



The Chepstow Society

Notes from the Executive Committee meeting on 26th April 2023 at the Drill Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Guy Hamilton, Keith James, Sallie James, Angela Middleditch, Nicky Bailey, Annie Rainsbury, David Nicholls, John Burrows and Patrick Gale,

Apologies: Marion Huckle

1. Guy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The notes from the meetings held at the Drill Hall on 8th March and 18th April had been circulated and agreed.
2. Matters arising not on agenda.
Membership applications from the website is still be looked at.
Action: Angela and David will discuss with John Waters
The committee received a message from Ned, re the plaque in memory of Henry Hodges that is well under way.
Action: Guy and John to contact the Town Council via Lucy the Town Clerk
3. Treasurer's report, David reported that there is £4,300 in the main account and the paperwork has now been given to David Phillips (Society's examiner of accounts).
4. Membership, Angela report that there are 131 members, 11 new members from the Ronald Hutton meeting. 74% have re-joined, but there are still 33 outstanding.
5. Future Speakers, Guy asked if local artists' pictures could be displayed as part of the July meeting (Chepstow Notables), he will send a sample to Sallie, and she will check with the speaker.
It was suggested that refreshments be served at the beginning of the meeting at 7.00pm, all agreed that this was a good idea.
6. AGM, Sallie circulated the draft agenda for the meeting. She reported that Keith James has received nominations for President and Geoff Sumner is happy to continue as Vice-President. David Phillips will be contacted before the meeting to confirm that he is happy to continue as the Examiner of Accounts.
It was agreed that only the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Examiner of Accounts will be elected at the AGM, other roles will be discussed at the first meeting following the AGM. There will be a plea for volunteers to help with the running of the Society. Guy suggested opening up the next committee meeting after the AGM to all members. This was agreed as being a good idea.
Action: Keith will request more volunteers
Action: Sallie will amend the draft agenda and send to members with the officers' reports.
7. Town Walks, Keith suggested adding Saturday walks to the programme, two or three Saturdays and Sundays will be identified and advertised in advance in addition to the evening walks. Guy suggested that the Pub walks also be included, all agreed to these additions.

Action: Those concerned will meet to discuss future town walks.

There was a question about Public Liability, it was suggested that the British Association of Local History (BALH) would provide this insurance.

Action: David will confirm

Guy suggested that the Society liaise with the Friends of the Priory to promote the walks around the Church.

8. Excursions, Patrick reported that the trip to Worcester had been a success, but there was a slight loss due to fewer members attending.

Patrick shared details of a trip on the Waverly on 11th June from Clevedon which includes a coach to Clevedon. The cost is advertised as £56, but there may be a discount for Society members. In view of this trip the proposed visit to the Wales Botanical Gardens has been postponed until the autumn.

Patrick is also investigating a possible trip on a narrow boat from Bristol docks towards Bath, as well as a tour of old Gloucester. Everyone was enthusiastic about these excursions.

Action: Patrick will circulate more details when they are available.

9. Civic and Amenities, nothing to report.

10. History Meeting (see separate agenda)

3. Publicity, Posters and programmes are ready for printing and will be distributed to committee members by the weekend. It was agreed to print 100 xA4 posters, 15xA3 posters, 1000 programme leaflets, 40 Novello posters. The banner will need approval from Monmouthshire highways to display.

Action: Guy will complete paperwork for the banner.

Several members reported that they had seen that The Rifles are marching through Chepstow on Thursday 18th at 6.45pm. Members expressed concern about the effect this would have on parking and road closures.

Keith stressed the need for extra help on Friday evening and Saturday morning with setting up.

Action: Guy will include a plea for help with email to members.

Action: Sallie will contact Drill Hall manager to ask for help.

John suggested that a draft of his Timeline be displayed for visitors to add anything they feel relevant.

Angela asked that copies Childrens' town trail be re-printed, she suggested 80 copies.

Oral History, Guy suggested that some further discussion on the detailed arrangements would be helpful. He would put the form seeking input on the website and Facebook page. Patrick agreed to seek input from British Legion members.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that we need another meeting before the Festival, to finalise any outstanding issues. Wednesday 10th May at 7.00 was suggested, Angela and Patrick sent their apologies.

Action: Sallie will book the hall and noted the apologies.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm