



The Chepstow Society

Notes from the Executive Committee meeting on 16th November 2023 at the Beaufort Hotel at 7.30pm

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

Apologies Marion Huckle and Nicky Bailey

1. Guy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Sallie informed the committee that Mike Simmonds has sadly died. Everyone offered their condolences.

Action: Sallie will arrange a card, and Guy will sign on behalf of the Society

2. The notes from the meeting held on 26th September had been circulated, Sallie asked that Annie Rainsbury's name be added to apologies, the notes were then agreed as being a correct record.

Also Angela Middleditch had not previously been agreed as the representative on the Drill Hall Committee. This appointment was agreed by all members.

3. Treasurer's report

David circulated a summary of the accounts, he explained that there were a couple of payments to be made, but the accounts were still very healthy. The accounts were agreed and accepted. We also agreed to renew the annual British Association of Local History (BALH) subscription. Guy thanked David for his report.

4. Membership Secretary's report

Angela had circulated her report to members. Everyone agreed that the membership was very good. Angela added that she felt that the process for registering new members was very long winded and the membership form needed to be updated. David asked that gift aid was included in the new form. There followed suggestions about increasing or re-aligning subscriptions and it was agreed that subscriptions should be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Angela reported that sixty-three people attended the previous evening's meeting, twenty-seven members and thirty-six guests.

Angela and Patrick both reported that their email address on the website did not work.

Guy thanked Angela for her report.

Action: Guy will contact John Waters to set up new on-line form, and ask him to remedy the email problem if necessary.

Action: Sallie will add subscriptions to next executive committee meeting agenda.

Following on from the discussion about fees and subscription the committee continued with item 11, Future of Zoom

The advantages and problems that Zoom entailed were discussed in great detail, it was finally agreed that ideally a recording of a meeting would be the best option for making a meeting available to all members.

Action: John will investigate options for recording meetings

5. Excursions

Patrick had previously circulated notes and ideas for future excursions, he added that there were 18 going on the Gloucester visit next week. Other ideas for 2024 were a visit to Rockfield, a boat trip on the Avon, a visit to Birmingham Jewellery quarter and the Back to Back houses. Patrick added an idea of a short holiday to Colditz. All of these suggestions were greeted with enthusiasm from the committee.

Guy thanked Patrick.

Action: Patrick will provide costings

6. Chepstow Memories Project

Guy reported that at least five people had volunteered to be interviewed, and thanked those members who had contributed so far, but there was still insufficient enthusiasm from Society members to help co-ordinate the venture or help with interviewing. Guy shared a very comprehensive report that he has devised for the project, but until there is a steering group it is difficult to manage. After a great deal of discussion it was decided that John and Guy would meet to coordinate further progress, and that those who have expressed an interest in being interviewed would be contacted again. to arrange a meeting with those members who have expressed an interest.

Action: John and Guy will meet to consider next steps.

7. 500 Anniversary

Guy reported that he had met with the Mayor and deputy Mayor (Tudor Griffiths) whose note of the meeting was circulated and discussed. A list of ideas had been formulated and Guy went through the bullet points. The committee was concerned that there was very little time to arrange events for May. Keith said that he had contacted a reenactment group who were available at the end of May bank holiday.

Guy said that the quincentenary was on the agenda at the next council meeting, next week, as well as another meeting arranged for Tuesday 5th December to discuss ideas in more detail. The committee all agreed there must be a commemoration event on the actual day in December 2024 as well as possible reenactments and event during the year.

Action: Guy will attend the meeting next week and both he, John and Keith will attend the meeting on 5th December at the Council Offices.

8. History Festival

Action: Sallie will add to next meeting's agenda in particular to consider how to re-use the 'then and now' photographs and slide show.

9. Plaque for Henry Hodges

Action: John will contact Monmouth CC and Henry's son to confirm their permission before the plaque to be installed.

10. Arrangements for speakers

Sallie said that the programme for next year was just about completed. Keith reported that the 'Spring' lunch has been very well received and 50 members and guests have already booked.

Action: Sallie and Angela will arrange the refreshments for the Christmas meeting and do a poster to send to members.

11. See item 4ng

12. 13. 14 and 15

Nothing to report at this meeting.

16. AoB

Following a request from South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre for the Society to have a link to Trevor Evans' book Flora of Monmouthshire, which is now out of print. This has now been done.

Guy reported that the open day at St Mary's Church had been well attended and they were pleased with the donations to the friends of the church funds. It has been suggested there is a history table in the church with information about Chepstow Society. All agreed that it was a good idea.

Action: Guy to meet with Annabel Dance to discuss further.

Guy also reported that Michelle Gale has been appointed by Mon CC to raise awareness about racist and slavery. Michelle has asked to give a short introduction about her role at the start of a monthly meeting. All agreed.

16. Date of next meeting 7th February 2024

Action: Sallie will book the Beaufort for 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.