

Notes of an Executive Meeting of the Chepstow Society
held on Thursday 1st October 2020 via Zoom

Present: Geoff Sumner (Chair), Keith James (Vice-Chair), Guy Hamilton, Angela Middleditch, Chris Penrose, Anne Rainsbury; Ned Heywood (for first item)

Apologies for absence: Trevor Evans MBE, Henry Hodges, Sallie James, Harry Middleditch, David Nicholls, Marian Thomas

1. Geoff welcomed everyone present. The links for future Zoom meetings would be unchanged – Meeting ID 562 383 2571, password Waters

2. Heritage Grant application

- Details had been circulated of the proposal for applications from the Heritage Fund for “projects that record stories of people’s connection to the buildings, monuments, landscapes and parks within about 15 minutes of their doorstep.” Ned Heywood had suggested that the Society might support an application to support plaques or tiles in Chepstow, which he could produce at £600 per plaque. The timescale was very short – applications by 14 October, and projects would need to be completed by 31 March 2021.
- Committee members enthusiastically supported the proposal. Various possible subjects for plaques had been suggested, and it was agreed that any other suggestions be forwarded to Anne and Ned.
- It was agreed that Anne and Ned progress the application as discussed, and liaise with Geoff and Guy as necessary.
- There should be a process of consultation with Society members and the wider public on the plaque subjects. This could be conducted in due course through the members’ bulletin and Facebook.
- Geoff suggested that the Society should support the provision of additional plaques irrespective of the grant application outcome.
- Ned and Anne were thanked for their initiative in advancing this proposal.

Action: All

3. Notes of previous meeting on 27th August 2020

These had been circulated and were agreed. There were no matters arising.

4. Arrangements for A.G.M.

- The A.G.M. would take place at the start of the Zoom meeting on 21st October. The agenda would be circulated with the members’ bulletin in the next few days. *Action: Guy*
- Geoff reported that Henry was willing to accept nomination as President. It was agreed that Trevor be named as President Emeritus.
- It was agreed that Henry, and David Barber, be nominated as life members.

5. St. Kingsmark plaque

- Geoff reported that the town mayor and ward councillors had been invited to attend the unveiling on 7th October, along with local religious representatives. *Action: Geoff*
- The plaque had been mentioned in the local press. Guy suggested that an information leaflet be distributed to local residents. It was agreed that this be printed at 100 copies for £36. *Action: Guy*

6. Civic and amenity matters: future arrangements

- Several members of the Committee had made suggestions for maintaining and improving the Society's responsibilities for commenting on proposals affecting the town, including planning applications and policies, transport changes, and the future of the town.
- It was agreed that a way forward would be to have a small group discussing such matters, and that committee members would make further attempts to interest members in such a group. *Action: All*

7. Future meetings and speakers

Geoff reported that speakers for October and November were happy to use the Zoom format. The possibility of having a wider range of speakers, for instance on environmental matters, was discussed. It was agreed that any suggestions for speakers be forwarded to Geoff. *Action: All*

8. Membership

Marian had reported she had contacted members who paid by standing order, and there were no matters to be resolved.

9. Excursions

Because of the ongoing uncertainties regarding COVID regulations, there was nothing new to report.

10. Museum

Anne reported that the museum was currently open for 3 hours each on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Bookings needed to be made in advance through the Monmouthshire website.

11. Publications

Guy said that the next bulletin would be produced within a few days, and sought contributions.

12. Gwent Local History Council

Nothing to report.

13. Town 'Ambassadors'

Keith reported on the recent advertisement for town 'ambassadors', "to provide a warm welcome to shoppers and visitors to Chepstow to encourage spend in local shops and businesses, and to provide reassurance to people who may be nervous about returning to our high streets." It was thought that this was not the same role as the Society had undertaken in its town walks.

14. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that this would be held on Thursday 26th November, again via Zoom.