

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2016 at Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford

Present: Steve Barriff (Chairman), Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn, Gerald McGregor, Jim Rodda.

1. Apologies: Were received from Phil Broomfield.

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 needs to arrange a meeting with Philip to discuss membership matters and integration with the Treasurer.

Sam had produced a list of members who had failed to pay their subscriptions despite being reminded. The names were discussed and it was agreed that one or two of them should be written to again and the rest deleted from the membership list.

Gerald suggested that if we could obtain a complete list of MPs he could canvass them all to see whether they would like to become members, which the Committee agreed would be a good idea, especially if this could be done by e-mail.

Sam reported that the new headmaster of the John Hampden School in Thame was very keen on forging links with the Society and is using the Hampden motto to inspire the children.

4. Executive Committee Issues:

There was nothing to report on this matter. We still need to find more Trustees.

5. The Patriot:

Sam is still producing a 'Word' version of the newsletter in order to print it off for mailing out to those members who require this. No unfavourable comments had been received in respect of the new format, indeed everyone seemed to be very happy with it.

6. Financial Report:

Sam reported that we are in a healthy financial position. He has not yet completed another Gift Aid claim which will produce about another £200 but will do this shortly.

7. Website:

It was commented that the new website is generally excellent, though there were one or two minor tweaks needed and Sam will deal with this.

8. 2016 Wreath-Laying at Westminster:

Sam reported on this event, which had been very successful, despite having been nearly cancelled for lack of support. It is hoped this will become a regular event.

9. Ship Money Memorial Project:

Jim reported that the Chiltern Society have a budget of £1,000 to spend on this project and he wondered whether some of this could be spent on providing a park bench for the use of anyone visiting the memorial. The memorial had been pronounced to be in a safe condition and it was felt that the biggest risk was from the tree. It was also felt that a sign should be erected on the road indicating the presence of the monument as, unless you know it is there, it is very difficult to see from the road. Once the wording has been agreed, new information boards will be erected at the site.

10. Anniversary Dinner:

Tim Oliver has very generously agreed that we can this event at Hampden House and Sam has been in communication with a firm of caterers who specialise in 17th century banquets. Attendees could, if they wished, wear period costume.

One or two members had expressed an interest in attending and it would be helpful if other interested members could let the Hon. Secretary know. Booking forms will be sent out in due course.

11. Hampden's Military Career:

The possibility was raised of the Society publishing the text of the Hampden's Military Career talks as a small book. Shire Books will be asked to quote for this.

12. Video:

The possibility of producing a short video showing the exploits of the Society over the past 25 years was discussed. Sam suggested that he ask a Chiswick firm that produces short videos for a quote for producing something for us.

13. Painting of the American Privateer 'Hampden' against the East India Man 'The Bridgewater'

It would be possible to use this seascape painting by Francis Holman depicting the American Stars and Stripes flag for the first time in its present form, on our website on payment of a premium. Sam will mention this in the newsletter and say that if anyone would like to sponsor purchasing this right, we would be happy to handle the administration.

14. Future Events:

A discussion took place concerning a venue for the AGM. As the Society anniversary lunch will be held at Hampden House, we need a different venue for the AGM. One suggestion was Hartwell House and Sam will look into the possibilities.

15. Any Items not on the Agenda:

Anthea asked that in future e-mails, it would be helpful if, instead of just 'replying' to a previous e-mail without changing the subject line, everyone should make certain that the subject line of each e-mail reflected the contents. Otherwise it is almost impossible to trace a particular e-mail in the future.

Gerald mentioned the Ministry of Defence and Chalgrove Airfield and asked what the present position was and what the impact would be on the monument. Anthea had understood that it had already been sold. Gerald will clarify the situation and report back in due course. (Anthea has since heard that Chalgrove Airfield has been transferred from the Ministry of Defence to the Government's Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

16. Date and Venue of next meeting:

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 26th February at 2.00 at the same venue.