

The John Hampden Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 26th May 2019 at
Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford

Present: Roy Bailey (Chairman), Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn (Hon. Treasurer) Phil Broomfield, Membership Secretary (via Skype) and Steve Barriff (Webmaster)

1. Apologies: There were no apologies

2. Minutes of Last Meeting:

These were accepted as a true record of the last meeting with one amendment to the wording.

Matters Arising:

Any matters arising will be dealt with under the appropriate headings of the agenda.

3. Executive Committee Issues:

There were no new committee issues to discuss.

4. Membership Issues:

Phil reported on the current position regarding the membership of the Society and had updated the membership list.

5. The Patriot:

Roy has two articles for the next edition, and he will review "By the Sword Divided" and write something about Hampden Clubs. Phil will let him have an article after his holiday in Norfolk in August.

6. Financial Report:

Sam reported that we have about £5,300 in the main Bank Account and another £100 in another account.

7. Website:

The website had been down for several days and this turned out to be because we had overlooked the renewal of the domain name. This has now been sorted out and the site is up and running again.

8. Future Events:

Ian Beckett's talk scheduled for 6th July at Aylesbury Museum was discussed. Roy had designed a flyer and had it printed, to be placed in strategic places, advertising the event and anyone hoping to attend should contact Anthea for a ticket. Entrance is free, with light refreshments being available to purchase on the day. In the absence of printed tickets, Anthea will acknowledge all applications and advise people to print off the acknowledgement and take it along on the day.

9. Donations to Libraries:

There was some discussion about a dedication plate to be inserted in each copy of the John Adair biography donated to a library and Roy undertook to design one to be printed on sticky labels (Avery J8165), which should then be inserted on the inner cover of each book before it is presented. He will give Anthea a supply of books to offer to those libraries who were interested in stocking the book.

10. AGM 2020:

Roy had wondered whether it would be viable to arrange to hold next year's AGM at Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight. It was appreciated that this would be quite an expensive trip but wondered whether it would be possible to obtain a package from the Tourist authorities offering discounted ferry fares and discounted accommodation, for either a one night or a two-night visit. Before going any further, it was decided that it would be best to ask members via the Google list or Facebook, whether they would be interested in this suggestion. The suggestion was that we should travel over on the Saturday, hold the meeting on Sunday morning, followed by lunch and then return home, though some people might prefer to stay for another night if they had the time.

The date for the next AGM was discussed and it was agreed that, especially if the Isle of Wight venue proves possible, we should hold this a little later in the year when hopefully the weather would be better. Late April would be a possibility, or even early May, avoiding the bank holidays.

If this idea turns out not to be a viable one, Anthea suggested that it might be worth considering holding the meeting at The Lambert Arms Hotel. Phil wondered about Chenies Manor, but Sam pointed out that when they were approached previously, they were very expensive.

11. AOB:

Sam stated that he wondered about trying to arrange another visit to Parliament, though last time we struggled to make up a party. He felt that perhaps he could arrange some thing for his local colleagues and offer the chance to attend to the Society members to make up the numbers. He reported that he is now not so tied up with political matters and should therefore have a bit more time to spend on Society matters.

On arrival at the hotel for this meeting, we had discovered that it is under new management and that the car park now has ticket machines for anyone wishing to park there. The charges are £1 an hour and apparently, if spending £3 on parking, you can claim back £2 if using the hotel. This was not apparent when we all put £2 tickets on our cars, so we could not claim any refund. We had to complete the meeting as quickly as possible, having been delayed at the start by the lack of power in the room they allow us to use, which made it very difficult connecting up to Phil via Skype. It is appreciated that it is a convenient venue for committee members, but it is not always satisfactory and now with the parking charges it was felt that we should look at other local public houses/hotels that might have a room we could use, hopefully free of charge, on the purchase of alcoholic refreshments.

Phil asked about claiming expenses and was told that he should claim travelling expenses from the time that he became Membership Secretary, at the rate of 25p per mile.

12. Date & Venue of Next Meeting:

This will be organized via Rally or Doodle, hopefully for July/August.