

The John Hampden Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 15th March 2020 at The
Red Lion, High Street, Chalgrove.

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

1. Apologies: There were no apologies

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 covered during the agenda.

3. Executive Committee Issues (including expenses):

Anthea had received no new nominations for the Executive Committee. It was agreed that we really do need someone, preferably with organizational skills, to take on the task of organizing events for members to attend, but despite many attempts it has not been possible to find members willing to become involved. Sam feels that we need to look outside the current membership to find fresh blood for the committee.

4. Membership Issues:

Phil reported that there were 24 lapsed members and nine recent renewals, bringing the membership numbers to 83.

5. The Patriot:

Roy reported that he has some articles for the next edition but still needs some more items. There was also a letter from Revd. Hambly and Brian Cox was doing a book review. Roy asked Phil if he had anything he could write up for inclusion and he said he would think about it.

6. Financial Report:

Sam reported that Society funds stood at around £7,000. He will prepare the next Gift Aid return after checking the membership list in case any of the members need to sign Gift Aid forms. Sam also told the Executive Committee that Bucks Family History Society currently hold a balance of around £100 for books they have sold on our behalf and he will ask them to remit this to the Society in due course.

7. Website:

Roy reported that there are some anomalies on the website, which he would discuss with Sarah when he is able to set up a meeting with her, to see whether they could be resolved.

8. AGM 2020: and 2021:

A discussion took place as to whether the AGM scheduled for 29th March should be postponed in view of the coronavirus pandemic. It was likely that the venue would be instructed to close anyway, and it was unanimously agreed that we should notify all members that the AGM was postponed until at least the autumn. Roy would e-mail those members on the Google Group mailing list and Anthea will copy the e-mail as a letter to those members without e-mail. We should tell members that, provided they were happy with the suggestion, the Executive Committee as elected at the last AGM would continue in office until such time as this year's AGM could be held and an election of committee members takes place.

It was agreed that Sam would contact the Kings Head and let them know of our intentions, offering them a payment of £100 by way of compensation on the understanding that, if we re-book once the pandemic is over and things return to normal, this sum would act as a deposit in respect of that booking.

Roy is still keen to hold the 2021 AGM on the Isle of Wight. He will ask for ideas of prices for 2 people for 2 days, 2 people for 1 day, etc. including ferry fares, and see if she can come up with something that would be feasible to offer to members.

8. Future Events:

Anthea reported that she had heard from the organizers of the Thame History Festival and had forwarded the paperwork to the Committee, though it was likely that this would be cancelled/postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Jim Rodda had been in touch with Roy about the script for the Ship Money re-enactment. Roy felt that this was something more suited to an autumn/winter performance.

Roy asked Sam whether he had contacted Lynette Nusbacher to see if she would be prepared to talk to the Society, and he will see if he can organize something of this nature.

10. A.O.B:

It was reported that Roy, Sam and Anthea had met that day with Deiniol Hayward, Rector of Great Hampden Church, to discuss the possibility of placing a plaque in the Church commemorating the fact that John Hampden is buried in that building. Deiniol felt this was a good idea and pointed out that the Church is fundraising in order to carry out major refurbishment to the building to celebrate its 800th anniversary and he felt that once the refurbishment was completed would be a good time to install such a plaque. He advised us on the best way to go about getting permission from the Diocese, and suggested that it would be a good idea to tell them what we would like to do and ask their advice as to whether this was likely to be permissible and if so, the best way to go about it. He told us who to contact and suggested that we tell them we had spoken to him and he was happy with the idea.

Whilst we were in the Church, we took the opportunity to look around and found what we felt would be a suitable spot to place the plaque if permission is granted. Fortunately, we do not need to apply for planning permission to do this work. Roy has drawn up suitable wording for such a plaque and Sam had photographed a plaque already in the church that we felt would be suitable in style and size.

Anthea will pass the contact details to Roy, who will contact the appropriate person at the Diocese and see what transpires.

Anthea had received a suggestion from a member in the USA, that we should hold video meetings which would enable members from a distance to 'attend' and take part. We should investigate this, and Sam will see if he can find out the best way of going about it.

Sam thought we should consider what we can do with the new Speaker - possibly another tour of the House of Commons once the anticipated coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

11. Date & Venue of Next Meeting:

No date was fixed in view of the uncertainty concerning possible lock-down in view of the coronavirus pandemic. It was felt that we might try alternating between the Red Lion and The Swan for Executive Committee meetings.