



The Chepstow Society

Notes from the Executive Committee meeting held Wednesday 6th November 2024

1 Present: John Burrows, Marion Huckle, Guy Hamilton, David Nichols, Sallie James, Keith James, Patrick Gale, Nicky Bailey, Angela Middleditch, Annie Rainsbury,

Apologies for absence: Simon Maddison

2 Minutes of the previous meetings held on 4th September 2024:

Minute 9: noted correction line 3: June 2025 should read July 2025. Minutes agreed as a correct record once corrections have been made

3 Matters arising:

Minute 10b (John B and Marion H to be added as Trustees)

Action: David Nichols

4 Officer reports (reports follow the minutes)

(i) Chair:

1. Presentation to Geoff Summers. Angela has been in contact with Geoff Summers and is awaiting a response.

3. John Burrows will progress placement of The Rifles plaque with Mon CC. Noted that John will also take over work on the James Stephens plaque, from Guy. This is (likely to be) installed on the outside of Montague Court, a Listed Building).

4. Simon is aware of the MCC Replacement Local Development Plan, of which proposals for development in/around St. Lawrence as the main area of concern as they would impact the site of a Roman Road. Members will be told about the consultation and asked to copy their responses to Marion to keep the Society up-to-date on views. (The closing date for responses is 16th December 2024). This led to a brief discussion on the proposal by MCC to introduce double yellow lines on Chepstow High Street. Agreed as this has already been approved by the Town Council so there was no scope for comment by Chepstow Society.

Action: John will discuss the MCC Development Plan, and the Society's response, with Simon and Nicky B.

5. John reported on the Newport Chartists Day event held 2nd November 2024 in Newport Cathedral at which the Chepstow Society had a stall and copies of Guy's leaflet on Chartist and former resident James Stephens. Useful and interesting day.

(ii) Secretary: Confirmed that the new Drill Hall website is up and running

(iii) Treasurer (Accounts follow these minutes): Keith asked if Chepstow Society publications could be supplied to Chepstow Museum and the Tourist Information centre on a 'Sale or Return' as neither organisation generate sufficient sales for upfront purchases, following a drop in sales. Agreed in principle but noted that Mon CC may not have a procedure for 'sale or return'.

ACTION: Annie to suggest a contact at Monn CC with whom this can be discussed



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(iv) Membership: No change since the previous report

(v) Events: Patrick provided an oral update on Excursions being planned/considered during 2025. The Show of Strength Theatre Company has been booked for a walking tour of Bristol on Wednesday April 2nd 2025. Committee supported proposal for a Guided tour of the alleys and lanes of Tewkesbury (possibly in March 2025). Patrick is also proposing that the postponed boat River Avon boat trip to Bees Island be rearranged as an afternoon event. Keith kindly offered to make the arrangements for the River Avon in Patrick's absence (10th April to 30th June 2025). (This was to have been discussed as item 5 but taken at this point). Patrick reported on a letter from Lloyds Bank concerning possible transaction charges. Our understanding is that these charges are not applicable to charities.

ACTION: David to investigate the Lloyds bank letter

(vi) Publications: nothing to report

(vii) Civic matters: no report

4. Update on the Charter 500th Anniversary event Monday 2nd December 2024

There has been no response from Chepstow Town Council, following John's last communication. Keith and John will arrange a visit to Keith Underwood to check progress on the scroll.

ACTION: John circulated the proposed timetable for Monday 2nd December, which highlights how, when and where Chepstow Society are involved in the event

5. Further discussion on Zoom meetings and alternatives. (John's suggestions and more detailed comments are contained in Item 6 of his report, that follows the end of these minutes)

John has offered to deliver a short programme of Zoom Only talks for a trial period (probably three talks, Jan, Feb, Mar 2025), using the existing Zoom account, set up during the Covid lockdowns. Although intended principally for members who can no longer attend physical evening meetings, they will be open to all members and will be recorded. To be badged as a '*Supplementary Winter Programme*'. If the talks are well received, they may be a building block towards a more general programme for people unfamiliar with Chepstow's history.

ACTION: (1) Guy currently manages the account but will check that John (or another) can act as host

(2) Promote at the General Meeting and generally.

6. Any other business

(i) Arrangements for the general (monthly) meetings for the remainder of the year are all in hand. Noted that details need to be provided well in advance for inclusion on the new Drill Hall website

ACTION: Sallie will circulate the provisional programme for the General Meetings and ensure details are sent for inclusion on the Drill Hall website

(ii) Spring lunch 18th January 2025. Deposit has been paid. Committee to actively promote. Noted that any profits from a raffle may be used to promote another charitable group, if that group is undertaking work that the Society cannot. Agreed that any profits from the Spring Lunch will be offered to the Archaeological Society to support further investigative work on the Roman Bridge. Also discussed ideas for the post-lunch entertainment at approx. 2.30 PM

ACTION: Annie to contact a Widders representative



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(iii) British Association of Local History Journal. Agreed to promote to members.

ACTION: Guy to investigate possible digital subscription and possibility of sharing content when directly relevant to our area,

7 Future committee meeting dates and arrangements:

Next meeting Wednesday 4th December, 7 PM at the Drill Hall.

Agreed that from January 2025 Committee will move to a bi-monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of the month, except January (Meet January 8th). Also noted that we may need an extra pre-AGM meeting in March 2025.

ACTION: Marion to check availability of the Drill Hall for the Exec Meetings 2025.