



The Chepstow Society

Notes from the Executive Committee meeting on 26th September 2023 at the Drill Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Guy Hamilton, Keith James, Sallie James, David Nicholls, Marion Huckle, Angela Middleditch and Nicky Bailey

Apologies: Patrick Gale and John Burrows

1. Guy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
2. The notes from the meeting held on 14th June had been circulated and were agreed as being a correct record.
3. Treasurer's report
David circulated a summary of the accounts as at 26th September 2023, he explained that the deficit was due to the expenses following the History Festival. The accounts were agreed and accepted. Guy thanked David for his report.
4. Membership Secretary's report
Angela had circulated her report to members. She had identified members who had not, as at 1st September, rejoined. She explained that they had all been contacted, and two had now rejoined. David (treasurer) added that there were four members who had rejoined but had not been identified. In addition there were two new members and one 'old' member who have paid their membership.
Action: Angela will contact members who think they have paid, but not been identified.
Guy thanked Angela for her report.
5. History Festival -What next?
Various ideas and options were discussed, it was agreed that the 'Then and Now' exhibition should be shown earlier in 2024 using a similar format to the History Festival's Sunday event. The Drill Hall has already been booked for 20th July, but it was felt that it should be earlier in 2024. It was also thought that the slideshow loop could be used before the start of the monthly meetings. All agreed that there needs to be enough people available to set up and take down the exhibition.
Action: Sallie will book the Drill Hall for February depending on commitments of members and availability of the Drill Hall.
Action: Nicky will liaise with Annie about the photographs and stands
6. Oral History Project/ Chepstow Memories
Philippa attended the last executive meeting offering her experience and ideas on how to proceed with this project. Guy reported that several members have offered to be interviewers; all agreed that care needs to be taken with the format of questioning and recording.
Action: Sallie will contact Philippa and
Action: Guy will draft outline questions and contact volunteers.
7. Drill Hall issues
The notes from the meeting that Guy had on 30th August with the Drill Hall management have been circulated. He explained that the technical issues were being resolved, but it was still desirable to have someone from Chepstow Society who is able to operate the equipment as David Rock is not

always available. It was agreed that members would be asked at the next meeting if anyone would be prepared to take on this role.

8. Plaque for Henry Hodges

Update at next meeting.

9. Future meetings

Sallie circulated the programme for 2024, she explained that there were still a few dates that need to be filled. She said that she has been in contact with a local amateur theatre group about a murder mystery for December. This idea was met with enthusiasm and suggestions about refreshments were discussed.

Action: Sallie will confirm with Keith Poulton (Magor Players) and investigate a fish and chips supper.

10. New Year's lunch

Keith suggested that following the success of the lunch last year he organises a similar event January/February 2024. All agreed and after diner speakers were suggested.

Action: Keith will contact suitable venues and Sallie will contact Becki Biggins (Jazz singer).

11. Zoom

Guy reported that Zoom would not be available at the October meeting as the Drill Hall would be updating the equipment.

12. Town Walks

Keith and Guy expressed their disappointment at the uptake of the walks. Tim's Severn Princess walks, however, remained popular. It was agreed that walks should be fewer and more targeted, maybe focussing on pubs and taverns!

Guy added that during the Remembrance Day events the Church would be open for walks and talks.

Action: Guy will co-ordinate with St Mary's.

Guy would like to thank Tim Ryan and Jackie Neal for helping with the walks.

13. Excursions

Patrick sent notes about his next planned excursion, he expressed his disappointment about the response. Various suggestions were made about how to promote these events.

Action: Sallie will contact Patrick to feedback the committee's comments.

14. /15/17 Nothing to report

16. Publications

Guy will complete and send out a bulletin next week.

17. Matters raised by the Chairman.

Guy explained that 2024 is the 500th anniversary of the Charter given to Chepstow, everyone agreed that this is such an important date in the history of the town that the occasion needs to be celebrated. Guy has obtained a copy of the Charter and an article explaining the Charter which he shared with the committee.

Action: Guy will contact the Town Council.

18. AoB

Four printing blocks of local places have been given to the committee, it was felt that they should be given to the Museum.

Action: Guy will donate them to the Museum.

19. Date of next meeting Thursday 16th November

Action: Sallie will book the Beaufort.

20. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.