

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 3rd September 2017 at Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford

<p>Present: Steve Barriff, Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn, Roy Bailey, Gerald McGregor, Miles Buckinghamshire and Phil Broomfield (via Skype)</p>	
<p>1. Apologies: There were no apologies.</p> <p>Sam and Steve reaffirmed their willingness to stand in as Treasurer and Chairman respectively until these posts can be filled. Gerald volunteered to take on the Treasurership post in due course if no-one else came forward, and Miles said he would speak to a financial manager who is retiring from Hampden House who might be prepared to take this on. When Roy has finished working on two historical books next year, he would be prepared to stand as Chairman.</p> <p>2. Minutes of Last Meeting: These were accepted as a true record of the last meeting.</p> <p>3. Matters Arising: <u>Video:</u> Sam reported that his contact for the production of a video, Julian Tanner, needs to be nailed down in connection with this, though once he starts on a project he does work very fast. He will contact him again and see what transpires. Roy suggested that, if a video will not be available by the time of the Dinner, a Power Point production might be worth considering.</p> <p><u>Grampound Plaque:</u> Sam has not had a chance to speak to his chemist contact regarding a possible chemical solution to the problem, but understands now that the situation is not as bad as was first thought, and probably, with the aid of a ladder to reach the plaque, it might be possible to clean the lettering fairly easily.</p> <p>4. Membership Issues: Some discussion took place on this subject. With regard to Howard Deane, it appears that he has now paid his subscription and it was agreed that this should be returned to him with a note to the effect that, as he has failed to pay for some years until now, he is no longer considered to be a member of the Society.</p> <p>With regard to the lack of members coming forward to become Trustees, it was suggested that, if people did not want to commit to becoming a Trustee, they could still be committee members and have a role such as Social Secretary, etc. without being a Trustee, or living in the area as it has been proved that meetings can be held quite successfully using Skype. In particular, we do need some younger people to come forward and join us.</p> <p>It was suggested that we write a letter to members, informing them of the difficulties we are experiencing and asking them how they would like to see the Society evolving, possibly with a questionnaire asking what we were doing right and what we were doing wrong, and whether they would be prepared to take on any specific posts, making use of their expertise in particular fields, without the need to become a trustee, prior to a re-launch of the Society, following the anniversary dinner. Steve agreed that he would draft a letter and circulate it for comments. This could then be circulated to members via the Googlegroup and by mail to those who do not have e-mail addresses. Anthea will need to know who has been e-mailed and she will then do a mailshot to the remainder.</p> <p>Miles raised the question of whether the Society was in danger of folding and after discussion, despite the difficulties encountered with so few committee members to share the load, and the exhaustion felt by all engendered by the problems with Derek, it was agreed that there was no imminent danger of this happening, and in the event that it did eventually come to be, it would be a very slow process and the website would still remain in place. It is understood that other Societies have the same problems at various stages.</p> <p>Gerald is ready to start contacting the newly elected MPs and will then work backwards through the MPs, offering complimentary membership initially, though pointing out that contributions to the Society would be welcome.</p> <p>Advertising the Society in historical magazines would be very expensive, but we could achieve good coverage by using facebook and other social media websites. Roy reported that a lot of people like the Society's</p>	<p>Sam & Steve Miles</p> <p>Sam</p> <p>Sam</p> <p>Steve</p> <p>Anthea</p> <p>Gerald</p>

<p>Facebook page, but he was not keen on Twitter for the Society.</p>	
<p>Roy suggested that we contact overseas members living in places named Hampden to see if they can and, if so, how they will, promote John Hampden's activities in their area.</p>	
<p><u>5. The Patriot:</u> Sam has plenty of material, but has not had time to set this all up. He will do so as soon as he can, realising that this edition will be extremely late, but will, in the meantime, circulate a Hampden Voice apologising for the delay and bringing members up to date with events. Miles commented that quarterly newsletters were quite a commitment.</p>	<p>Sam</p>
<p><u>6. Financial Report:</u> Sam stated that there had been very little movement since the last meeting .</p>	
<p>Phil reported that he was advised that Glynde no longer have a shop, but he will keep in touch in case the situation changes, though it looks as though we will no longer be able to sell books through this channel.</p>	
<p>The question of the Society funding a prize for the John Hampden Grammar School was raised as a way of getting schools involved, though to date this has not proved possible as this period of history is not on the current school curriculum.</p>	
<p>Anthea had tried to pay in the cheques she had received for the anniversary dinner, but had been told she needed the correct paying-in slips. Sam said he would let her have a supply.</p>	<p>Sam</p>
<p><u>7. Website:</u> Roy commented on one or two discrepancies in the website, which Steve/Sam will sort out. These included the chronological order of some of the newsletters which needs adjusting. Roy also mentioned the spurious page that pops up when accessing each edition of, but apparently it is not possible to change this. He had previously mentioned certain discrepancies and noticed that nothing had been done to rectify them. Again Steve and Sam said they would look into this. Roy suggested that, as Steve understands Wordpress, he might like to carry on running the site as webmaster. There are three missing sets of Minutes that have not been uploaded and it was suggested that Anthea should upload these in future, but she pointed out that she would need instructing on how to do this. In due course Phil should be able to work on the genealogy section of the website.</p>	<p>Steve/Sam</p>
<p><u>8. Anniversary Dinner:</u> Some discussion took place about this event. Sam stated that the charge per head was based on 60 bookings. Anthea had a list of 21, Sam had a list of 10 plus six from Chiltern Brewery. It would be easier to see where we are heading if there was one bookings list and Anthea asked Sam to let her have his bookings list and she will deal with this.</p>	<p>Sam/Anthea</p>
<p>Sam had made contact with the people who will provide tables and table linen. Miles was concerned that it would be a lot of work setting the tables up, but Sam felt that the caterers would deal with this, once they had been delivered to Hampden House.</p>	<p>Sam</p>
<p>The question of wine was raised. Chiltern Brewery will provide John Hampden Ale, which will be available FOC to diners and Roy will purchase wine from Lidl and bring it along on the night for sale by the bottle to those who prefer wine with a meal.</p>	<p>Roy</p>
<p>Miles was very concerned that, if sufficient bookings were not forthcoming, the Society would be considerably out of pocket with this event. He offered to try and make up a table of 10. Steve will be away and unable to attend, but said he would donate £100 in lieu of his attendance. Unfortunately Phil and his family are also unable to attend as is Gerald. The Committee felt on balance, that it would be worth making a concerted effort to increase the number of attendees rather than cancel the event if at all possible. The intention of the dinner is to celebrate the Society's 25th anniversary and to show appreciation of the support we have received over those years from various people, and it would be a shame not to do so. It was accepted that there could be quite a financial shortfall if insufficient bookings were taken, but at this stage it was felt that we should continue with our plans and do as much as we can to minimise this shortfall. The Society does have sufficient funds to cover the shortfall if necessary, but hope that this will not be necessary</p>	<p>Miles</p>
<p>To this end, Roy said he would advertise the event, both on the Society's Facebook page, and with a press release, which has proved successful in the past.</p>	<p>Roy</p>
<p>The idea of producing the video in time for the dinner was that showing this would mean we did not have to</p>	

<p>have a number of speeches, but in the event that this is not available, we should keep speeches to a minimum. Miles agreed to give a speech of welcome and suggested that David Liddington be asked to be the main speaker.</p> <p><u>9. Future Events:</u> There are no new talks or events in the pipeline at present, other than those already booked for Sam and Roy. Roy stated that he is too busy at present to do a talk for the U3A but will do so in the spring. He needs a projector. It was mentioned that most of the historical societies make up their diaries a year ahead, so we would not be able to arrange to talk to any of them this year unless they had a cancellation, but we could start enquiring for the next year.</p> <p><u>10. Any Items not on the Agenda:</u> Gerald read out a draft letter to be sent to newly elected MPs, which was approved by the Committee. He reported that approaches to Oxford and Cambridge University History Departments had proved fruitless, but he will try again in due course. Whether or not they are interested in the Society depends on the period being covered in the curriculum, as with the schools.</p> <p>The refurbishment of the Ship Money Memorial was mentioned, but, although Sam has virtually approved the wording for the plaque now, it is not known when the refurbishment will be completed.</p> <p><u>AGM 2018.</u> It was agreed that we should set the date and venue as soon as possible so that it could be advertised in good time and hopefully will be better attended than last year in Amersham. Suggested dates were 14th or 15th April and it was decided to consider holding it in Thame, possibly at the Museum. Anthea volunteered to contact the Museum and find out whether this would be possible and what charge they would make.</p> <p>Anthea reported that she had received the yellow labels but had forgotten to bring them to the meeting. She will post a supply to Roy and Gerald.</p> <p><u>11. Date and Venue of next meeting:</u> 26th November at the same venue.</p>	<p>Miles</p> <p>Gerald</p> <p>Anthea</p> <p>Anthea.</p>
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