

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 25th June 2023.

Present: Beth Rogers (Chairman), Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn (Hon. Treasurer) and Rich Howell.

1. Apologies were received from:

Miles Buckinghamshire, Peter Osborne, and Phil Broomfield.

2. Minutes of last Meeting:

These were approved as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising:

Sam and Beth have been doing successful talks with audiences of 35 plus with U3A turning out in strength. Beth has one talk scheduled with Missenden Parish Council for next year

At the AGM, we were asked to put something on the website about the talks that we offer, so Beth and Sam have been looking at the wording for that and this has been implemented.

Regarding leaflets, Beth presumed we had enough – Sam has loads which he can provide to anyone who asks. Peter wanted to modify it with a different picture of the monument, etc., and was going to contact Sarsen about that. Meanwhile, anyone requiring a supply of leaflets should contact Sam.

Phil has a supply of books to send to new members.

Beth has implemented Plan B regarding *The Patriot* and has produced the latest edition, using Word. Anthea thought it was brilliant and looked very professional. Rich thought it was very much in line with other issues he had seen and felt Beth had done a capital job.

Regarding letters to local MPs, Beth reported that Steve Baker, had said yes to receiving the newsletter, the MP for Thame said no because he is stepping down, a letter had been sent to Greg Smith and she had not heard from Peter regarding Amersham.

Sam has taken the books to Thame Museum but has not yet invoiced them.

Rich has been talking to people and we have received photographs of the Hampden Bed which is in the museum in Jamestown. We also have two new members from the USA, Dr Amy Simes and Patrick Moody who both seem very keen. Beth had heard from Maija Jansson that she would be willing to give a talk in the autumn on Hampden's impact on the US based on her article. Beth felt that if Rich had a Symposium with Zoom links that could be good. Beth said she had done a blog for Prestwood Social Media site, which she will send to Rich, and he could adapt it, explaining why it is important that a town or area is named after John Hampden.

Sam stated that he had done a little bit of research work on Hampden and Connecticut, because in Derek Lester's book, he states that Hampden was an investor in the Connecticut patent, which turns out not to be provable.

Phil had sent an amended membership list.

Sam had not had time to deal with the Gift Aid claim yet.

Beth has been in touch with Broughton Castle, and we are booked there for the next AGM on 24th March 2024.

Sam suggested that we could have a lunchtime buffet and we could decide whether we needed a formal speaker

4. Updates from Committee Members:

Rich would like to be able to get over here. If we had any events scheduled for next year, he would try to come to support the Society. Beth said that the AGM at Broughton Castle would be good in March. There will be wreath laying in June, but we have nothing else booked for 2024 yet. Sam said that if we knew Rich was coming, we could organize something around his visit.

Sam is reviewing a book by Robert Harris "Act of Oblivion" which is partially set in New England.

5. Options for Plaque and/or information board at Great Hampden Church:

Beth has thrown this open to the members because it was clear from the meeting at the church that the Vicar is in favour and probably the PCC also, but there is a great deal of bureaucracy in getting through the diocese who have

to agree to this, so we have to think about what material, what wording and where we would like the plaque to be placed and she would like to see what people come back with.

6. Civil War Memorials Register:

Sam hopes it will be possible to announce the launch date in *The Patriot 107*.

7. AGM De-Brief:

The strategic plan was approved at the meeting, but despite Beth emphasizing that it was only implementable if more people became involved, no-one has so far come forward.

One thing Beth noticed at the meeting was a new member suggesting we produce material for schools, which we cannot do as we do not have someone to do it.

8. Programme of Events and plans for future activities:

Already covered under Matters Arising.

9. Update on talks given and booked:

Already covered under Matters Arising.

10. Membership update including Google List and Membership list:

Already covered under Matters Arising.

11. US Members and Talks:

Already covered under Matters Arising.

12. Letters to MPs:

Already covered under Matters Arising.

13. The Patriot:

Already covered under Matters Arising.

14. Website:

Sam keeps updating the front page of the website, taking off old stuff and trying to ensure that it remains relevant, putting new stuff there and updating the diary.

15. AOB:

Sam wondered whether we need to think about changing to a different day of the week for committee meetings if people are finding it difficult to manage Sundays but in a way, for the people who are that busy, it is better if something stays regular, so they know when it is coming up. If we start moving dates around, they may lose track.

Date of next meeting:

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was declared closed. The date of the next meeting is set for Sunday, 24th September at 4 pm.