

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 22nd May 2022.

<p><u>Present:</u> Beth Rogers (Chairman), Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn (Hon. Treasurer), Peter Osborne and Rich Howell.</p>	
<p>Prior to opening the meeting, the Trustees discussed the possible co-option of American member, Richard Howell who had expressed an interest and a willingness to become a Trustee. Beth had received and circulated a good reference for Rich, and it was unanimously felt that he should be co-opted on the basis of what we know of him, hopefully to be endorsed at the next AGM.</p> <p>Beth notified Rich that he had been co-opted and invited him to join the meeting.</p>	
<p><u>.2. Apologies were received from:</u></p> <p>Miles Buckinghamshire, Phil Broomfield (Membership Secretary), Roy Bailey.</p>	
<p><u>3. Minutes of Last meeting:</u></p> <p>These were accepted as a true record of the meeting of 27th February 2022.</p>	
<p><u>4. Matters Arising:</u></p> <p>Any matters arising will be discussed in the course of the meeting.</p>	
<p><u>5. The Patriot:</u></p> <p>The latest issue has gone to print, and we now need to find a new editor as Roy will be standing down at the end of the year. Sam reported that he had uploaded the newsletter to the website that morning.</p>	
<p><u>6. Thame Museum, Wreath Laying and Sealed Knot weekend:</u></p> <p>Beth reported on the forthcoming weekend on 18th/19th June in Thame and Kimble. The main activity on the Saturday being the Sealed Knot 'Muster'.</p> <p>Sunday will be a very busy day with the wreath-laying in the morning. Maurice is providing the wreath and paying for it on behalf of the Society. The wreath laying will take place at 9.30 followed by the exhibition, where the Thame History Society and the JHS tables will hopefully be adjacent. Beth has asked Charles Harvey if he would man our table in case she is late turning up. The Sealed Knot will be present between 10 am and 4 pm on both days.</p> <p>In the afternoon, the event at Great Kimble will take place, for the re-hanging of the John Hampden sign. Roger Howgate is organizing that and is in contact with Miles regarding the ceremony.</p>	
<p><u>7. Report on AGM:</u></p> <p>We did not get the tour of the house we were promised, on this occasion, with Tim Oliver being unwell and it being half-term, with no-one in the family being in a position to give the tour, though most of the rooms on the ground floor were open and could be inspected by anyone wishing to look around.</p> <p>Carisbrook Castle is still interested in hosting an AGM, but recently Beth had heard from John Hobart that work on the meeting room has been delayed, and it will not be available for us next year, Beth will probably be going over later in the year and will try to see what they have in mind as an alternative.</p> <p>Beth will contact John and the Curator at Carisbrook to see if what we need is feasible.</p>	
<p><u>8. Jim's Proposals re Ship Money Inscription:</u></p> <p>Jim needs support of the Society to help produce a framed facsimile of the inscription on the monument, to send to schools etc. for display.</p> <p>Peter commented that efforts to get permission to have the stone re-cut have been turned down as it is an ancient monument. Soon the inscription will have disappeared. Peter has raised the money to pay for this, but the authorities will not allow him to go ahead. He hopes to get the Prime Minister (who is a historian and knows about John Hampden) to visit the monument within the next few weeks. He emphasized that the Chiltern Society are a very</p>	

<p>important outlet for us, and their magazine is good. Rich asked whether it would be possible to place a board showing the inscription at the monument, but Peter told him that one was already in place. Sam stated that there is a lot of Cromwelliana and Civil War artefacts at Chequers and asked Peter how difficult it might be for us to go there for a private visit, but it was felt it would not be possible. He also thought there might be Hampden stuff there. He stated that Rich might be interested to hear that the American Ambassador has to be a trustee of Chequers and he wondered whether we could find a way into Chequers via the American Ambassador.</p>	
<p><u>9. Suggested changes to constitution:</u></p> <p>Sam had suggestions for changes to the constitution which would need approval at an AGM/EGM in order to put them into effect. Sam will contact the Charity Commission to see whether they would be happy if we did this.</p>	
<p><u>10. Risk Register:</u></p> <p>Sam had received responses to his draft risk register, and asked Peter to let him have his. So far there were three risks that came up as high scorers, and once he had all responses, he would average the results. Peter felt that once we have the risk register in place, we could leave it at that. We could put it up on the members section of the website.</p> <p>Beth noticed that one of the items was that we lacked a strategic plan and she proposed that we discuss this at a future meeting. She will draft a strategic plan to be considered then.</p>	
<p><u>11. Website Contract Update:</u></p> <p>Sam corrected an item in previous Minutes stating that the website contract had been finalized but this was not the case. It was agreed to put our relationship with Sarah on a more formal basis and Sam had circulated a document about this, Peter had had some reservations about it. Sarah proposes to charge us £22 a month, which would give us certainty and we would know what she was contracted to do. It was agreed that we should proceed with this and see how it works out. Sam will get back to Sarah and accept her terms but with a time limit for review.</p> <p>Sam reminded Peter that he had talked about getting the website reviewed by one of his colleagues, and we need to think about whether we need to make any changes as it is old fashioned and new technology is now available which allows us to do things that we could not a few years ago.</p>	
<p><u>12. Lack of a ‘Hampden’ presence on the websites of the local Museums:</u></p> <p>Sam suggested we ask local museums, etc. to put links to our Society on their websites as we have links to other bodies, particularly Thame Museum. Beth is willing to write to the curators of the various museums, etc. to remind them of who we are and what we do and attach some links to <i>The Patriot</i>, asking them if they would like copies of <i>The Patriot</i>.</p>	
<p><u>13. Chair:</u></p> <p>Beth had nothing extra to report.</p>	
<p><u>14. Secretary:</u></p> <p>Anthea had nothing extra to discuss.</p>	
<p><u>15. Treasurer:</u></p> <p>Sam had intended totting up the bank accounts but can report that the situation is still looking good. He needs to liaise with Phil as all the money due from members should now be in and he should be able to report back on the total of subs and number of members then.</p>	
<p><u>16. Membership Secretary:</u></p> <p>Beth had heard from Phil who was unable to attend the meeting,</p>	
<p><u>17. AOB:</u></p> <p><u>1. Revisit the job description for new editor and agreement to pay whatever is needed to post it on the volunteer vacancy site.</u></p> <p>Beth had circulated the job description for the new Editor, Webmaster and Manager of social media. editing etc. Sam asked to whom the Editor will be responsible, and Beth said she would put in the job description that the Editor would be responsible to the Chair. Peter felt we might reduce the number of newsletters from 4 to 3 each year as this might be</p>	

more achievable and could be supplemented by circulating bulletins via Google Mail relating to Society events and activities, between editions.

Rich agreed that using social media was a great idea.

Beth will produce version 4 of the job description and post it on the Voluntary Website that she had identified earlier. Peter said he possibly had a member of his staff who, although not a historian and unable to source items for the newsletter, might be able to undertake the editorship for a small fee.

2. To re-affirm what we want to achieve with honorary membership so invitations can be actioned:

Peter felt we need more honorary members. and felt that local politicians would fit into the category of people to be offered honorary membership, along with head teachers at schools etc.

He also suggested a possible location for an AGM was Amersham Museum, to include a tour of the museum, a private room for the AGM, drinks and canapes in the garden if the weather allowed.

Peter mentioned that some books are actually 'scams' produced by robots with advertising matter in the midst of the text. He will review one such book where the reference to Hampden comes first, but we need to warn members to be wary of purchasing such books.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was declared closed.