**The John Hampden Society**

**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held via Zoom on 26th February 2023.**

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| **Present:** Beth Rogers (Chairman), Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn (Hon. Treasurer), Phil Broomfield (Membership Secretary) and Rich Howell. |
| 1. **Apologies were received from:**   Miles Buckinghamshire and Peter Osborne. |
| 1. **Minutes of last Meeting:**   These were approved as a true record of the meeting with one small amendment. |
| 1. **Matters Arising:**   Beth commented that we are being asked to do more talks. Sam has one to do before the AGM and there is one in Monks Risborough just after the AGM, which Beth will be doing.  Beth queried whether we had ordered more leaflets. Sam has some spare copies and would be happy to let Peter have them if required.  Sam had been thinking about Peter putting our books on his website to sell and felt that there was no reason why he should not do this.  Phil mentioned that he could do with some more books and Sam will bring a supply to the AGM.  Beth had been in touch with Sarah at Web Squared who was suggesting a change of hosting which she thought might help with some of the points raised and suggested a change from PayPal to Strike for payments.  Regarding future editions of ***The Patriot*** if no-one has come forward to take this on when Roy has produced his last edition, Beth stated that she was happy to produce a Word document periodically as a lot of organizations do, which can be printed off and sent to members.  Beth had circulated notes on the strategic plan and will do a presentation at the AGM.. The Risk Register had been completed and this will be mentioned at the AGM. Both documents are on the website.  It had been agreed that Dominic Grieve should become an honorary member.  Peter had said he would draft a letter to local MPs, but it was not known whether he had done so yet. |
| 1. **Updates from Committee Members:**   Beth asked Rich if he had had any communication with any American members. He had contacted two people who had responded back but there was nothing concrete yet. Rich will be going down to Jamestown and will try to see if he could find out anything about the Hampden bed. He mentioned that there are Civil War re-enactments taking place in various places and if any members were in the vicinity of one of these events, they would receive a warm welcome.  Phil reported that we had one new member From Wisbech in Cambridgeshire who joined last week and would be receiving his membership pack shortly. Phil has done all the renewals and noted that some members had dropped out of the standing orders. He had followed up 19 who had not paid. 8 had subsequently paid and 1 had declined to renew due to having too many other commitments. He has sent out emails to the remaining members who had not paid and had a response from 2 who will be paying.  Anthea pointed out that she would need, as soon as possible, an up-to-date membership list to send out with the AGM paperwork and she needed to know if there were any names that she needed to add to the mailing list. Phil will let her have this straight away.  Sam commented that the Society was well in funds, and he was thinking that he would try producing a budget, so that we can see where the money goes. He also wants to get on with another Gift Aid application as we are a couple of years behind. |
| 1. **Reports for AGM:**   Anthea ran through the list of documents that she needed to send out for the AGM, most of which she had to hand but all of which she needed to print, and time was getting short. She hoped that the paperwork would be emailed and posted at the weekend. |
| 1. **Strategy update for AGM:**   Anthea said she would try to source a map of Aylesbury to send out with the paperwork, as the Kings Head is not that easy to find unless one knows Aylesbury and there is nothing on the website to indicate where one should park and how to locate the Pub. Sam pointed out that we also needed to warn people that the meeting room is accessed via rather steep wooden staircase making it an unsuitable venue for anyone who is disabled or very infirm. |
| 1. **Logistics for AGM:**   We have the Room booked from 12.30 through until 3.30 p.m. so Sam suggested we set up at 12.30 and tell people to arrive at 1 p.m. for lunch with the AGM starting at 2 p.m. The charge for the buffet will be £10 per head.  Sam wants to do a raffle as he feels this is worthwhile if there is a gathering of about 20 people. He will handle this with about 5 prizes. |
| 1. **Civil War Memorials Register:**   Sam had circulated an email giving details of the website so that people could have a look at it and offer any comments. Once all parties are satisfied with the website there will be a soft launch and it can be released to everyone and publicised. |
| 1. **Programme of Events and plans for future activities:**   Beth pointed out that there is no Thame History Fair this year and she does not know whether there is a Bucks Local History Fair as she understands there is some other big project going on. Beth does have another Zoom speaker lined up. She will talk to Peter about the proposed visit to Amersham. Sam said that he wondered about another visit to Broughton Castle We have also spoken in the past about a visit to Oxford which would take a bit of planning and thought. Sam then came up with an idea about a visit to Old Basing which would be of interest to members and would be easier to organize that a visit to Oxford. He will do some research on this idea.  Rich said that we have always focused on John Hampden himself and not on the other members of the Five Members. He feels that the others need to be talked about as well and it would be valuable to bring all that to life. Sam thought he could arrange for someone to give us a talk on Prince Rupert, who is a fascinating character.  Beth asked Rich whether he knew of an American historian who might be willing to do a talk on Hampden’s role with the Founding Fathers. He is not aware of anyone currently but will give it some thought.  Beth offered to research the author of the recent book on Providence Island. |
| 1. ***The Patriot*:**   Sam and Beth have submitted some articles for the next edition and feels that Roy will soon be chasing for more material. |
| 1. **Website:**   Sam feels that we should be able to make the payment process simpler, and there is other stuff we can do but it will cost money. He is going to try putting it all on a spread sheet, which could be handed over to anyone who is prepared to take over from him.  Sam keeps updating the front page and adding things, but if we had a webmaster there is a lot more that could be done. He does try to put the Minutes up there as they are produced for members to see. |
| 1. **AOB**   There was no other business to discuss. |
| **13. Date of next meeting:**  The date of the next meeting will be announced later. |