

HITCHAM & TAPLOW SOCIETY

Executive Committee Meeting on ZOOM Monday 17th May 2021 8.00pm

MINUTES

Present:

Eva Lipman (chair)
Jonathan Specktor
Jacqueline Turner
Robert Hanbury
Robert Harrap

Roger Worthington
Nigel Smales

Apologies:

Rupert Sellers
Andrew Findlay
Charlie Greeves

1) ATTENDANCE

As above

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the April 2021 minutes were agreed and signed

3) MATTERS ARISING

Nothing not covered in the agenda

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

Robert Hanbury confirmed current balances as: £8754.68 and £484.13. Jacqueline advised that Jim Rousseau was moving and so we will need to find a new honorary auditor. After discussion it was agreed that it would be prudent to have a third signature empowered on the bank account. This would be Eva. Robert would progress this with Barclays.

5) NEWSLETTER

Nigel clarified his decision to stand down as editor. He had indicated previously that he did not wish to continue indefinitely but a most current concern has been the extent to which the appearance of the newsletter emerging from the production process differed from his intentions to a very frustrating extent. The committee thanked Nigel for his tremendous efforts over 8 ½ years in producing such a high quality Newsletter that has been a most material asset to the Society in growing our membership to double what it was when he started.

The committee can no longer “leave it to Nigel” and while we search for a new editor it is incumbent on the committee to take individual responsibility for either writing or sourcing articles directly.

A communal facility will be established to store articles as they either appear or are committed to. A more modest target of a 12 page issue would be aimed at. Andrew is happy to continue as copy editor. A first review of progress will be made at the June meeting.

6) PLANNING

a. Updates

The new house at 5 Ellington Gardens has been approved (again).

Nigel advised that the planners may be relenting a little on the requirement to raise the Old Boathouse when converting it to residential. It may now be permitted to be dismantled and reconstructed. The tenants of the new Boathouse are due to leave in the next few months, freeing the site for development to start.

b. New applications

An excellent piece of news is that the new owners of Elibank Court have applied to fully restore the Rectory Road wall that collapsed several years ago.

c. Other matters

The planning legislation in the Queen’s Speech shows little concession to the responses to the various consultations held in the last year. A new consultation is in progress on technical matters relating to the extension of Permitted Development Rights but mainly for further clarification and detail rather than changes.

7) WW2 MEMORIAL

There is concern that we have not heard further from Adrian, who has not responded to recent emails. Nigel knows where he lives so the intention is to knock on his door to enquire if he is OK.

8) TIDY UP TAPLOW

We committed to the event – government guidelines very unlikely to change in the time-frame. The event will be covered under HTS insurance whereas last time it was presented under the auspices of the Parish Council and their insurance.

Jacqueline has arranged to collect pickers and bags from the County Council and for rubbish collection afterwards. After discussion it was decided that HTS will buy 40 hi-viz jackets printed with the Society name at £6.27each + VAT. (After assessing two quotes). Bag hoops and litter pickers will also be considered. For the foreseeable future they can probably be stored in the Barn with the other HTS / VGP kit. Roger will send out a members reminder closer to the date.

9) MAMMOTH FILMS DONATION USES?

Uses for the £500 were discussed.

Nigel proposed that the money be used to reduce ticket prices as a community benefit. The general view was that ticket prices were so low that this would not have much impact but that some sort of boost to the VGP would be appropriate. Ice cream for children? It was agreed that Eva would explore getting an entertainer (card tricks etc.)

10) VGP

Still good for 3rd July. Roger will set up Eventbrite ticketing and update members. The marquee will remain at the Oak and Saw until needed so as to save taking it down, storing and then un-storing again. Intention to move it across on the Saturday morning. (Or for Cedar Chase if earlier.)

It was noted that Rupert has been extremely busy recently. Roger would check as to his continued availability to manage the event.

11) RIGHTS OF WAY

Held over awaiting Andrew’s availability.

12) AOB

Nigel advised that there was an upcoming event that HTS should publicise. This is “OPERATION ELYSIUM” It is a kayak event on the Thames passing through Taplow (approximately 2pm at the A4 bridge) on the 27th August. It is a fundraiser in support of families of those members of the armed forces who have subsequently committed suicide

Meeting closed at 9:20pm. Next committee meeting: June 17th 8pm. Will continue on ZOOM but review as government guidance changes.

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