

# The John Hampden Society

## Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**Present:** Roy Bailey (Chairman), Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn (Hon. Treasurer), Phil Broomfield (Membership Secretary) Peter Osborne and Beth Rogers (following confirmation of her co-option onto the committee).

### **1. Welcome from Chairman:**

Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting and the existing committee members were asked to vote on the possible co-option of Beth Rogers onto the committee. Voting was unanimous and Beth was invited to join the meeting.

### **2. Apologies:**

There were none.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020:**

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020. There were no matters arising.

Nothing had been heard about the Chalgrove application.

Committee members profiles are on the website.

### **4. Co-option of Beth Rogers**

This was proposed by Roy Bailey, seconded by Anthea Coles, and unanimously confirmed by the executive committee.

### **5. Voting at AGM**

Various methods of voting at this meeting were discussed. Apparently, there is a facility in Zoom for on-line voting and Doodle Poll offers a similar facility. Proxy voting was also discussed.

### **6. Date of AGM:**

After some discussion it was decided to hold the AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> May, with the paperwork being e-mailed to those members who are happy to receive communications by that method and posted to those members preferring that method of communication.

### **7. Membership (including recruitment):**

Phil reported that 17 renewals remain outstanding. Those not renewing by the end of the month will be deleted from the list. Once this has been sorted, Phil will produce two membership lists, one being the list that can be circulated to all members, omitting contact details for those members who do not wish them to be published, and the other for use by the Committee. We have one new member who had just joined. Sam reported that we had received about £865 in membership subs this year.

### **8. Financial Matters:**

Sam reported that there is £8,053 in the bank. Roy mentioned the cost of posting books to America which should be taken into account. Sam has adjusted the accounts to reflect the additional IT costs which we had been unaware were owing and it was agreed that it would be a good idea to ask Sarah if we could change the system and pay her a retainer and pay any additional costs incurred as a separate payment. Sam will discuss this with Sarah and see what can be arranged.

Sam reported that he was behind with the Gift Aid claims. He is doing 2018 but may not be able to claim it all due to lack of knowledge as to who actually paid in some instances.

### **9. The Patriot No. 97 - contents:**

Roy has two items for the next newsletter but needs more. Sam has some stuff which he will send over, including a book review. Hopefully, *The Patriot* no. 97 will be ready to send out with the AGM paperwork to meet the deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> April. Roy will ask Google Group members if they have any articles to be included in which case they should be sent to him before 14<sup>th</sup> April.

### **10. The Website:**

Sam has been carrying out some adjustments to the website, but this is time consuming, and he had run out of time at present.

Sarah had produced some analytical reports of the usage of the website which made quite interesting reading. Roy wondered whether there was a counter showing the number of hits and Sam pointed out that this was shown on the reports.

### **11. Post-AGM responsibilities:**

As Roy will be standing down at the coming AGM, he wishes to unload some of his responsibilities, except for the newsletter, which he will continue to produce though he feels that he does need a back-up. He felt that it was time to organize who will be taking on some of his other roles in the Society. He asked Anthea to take on responsibility for the 2 Google Groups and will instruct her on what this entails, which involves little work.

He then talked about the Facebook Page which will need to be maintained. Peter suggested that this is more easily done via an Instagram account, which will post direct to Facebook more easily than by logging into Facebook itself.

The main task that will need to be taken over is that of Webmaster/Chairman, which Sam is happy to take on provided someone else will take over from his as Treasurer. Roy asked Beth if she would be prepared to do this, and she said she would consider it and talk to Sam about whether this is a possibility.

We need to look for someone who is familiar with Publisher to back Roy up regarding the newsletter.

### **12. Future Events:**

Peter brought the meeting up to speed regarding the Ship Money memorial at Prestwood which is well visited. He and Jim Rodda have worked hard on improving the visual aspect of the site by cutting the hedges and clearing the site. They have outline permission to re-route the path and Peter has obtained a quote from a stonemason for the re-cutting of the inscription of the wording on the monument. Peter has raised the money to cover the cost of this work and it has been approved by Chiltern Society to be coordinated with a new John Hampden Walk, which would be publicized through the Chiltern Society magazine and the John Hampden cycle ride and will, when finalized, be the subject of an article in their magazine.

Peter feels that involving the Amersham Museum would be good, loaning them the hair, and he also felt that we should send copies of the newsletter to the Friends of Amersham Museum, which might help recruitment.

An interesting find had come to light whilst re-routing the walk, they uncovered a WWII Observation Post in the vicinity of the memorial, buried in the undergrowth, which was one of the ones on the approach to Chequers to give an early warning of marauders approaching. This can be added, as a point of interest, to the Walk.

Roy will give a talk to the Friends of the Amersham Museum once restrictions are eased.

Sam has a talk booked to the U3A in Abingdon on 4<sup>th</sup> June which members can attend so long as they have notified the U3A of their intention.

Roy has undertaken to give a physical talk in late August, to the Kettner Society in London, to be held at The National Liberal Club near the Embankment.

Roy also has a talk booked with Thatcham U3A in June.

Peter is booking a talk at the Griffin Club in Amersham. No date has been fixed yet as this will be a physical talk and will depend on when restrictions are lifted. after the talk.

Peter will let Roy have some short articles about the Monument for the newsletter.

Sam felt that getting back together with the Cromwell Association would be advantageous once restrictions are eased.

Beth wondered whether we could reach out and hold some events on Zoom.

### **13. Date of next committee meeting:**

It was agreed that we should hold the next meeting via Zoom on 11<sup>th</sup> April at 4 p.m. to discuss arrangements for the AGM.