



The Chepstow Society

Notes from Executive Meeting held at the Beaufort Hotel on 5th October 2022 at 7.15

Present: Guy Hamilton (chairman), Keith James (Vice-chairman), Sallie James, Angela Middleditch, David Nicholls, Jackie Neal, Patrick Gale, Nicky Bailey.

Apologies: Marion Huckle, John Burrows, Geoff Sumner, Annie Rainsbury, Simon Maddison, Rebecca Tyson, Tim Ryan.

1. Chairman's welcome

Guy began by thanking and welcoming everyone for attending thus enabling the meeting to be quorate. He introduced Patrick to the committee and thanked him for volunteering to arrange excursions for the society. Harry Middleditch has resigned from the committee and Guy thanked him for his support in all aspects of Chepstow Society over a number of years. Sallie suggested that this should be formalised with a card thanking him for his work for the Society.

David suggested that Harry is removed from the list of trustees, and will check who is a trustee as it may be necessary to appoint more members to this role.

2. Minutes of previous meeting, 13th July 2022

The minutes of the last meeting had been distributed and were agreed.

Matters arising

There followed a short discussion about the location of future meetings, and it was agreed that face to face was the preferred method, although the committee was concerned that it excluded some members. A hybrid meeting was considered, and Sallie will contact those members concerned for their views.

Guy reported that the James Stephens plaque has not yet been installed as there was still concerns about the 'map'. Action: Guy to speak to Ned

Guy reported that he and John Burrows had met Trevor Fishlock from ITV, and the programme was due to be broadcast on 20th October. David confirmed that £250 had been paid to the Society from ITV.

William Marshall statue, no developments

3. Treasurer's report

David had previously distributed the accounts. Jackie commented on the increase in income from publications, David explained that this was from books bought by the museum and Ivor Waters' books sold to the public.

Jackie asked about insurance, David said that it was linked to public liability.

There followed a discussion about how retired Society officers should be honoured. Guy explained that David Barber had been given a scroll and Henry had received a commemorative plate. It was agreed that service to the Society should be appropriately recognised and that suggestions should be discussed with those concerned.

Action: Guy

David explained the procedure involved in authorising payments electronically, Keith, Angela and Guy were nominated and agreed to be signatories, David has the forms and will begin the paperwork, he will also set up a What's App group. The bank will then contact them individually to complete the process.

Action: David

4. Membership

Angela reported that there were a few new members from the last meeting bringing the membership to 113. Fourteen 'old' members have now been removed.

5. Speakers and Future meetings

October meeting: Kevin Walker, Nature of the Brecon Beacons, he has some concerns that the equipment is not compatible.

Action: Sallie to check with David Rock (DH)

November meeting, Mark Horton, fee not yet agreed.

Action: Sallie will contact

December meeting, after a lot of discussion it was decided to hold a meeting in the Drill Hall on 14th December with mince pies, punch and a quiz. Sallie said she has some questions based on the history of Chepstow, Angela volunteered to do a picture quiz and Jackie will also do some questions.

Action: Sallie, Angela and Jackie to do questions

Action: Angela will check that the DH is free

January meeting, Keith suggested a members' lunch, he will investigate venues and menus. It was suggested that we have an after lunch speaker.

Action: Keith to contact Beaufort Hotel and to contact Tim Ryan

Patrick said that he has a DVD about Colditz that he could show and as he's been there several times as a tour guide would be happy to talk about. It was agreed that this would be a useful presentation to keep in reserve.

6. Drill Hall

Nothing to report

7. Town Walks

Guy reported that for various reasons there were only 4 walks, and numbers had been disappointing. Keith suggested trying Saturday walks. It was agreed that the walks could be better advertised, there was some discussion about if or when the information leaflet would be re-instated, Nicky suggested that a town councillor should be contacted to champion this. Everyone agreed that for next year every advertising opportunity should be used, including TIC, Museum, Monlife etc.

Patrick shared a leaflet from another town that could be used as a template for Chepstow, he also said that National Express is now calling at Chepstow every two hours, hopefully bringing more tourism to the area.

Action: Guy to draft a one page town trail leaflet, for free distribution

Angela said that she would revamp the child friendly trail which is ideal for families.

Guy informed the meeting that 36 people from Thornbury were taken on walks around Chepstow last month and donated £72 to the Society.

Guy thanked all those involved in the town walks this summer and agreed that they need to be better organised next year.

Action: Discussion to be continued at next meeting

8. History Day

There is a meeting scheduled for next Thursday 13th October at the Beaufort, so it was agreed that all business relating to the history event would be deferred until then.

9. Liaison with Cadw

Guy added that Phil Brown from Cadw is very keen to set up links with the Town council and other organisations including Chepstow Society.

Keith said that Cadw were not able to confirm their events until January.

Action: Guy

10. Excursions

Patrick introduced himself and outlined his background and experience in tourism. He outlined his ideas for excursions:

Steam railway from Toddington to Broadway and Snowhill

National Botanical Gardens and PoW church, both near Carmarthen

Worcester porcelain factory and Worcester Cathedral

Everyone thought that they all sounded good, but agreed that numbers were always a challenge. Guy suggested asking U3A if they will allow us to advertise excursions through them.

Action: Guy will contact U3A

11. Civic and Amenity matters

Guy is hoping to reinstate this group with Simon, possibly with a Zoom meeting on 2nd November. In the interim he will comment on the Forest of Dean Local Plan, with an emphasis on the impact on Chepstow.

Action: Guy and Simon

Guy also outlined the Transforming Chepstow consultation document, the exhibition will be available for viewing at the Palmer Centre (Saturday 8th November), Bulwark Community Centre (Tuesday 11th November) and then at Chepstow Library.

12. Museum and TIC

Nothing to report

13. Publications

Guy asked for copies of the Tintern booklet to be reprinted, it was agreed for 1500 copies.

Action: Guy will order

Guy has been contacted by a former resident now in Australia, who has a supply of books about Chepstow that she is sending to him.

14. Secretary's report

Nothing to report

15. Other matters

Guy reported that FoD Local History Society would like to improve relationship with us and he has arranged a meeting with John Lane on Tuesday 18th October.

Action: Guy, Keith and Sallie

There is going to be a meeting at the Barrett's development about the protected slipway at the Shipyard on Friday 14th October at 4pm.

Action: Guy and Keith will attend

Guy said that the annual Chartists Convention will be held on 5th November at St Woolos Cathedral in Newport. He is one of the speakers, and will set up a small stall.

Action: Guy

16. Any Other Business

Keith informed the committee that he is going to the Yeoman of the Sealed Knot meeting next Saturday and Chepstow History event is on their agenda.

Action: Keith to feedback

17. Next meeting

Wednesday 30th November at the Beaufort, Angela will investigate the possibility of a hybrid meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30