The Chepstow Society

Notes of the Executive Committee meeting held on

3rd September 2025 at 7pm
at the Drill Hall, Chepstow

Members observed a one-minute silence at the start of the meeting in memory of Geoff Sumner, former Chairman of the Society, whose funeral took place on 2nd September 2025.

An appreciation of Geoff's contribution as Chairman of the Chepstow Society for 13 years is to be prepared for the next newsletter. Angela will also agree a convenient location and date for the presentation of the plaque, prepared by Ned, which we were unable to present to Geoff in person.

Present: John Burrows (Chair), Marion Huckle, Keith James, Sallie James, Angela Middleditch, David Nicholls, Annie Rainsbury, Nicky Bailey,

Apologies for absence: Guy Hamilton, Simon Maddison

1. **Minutes of the last meeting, 2nd July 2025**
   Approved as a correct record.

2. **Matters arising from the meeting of 7th March 2025, not on the agenda.**
   (i) **Executive Committee meeting venue**.
   As requested, Marion obtained costs for alternative meeting venues. The newly furbished room at the rear of the Drill Hall, viewed by John, Marion, and other Committee members immediately before the meeting, was considered a suitable venue and will cost £10/hour. There is a cloakroom off the meeting room, and it is likely that a kettle will also be provided. Noted that the Committee needs clarification of access arrangements, alarm systems and locking up procedures before the November meeting.
   ACTION: Marion to confirm to Matt/Gemma that the Society wishes to move Exec. Cttee meetings to the smaller room and ask for information about access etc. as noted above.
   (ii) **Potential new Committee member**. Pleased to note that Simon has been in discussion with the potential new Committee member (David Johnson) who has confirmed that he is willing to take over the Civic & Amenities role. Agreed to contact David to check he will be at the September monthly meeting so we can introduce ourselves to him and answer any questions he may have about the Committee. Also agreed to write to Simon, to thank him for the work he has done as Civic & Amenities Officer and to ask him if he is willing to remain as a committee member without portfolio.

ACTION: John to email David, and to speak to Simon, as agreed.

(David Johnson was invited to this meeting but was unable to attend as he was away)

(iii) Chartists Fair 1st November. John and Marion currently the only volunteers. Potentially somewhere to identify speakers for the Society on the Chartists.
ACTION: Mention at the September monthly meeting; invite more members to volunteer

(iv) Possible visit to BBC Hotwells. Sally has contacted the BBC and is awaiting a response. Sally will also contact BBC Cymru about a visit to BBC Cardiff at its new home in Cardiff Bay
ACTION. Sally to take forward

3. Officer Reports:

(i) **Chair**. No separate report. Matters dealt with on the agenda.

(ii) **Secretary**. Noted that the Excursions page of the website needs to be reviewed and updated. Agreed that this task would be done when the next event is promoted. Also noted that while dealing with an enquiry (work undertaken by Guy) it was realised that the Society does not have a definitive list of the Blue Plaques, Chepstow Society plaques and other memorials located in Chepstow. Annie reminded members that she had previously offered to compile a list: Cttee grateful in advance.

ACTION (i) Events page of the website to be updated when next event is publicised (Marion)

(ii) List of Blue Plaques and other memorial plaques to be compiled for the website by Annie Raisnbury. (Annie)

(iii) **Treasurer**. Agreed to retain the Excursion Account for future use but Keith and/or Guy must be added as signatories (currently still unable to access the funds therein following Patrick's death). David will take this forward. Noted also that around £6000 is in the building society account (Reserves Account). Noted that Lloyds Bank is introducing charges for cash deposits, likely to be around seventy-nine pence per £100 deposited. Agreed to monitor impact of the charges. David also declared his intention to step down as Treasurer at the next AGM (but willing to look after the Excursion Account). Look to recruit a new Treasurer (flag up in the November newsletter?).

ACTION: David to initiate the procedure for Keith and Guy to be added as signatories to the Excursion Account and ensure Patrick is removed (David)

Society to look for new Treasurer before next AGM (John)

(iv) **Membership**. No report. Pleased to note that membership is currently close to 150.

(v) **Publications and events**. Whitehouse Press has confirmed it holds editable digital files of (i) *The Chepstow Story*. Guy is waiting for reprint costs. John to draft additional pages on Chepstow Bridge which isn't covered in the current story.
(ii) Digitisation Project (of certain Ivor Waters publications) is likely to be a winter activity.
(iii) Pleased to note that the Summer Walk programme raised £300 for Society funds.
(iv) In discussion John referred to the lack of available publicity materials on Chepstow and the surrounding area (e.g. a Tourist Leaflet), in contrast to other places in the Wye Valley. John offered to investigate.
ACTION: John

(vi) **Civic Matters.** A new transport plan consultation on 'Active Travel' has been issued. A drop-in exhibition and event will take place at Chepstow Library on Tuesday 16th September (12 – 2 PM, 5 -7 PM)

4 Chepstow Festival of Arts 19th July

Lively atmosphere and good attendance at the Community area of the festival and well worth the Society being represented. Following discussion about a small gazebo it was agree that the Society should borrow or rent a gazebo as required rather than invest in one, which would have to be stored. Noted that Chepstow Town Council has a supply of gazebos that might be borrowed. Also noted that the Society does need to purchase some leaflet stands (assorted sizes) that can also be used for display of publications etc. at monthly meetings.

5 Spending Plan

Potential projects identified at the meeting:

- Digitisation of Ivor Waters publications (phased programme with priorities for digitisation to be recommended by Annie, Guy, and Simon)
- Purchase of leaflet/brochure stands
- Production of 'Tourism leaflet' (see minute 3 (v))

Please share ideas for other projects with estimated costs before the November meeting

ACTION:

(i) Digitisation to be a professional activity: costs to be obtained for Committee before work is approved.

(ii) Marion to obtain costs of leaflet display stands

6 Any other business

i. The President's (Spring) Lunch will take place on Saturday 31st January at the Beaufort Hotel. Keith requested a modest budget to pay for a speaker/entertainment.

ACTION: Keith to take forward with The Beaufort and confirm costs

7 **Next meeting:** Wednesday 5th November at 7 pm.
The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.