

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 5th December 2020

Present: Roy Bailey (Chairman), Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn (Hon. Treasurer), Phil Broomfield (Membership Secretary) Peter Osborne and Beth Rogers.

1. Introduction and Welcome from Chairman:

Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that he had invited Beth Rogers to attend and report on progress she had made with GDPR compliance.

2. Apologies:

There were none.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 20th July:

This meeting was called to discuss co-opting Peter Osborne onto the Executive Committee and to approve the submission to the South Oxfordshire Planning Authority regarding the development at Chalgrove. Both items were approved. The meeting was not Minuted.

4. Matters Arising:

There were none.

5. Accounts:

Sam had circulated copies of the accounts to the end of November. He explained the various entries and answered questions raised. Anthea explained about the stamp stock and the reason behind holding this stock, though it is gradually running down and as we are corresponding with members by e-mail rather than post where possible now, there is no point in holding a large stock of stamps. Members' subs were only slightly down on last year.

Sam reported that the surplus for the year amounted to over £700 and that when he has had time to deal with the Gift Aid, that sum will be increased by £150 - £200. Sam also commented that as no talks had taken place, there has been no book sales.

6. Membership:

Phil reported on the current position with regards to members. Peter asked about the Society's views on corporate/group membership and it was stated that we favoured enrolling one member to represent each organization. Peter suggested that he follow this up by enrolling a group of 20 neighbours near his home who have formed a limited company and it was agreed that this was a good idea

7. GDPR:

Forms had been sent to all members, either by e-mail or by post, requesting that they be completed and returned to Beth in order that she could collate the information as to whether each member was happy to consent to the Society holding personal details on membership records, receive newsletters and other paperwork from the Society with their details being used for that purpose, for their name being circulated to other members, for their postal address and postcode being circulated to other members, for their landline and mobile number to be circulated to other members and for their e-mail addresses to be so circulated.

8. Chalgrove Planning Application:

Nothing had been heard following the submission made by the Society to the Oxfordshire Planning Authority.

9. The Patriot:

Roy reported that Beth had sent him an item for the next edition and Sam said that he had several items. Roy also has quite a lot of material and news to be included. Hopefully, the next edition will be ready for dispatch before too long.

10. The Website:

Sam reported that he has been updating the website and several items have been added. There has been an amendment to the genealogy section where an error regarding the marriage of Mary Hampden had been wrongly listed.

11. Drinkwater Locket:

The Executive Committee were happy with a suggestion that this might be loaned to Amersham Museum, but it was appreciated that it would gain wider visibility if lodged with the National Civil War Museum at Newark or the Buckinghamshire Museum in Aylesbury, so it was agreed to give them and Amersham Museum the opportunity to accept our offer, letting each of them know that there were other contenders.

12. St. Mary Magdalene Church Memorial:

Nothing has been heard from the Diocese following Roy's approach to them just before lockdown started. Peter suggested that having the plaque outside the church might be a better idea, informing visitors that John Hampden is buried in the Church, rather than placing it in the Church.

13. Jim Rodda's Play:

There is no further information regarding this at present, so it was agreed to leave it to Jim to come back to us when he has made some progress.

14 The Ship Money Monument:

Peter reported that the hedge had been cut and there is still work to be done on it. He reported that there are several stakeholders with an interest in the site, which makes it difficult to come to any agreement about improvements. He had consulted a stone mason regarding the condition of the inscription on the memorial, which is rapidly deteriorating, who suggested that the actual memorial be re-cut to restore it to the way it was when first erected. Whilst talking Peter mentioned two other new projects, one being a Hampden Footpath walk to include Little Hampden, Great Hampden, Hampden House and the Monument, the other being a Cycle Route including the statue in Aylesbury, the Ship Money Memorial and the Chalgrove Monument, where that monument is also in urgent need of conservation work.

15. Contact and Co-operation with other Organizations:

Sam felt that we could consider holding another Day School in co-operation with the Cromwell Association, who are going from strength to strengths.

16. The next Virtual Members Meeting:

It was decided that this should be scheduled for the New Year.

17. The 2021 AGM:

This was briefly discussed, and it was agreed that it should be set up for late April at the Kings Head in Aylesbury. If it is not going to be possible to do this, we should give serious thought to holding a virtual AGM via Zoom.

18. Committee Members' Profiles:

These had been added to the website by Sam and it was suggested that, in due course, it might be a good idea to add links from each committee member's name to the photograph attached to their profile.

19. Any Other Business.

Roy had drawn up a list of tasks that he undertakes on behalf of the Society, which will need to be re-allocated over the next few years. This subject can be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

In the absence of any further business to discuss, the meeting was called to a close.