



The Chepstow Society

Notes of an Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2022 via Zoom

Present: Guy Hamilton (Chair), Keith James (Vice Chair), Sallie James, Angela Middleditch, Harry Middleditch, Simon Maddison, Geoff Sumner, John Burrows, Annie Rainsbury, David Nicholls

Apologies: Nicky Bailey, Marion Huckle, Jackie Neal, Rebecca Tyson

1. Chairman's Welcome

Guy welcomed everyone present. He said that he had invited John Burrows, Marion Huckle, Jackie Neal and Rebecca Tyson to sit in on the meeting, to help with discussions of future activities. Angela asked that, if this was done in future, committee members should be consulted in advance.

The notes from the meeting held on Thursday 21st April had been circulated and were agreed.

2. Matters arising from the meeting on 21st April 2022

- a. James Stephens plaque, Guy is liaising with Ned to clarify the details for installing on the Almshouses. *Action: Guy*
- b. St Mary's Church, Guy reported that there was little progress due to the vicar catching Covid, but confirmed the Society's would support the church with talks and tours. It was suggested that Guy contacts Andrew Amos. *Action: Guy*
- c. Guy said that he now has the boxes of books from Chepstow School, he will advertise them for sale in the next bulletin and display for sale at the history day (history day to be discussed in item 10). *Action: Guy*

3. Treasurer's report

David reported that the bank balance is £4325, and that he has recently paid the insurance to Towngate of £208, this is slightly less than last year. He also stated that he has received a letter from David Barber (previous treasurer) to update the Monmouthshire Building Society Account to reflect the changes in officers. *Action: David*

There was a question about Public Liability Insurance, especially relating to excursions. David will find out what other similar organisation use. *Action: David*

4. Membership Secretary's report

- a. Angela reported that there were 128 members, 7 non paying. She told the committee that her latest information indicated that 69 had re-joined, but she stressed that it was difficult to give accurate figures as she didn't have access to view the Society's account. David will send Angela up-to-date information and arrange for her to have access (view only) to the account. *Action: David*

5. Feedback from AGM

- a. Guy expressed his concerns that the AGM could have been better managed. He outlined the issues that will need to be rectified before next year.

- b. Guy thanked Kevin Allen for setting up the sound system and identifying the problems with Zoom, these have now been sorted and will hopefully work in future.
- c. Neither the President nor Vice President were able to start the meeting, Guy thanked Harry for stepping in. Geoff said that in future he would be able to chair the AGM electronically.
- d. After the meeting a member commented that it was a bit too informal at times, everyone agreed, and the committee will strive to abide by appropriate formalities next year.

6. Arrangements for future Meetings

There was considerable discussion about the different structure for the meetings. It was finally decided to begin the meeting at 7.15pm with Society notices and information, followed by tea/coffee and then the speaker at 7.45pm. Any unfinished business could be resumed after the speaker. This format would continue to be monitored.

Action: Sallie

7. Drill Hall

Angela was nominated and appointed as the Society's representative on the DH committee.

Action: Angela

8. William Marshall Statue

Geoff reported on the support that he had received for the idea of a statue, but due to the present economic situation it would be better to put on hold for the time being. John added that there were other options to investigate and that the idea was worth pursuing. The committee agreed that Geoff and John should collaborate on the project.

Action: John and Geoff

9. Town walks

Guy said that the dates have been circulated starting on 4th July. Guy, Keith, Tim Ryan, and Jackie Neal would lead the walks. David said that the card reader has a SIM card and so can be used for paying for the walks.

Action: walk leaders, David

10. History Day

Guy suggested that there could be a History Day to promote interest in the town, which would coincide with the Society's 75th anniversary, and had provisionally booked the Drill Hall for Saturday 20th May 2023. This could potentially involve speakers, stalls, walks, workshops, a new promotional video, etc. It was felt that it was too big a topic for this meeting, and Sallie would arrange a date and venue for a sub-committee meeting to discuss it further.

Action: Sallie

11. Excursions

Keith said that nobody had volunteered to take on this role, but he had made enquiries about visits to local towns via their history groups/civic societies.

Action: Keith

12. Civic and Amenity group

Simon reported that the group remained active with regular meetings. He emphasised the importance of making a representation on aspects of developments relating to Chepstow. Simon will keep the committee informed where appropriate.

Action: Simon

13. Museum

Annie said that there was some building work and reorganising going on. And that Monmouth Museum was moving to the Shire Hall. Annie will keep the Society up-to date with developments via the bulletin.

Action Annie

14. Publications

Guy said that there was nothing new to report.

15. Secretary's report

Guy will arrange for correspondence to be forward to Sallie. He also outlined the email he had received from ITV about a programme they are making about the history and culture of Wales, Guy will liaise with the producer.

Action: Guy

16. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th July, 7pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 9.30