

**Notes of an Executive Meeting of the Chepstow Society**  
**held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 via Zoom**

Present: Geoff Sumner (Chair), Keith James (Vice-Chair), Nicky Bailey, Guy Hamilton, Sallie James, Simon Maddison, Angela Middleditch, Harry Middleditch, David Nicholls, Chris Penrose, Anne Rainsbury, Marian Thomas; Marion Huckle (observer)

Apologies for absence: Henry Hodges, Carolyn Read

1. Geoff welcomed everyone present.

**2. Notes of previous meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

- These had been circulated and were agreed.

**3. Treasurer's report**

- David reported that there had been little activity, and there was currently a balance of £3436.

**4. Membership report**

- Marian reported that there were currently 141 members.
- Given that no subscriptions had been required for 2020/21, it was agreed that membership subscriptions should be collected for 2021/22, at the previous rate of £10 per year. There was discussion of the best ways for members to pay, given that no physical meetings were likely in the short term. It was suggested that, where possible, members could be encouraged to pay by direct transfer.
- David and Marian would discuss and agree the best arrangements, to be publicised to members in the next monthly bulletin. *Action: Marian, David*

**5. Excursions**

- Keith reported that, unfortunately, the France and Belgium holiday had needed to be cancelled because of the current restrictions on movement. He said that, so far, it had not been possible to get refunds for all the money paid out, but, including money promised but not yet received from the coach company, the overall shortfall would be of the order of £476, equating to about £13 for each person who had booked.
- Keith and Sallie were thanked for their efforts to resolve the situation.
- It was agreed that those who had booked should receive refunds immediately, with any remaining shortfalls refunded when and if the money was received. *Action: Keith, Sallie*

**6. Future arrangements for monthly talks**

- It was agreed that meetings be "opened" at 6.45 pm, to allow for informal chats before the speaker. *Action: Geoff*
- Geoff had circulated a draft list of speakers up to early 2022. It remained likely that meetings would need to be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future, until restrictions were lifted. This also offered the opportunity for a wider range of speakers, who would not need to travel to Chepstow.

- It was suggested that, when it became possible to hold meetings in the Drill Hall, we could hold “blended” meetings, with some speakers and/or listeners physically present and others taking part remotely. If this was possible at the Drill Hall, it would require someone to be responsible for managing the technology of the meeting, so that all could participate. Chris offered to raise this suggestion at the next Drill Hall committee meeting, and report back. *Action: Chris*
- Because the speaker in May was also scheduled to speak at a U3A meeting on the same topic, it was agreed that he would be asked to postpone his presentation and that, in his place, Annie would give a presentation on Nathaniel Wells. *Action: Geoff, Annie*

#### **7. Future arrangements for civic and amenity matters**

- Guy reported that the initial Zoom meeting between members and local councillors in December had been successful and useful, and a second meeting was scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> March. In addition, Simon and Nicky had provided very valuable inputs and advice on planning applications and current policy matters, and it was hoped this would continue. Simon, Nicky and Carolyn were thanked for their involvement.
- It was agreed that Guy should draw up an agenda for the 3<sup>rd</sup> March meeting. He would seek suggestions on the meeting structure, and suggested topics for discussion, by email to committee members, with a view to drawing up a proposed agenda to be sent out to councillors by 19<sup>th</sup> February. *Action: Guy, all*

#### **8. Plaques**

- Guy reported that Ned had said he would be happy to design and provide plaques, as proposed.
- Annie made a number of suggestions for possible plaques, some of which could tie in with anniversaries of births or deaths.
- It was also suggested that the Society could finance an explanatory plaque for the old drinking fountain, if this was moved from the Dell.
- It was agreed that Guy and Annie liaise over a list of suggestions, for circulation and further discussion. *Action: Guy, Annie*

#### **9. Museum**

Annie reported that the Museum and TIC remained closed, pending any further Welsh guidance.

#### **10. Publications**

- Guy reported that he was in discussion with John Waters over how he could best sell Ivor and Mercedes Waters’ books, through the Society if possible. *Action: Guy*
- Guy also reported discussions with Tim Ryan of the Severn Princess Trust, on the possibility of the Society being involved in a publication about the ferry. Tim had also offered to show Society members the work going on to restore the ferry, when restrictions were lifted. *Action: Guy*

#### **11. Gwent Local History Council**

Nothing to report

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

- The next meeting would be on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April, at 7 pm.