

# The John Hampden Society

## Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 4th July 2021.

**Present:** Beth Rogers (Chairman), Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn (Hon. Treasurer), Phil Broomfield (Membership Secretary)

### **1. Apologies:**

Peter Osborne, Roy Bailey.

### **2. Minutes of Last meeting:**

These were accepted as a true record of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> March.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

Beth thanked Sam for making certain that the U3A talk he had done was available to the members, which was much appreciated. Sam reported that, when he asked the person running the event about whether the talk was recorded, he said it is not their policy to do this.

Beth talked about the suggestion that we should get back together with The Cromwell Association and wondered whether we wanted her to follow up on that, which she is happy to do.

### **4. Updates:**

Both Sam and Beth had sent items to Roy for the Patriot, which they were not sure if he had received. Beth had just finished the Derek Lester review which she will send to Roy. She noticed that one or two members had promised stuff, but it all depends on timescale. Sam will do a write-up about the U3A talk and Beth asked whether she should do the AGM.

### **5. The Patriot:**

Sam will let Anthea have printed copies of inserts to be distributed with The Patriot.

### **6. The Monument:**

Beth had been confused about which monument was referred to in respect of the wreath-laying, but now understands that it was the monument at Chalgrove. Unfortunately, it was pouring with rain and very few people attended – just Roy and Annabel from the Society.

### **7. Wreath-laying – future years.**

Beth felt that it was appropriate that we should lay a wreath and that the best place for this to be done by the Society was in Thame to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Chalgrove. Hampden had strong associations with Thame, and it would be a logical place for this to take place. It is not known who we should approach for permission to do this, but Maurice Kirtland would probably be able to point us in the right direction.

### **8. Chair:**

Beth felt she had kept us up to date on everything that was going on. She had had concerns about website security, which will be discussed later in the meeting,

### **9. Secretary:**

Anthea had nothing to discuss that was not covered by the agenda, apart from some amendments that had been suggested for the minutes of the AGM.

### **10. Treasurer:**

Sam has been trying to get some of the accounting records up to date. The good news was that we have got £949 by way of subscriptions in the bank with a couple of payments that he does not know who sent them, which is more money than we got in in the whole of last year. Financially Phil has been doing a really good job and we would really miss him if he felt he had too much on his plate and had to give up the job. We have received the Gift Aid for 2018. We have had book sales of £41.54, three small sales through the Bucks Family History Group, but to get them out Sam had spent just under £17 in postage. He has done a deal with Staniforth Books in Cumbria, discounting books by 50%, so by the time we have paid the postage, we do not make a lot of money, but it means that the book is there to be seen by the public.

### **11. Membership:**

Phil stated that he had had to chase the same people that he had to chase every year for failure to pay their subscriptions but now most people have switched to paying by standing order, which makes life a lot easier.

An email had been received from America containing genealogical queries, which Phil was responding to.

Phil asked whether we had had any feedback from Gordon Schreck who had offered to contact the librarian at Hampden-Sydney College to find out whether they would be able to distribute copies of our newsletter via the library, and hopefully persuade some of the students to join, but to date we have had no response, so it is a case of 'wait and see' at present.

Sam said that, when he joined the Society, there were a lot of people in Thame who were members, but a lot of them have since died or are quite elderly, but because of Hampden's links to Thame, you would think that we would have a good number of Thame residents as members.

## **12. Website Improvements:**

Beth commented that the website looks good following the improvements.

## **13. Website Security:**

Sam and Beth had had conversations about website security and Beth asked Sam whether he had anything to add to that. Sam reported that it had been agreed that he would talk to Sarah. It was agreed that we should pay a retainer and Sam will discuss this with her. We have previously been paying her in dribs and drabs and it would be better to put it on a formal basis and have a contract with her whereby we knew what she was doing and if she needed to do any work outside of that, she would let us know what was needed and how much it would cost.

Sam showed the committee what he had drawn up by way of a Risk Register and will send a copy to Beth initially for her input. It was felt, on first viewing, that this document covered the situation well.

## **14. Events Programme:**

We have Sam's suggested trip to Milton's Cottage and the Jordans Quaker centre on 12<sup>th</sup> September, which sounds interesting. Sam also mentioned that at Jordans, there is the Quaker cemetery where William Penn is buried. Penn is just a generation after Hampden. Also, William Penn's father-in-law, Isaac Penington is also buried there He was Lord Mayor of London in 1642. He was a Quaker and a Parliamentarian who suffered for the cause. This is a Hampden link and an Amersham link as he had a farm in Amersham.

Nothing had been heard from Peter about Amersham Museum, but it was felt that he is waiting to hear from them, and Beth would chase him to see if we can get something moving as this would be a good membership recruitment opportunity.

We have members doing talks with Roy doing one in London and Sam talking to the Abingdon U3A, but we are waiting for more incoming enquiries. Beth thought it might be possible to have a Zoom talk with a historian so that we could include members who do not live locally.

Sam suggested that it might be possible to do another Members' meeting.

## **15. Dates of future meetings:**

Sam had mentioned scheduling quarterly meetings and Beth thought that about 4 p.m. on a Sunday was best for most people. It was decided that the relevant dates should be 26<sup>th</sup> September, December 12<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup>, with the AGM scheduled for Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March (venue to be advised).

Some research is taking place to decide whether to change from Zoom to Whereby or another programme for our virtual meetings. Beth and Sam are looking into the situation for the future, as with committee members living so far apart, it was decided that virtual meetings are the way forward.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.