for the next edition.

6. Financial Report:

Sam had produced a copy of the latest accounts showing that the Society is in good financial health. He reported on one donation of £280, which represents over-payment of subscriptions by one member who, when notified of this fact, asked that this sum be treated as a donation.

7. Website:

It was agreed that the new website is excellent, though it appears that few members have accessed it as yet. It may well be that some are still getting on to the old website, not realising that they need to press the F5 key on their keyboards in order to go through to the new one.

8. 2016 Wreath-Laying at Westminster:

The date for this has been fixed for 22nd November at 9.00. Sam was hoping to arrange a trip round the Houses of Parliament to coincide in the hope that this would encourage more members to attend, though unfortunately the 9.00 start makes it difficult, if not impossible, for a lot of people. Sam did say that he would be able to put some people up at his house overnight if they wished.

9. Future Events:

The venue for the 2017 AGM was discussed. Anthea felt that Hartwell House would probably be the best alternative and Sam said he would try to sound them out on this.

Sam reported that he would not be able to man the JHS table at the Bucks Family History Fair this year and thought he would e-mail the membership to see if anyone was prepared to do this for us.

Tim Oliver has very kindly offered the use of Hampden House on 7th October 2017 for the 25th anniversary celebrations and Sam has been in touch with Stuart Peachey regarding a 16th century menu. We need a minimum of 60 attendees to make this viable, and need to start advertising it now.

10. Any Items not on the Agenda:

Steve will Doodle everyone with suggested dates for four meetings plus AGM for 2017.

The question of signatories to the bank account was discussed. Currently Anthea and Sam are signatories and it will be necessary for Jim Rodda, Phil Broomfield and Steve Barriff to also have that facility. The trustees unanimously approved the resolution required by the Cooperative Bank in order to amend the Society's bank mandate by adding James Rodda, Steve Barriff and Philip Broomfield to the list of authorised cheque signatories.

Phil has expressed an interest in running the genealogy part of the website and as soon as he is in a position to make a start on this, he will be set up with the necessary access and information to enable him to proceed.

Steve reported on the proposed residential development at Chalgrove. He had contacted the Council expressing the Society's objections to this proposal and received an acknowledgement. If the proposals go ahead, it might be possible to persuade the developers to make a donation towards the upkeep of the monument, which is currently in a rather fragile condition and will need major works of preservation in the not too far distant future.

11. Date and Venue of next meeting:

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 27th November at 2.00 at the same venue.