

**MINUTES OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL**  
**MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2019 AT**  
**THE CITY TEMPLE, LONDON.**

Present:

Mr John Goldsmith	Mrs Serrie Meakins
Mr Paul Robbins	Dr Maxine Forshaw
Mr John Newland	Mr John Gibbon
Dr Ismini Pells	Dr Charlotte Young
Mr Richard Warren	Prof Peter Gaunt
Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbons	Mr Geoffrey Bush

Apologies:

Dr Miranda Malins, Mr Stuart Orme

**ITEM 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

1. John Goldsmith welcomed all Council Members to the meeting and noted apologies. He introduced Dr Charlotte Young and welcomed her to the Council. Dr Young had been elected to the Council at the 2019 AGM in Newmarket.

**ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (20 MARCH 2019)**

2. There were no amendments to the Minutes of the last Meeting. They were accepted as accurate and signed by John Goldsmith.

**ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

3. a. **Item 4 para 5 – Future of Cromwell Day Service:**

John Goldsmith reported that he had been unable to clarify things further regarding any possibility of using the grassed area by the Statue at Westminster and given the political circumstances of the moment he believed that the matter should not be pushed.

b. **Item 3 para 3c – Replenishment of Leaflet Stock:**

Peter Gaunt reported that the new stock of leaflets had been printed and was to the standard required. Richard Warren noted that the stock of reprinted leaflets was now very depleted.

c. **Item 10.3 para 34 – Purchase of PA System:**

Paul Robbins reported that the PA System had been bought and taken to the AGM venue. In the event, it was not needed since the speaker could be heard clearly and audibly by the entire AGM.

**ITEM 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

4. John Goldsmith then continued by reviewing the report circulated to all Council Members prior to the Meeting. All Points, 1 to 5, required raising at the Meeting.

**Item 4.1 – Point 1:**

5. Point 1 dealt with the continued attempts to liaise with Oxford University Press (OUP) about the possibility of reprinting the Morrill biography of Cromwell. The OUP had responded with an option that was very expensive and beyond the Association's ability to afford. Agreed the OUP option should be rejected.

6. As an alternative, Peter Gaunt had suggested considering the David Horspool biography in the Penguin Monarch series. Council Members felt this volume was of both acceptable quality and price. The cover price is £4.99 but the Association could purchase at 40% discount.. As the existing stock of *Cromwell Four Centuries On* was expected to last most of the current year the acquisition of a replacement should be done now.

7. John Goldsmith suggested a bulk purchase of the Horspool biography. There was no certainty how long it would remain in print. He recommended obtaining a quantity that was equivalent to 3 year's membership level. Paul Robbins echoed this view and recommended a bulk purchase of 500 copies. He noted that once they were bought the Association would be in a secure position regarding this issue and the biography was not something that would go out of date.

The following was agreed,

a. *Cromwell Four Centuries On* was to be continued to be issued to new Members until the stock was exhausted.

b. 500 copies of the David Horspool biography of Oliver Cromwell at to be purchased at the best terms available. Paul Robbins agreed to store the copies.

**Action: Chairman to proceed with the purchase of 500 copies of the David Horspool biography of Oliver Cromwell as above.**

**Item 4.2 – Point 2:**

8. Point 2 updated on the offer, made previously, of a stand for the Association and 2 free tickets at the West Sussex Conference on the Civil War at Chichester on Saturday 28 September. John Goldsmith had asked if anyone would volunteer to go with some literature and Membership packs to promote the Association. Maxine Forshaw and Richard Warren agreed to go (if possible). John Goldsmith to liaise with Maxine, Richard and the organisers.

**Action: John Goldsmith to confirm attendance with conference organisers in due course.**

**Item 4.3 – Point 3:**

9. John Goldsmith noted an enquiry received via the website that he was not able to help with and had passed it on to the President. Agreed that in future enquiries received that could not immediately be answered would be farmed out to a wider range of Council members and contacts.

**Item 4.4 – Point 4:**

10. John Goldsmith reported that Association Vice President Frank Dobson was in hospital. He had sent best wishes on behalf of the Association.

**Item 4.5 – Point 5:**

11. There had been an admin glitch at the AGM. This had been picked up following the AGM and the draft AGM Minutes had been amended as had the Annual Report.

**Item 4.5 – Other Points Raised:**

12. A Member had been in touch recommending registering with Publishers' Licensing Services. Maxine Forshaw agreed to investigate.

**Action: Maxine Forshaw agreed to investigate Publisher's Licensing Services and possible registration with that body.**

13. The Association email addresses as used on the Association's website should be checked to ensure that they are being forwarded correctly, and the use of personal email addresses on any Association publication should be avoided.

14. There was no information as yet regarding a possible Malvern Festival.

**ITEM 5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

15. Geoffrey Bush reported on the current state of the Finances reviewing the Treasurer's Report circulated to all Council Members prior to the Meeting. As of 01 June 2019 the Association had £22,336 in its bank accounts. This was a net increase in its funds of £73.00 from 01 January. New Memberships had continued to bring in funds but this had fallen off since April. Advance receipts for the forthcoming Schools' Conference had brought in £1,590 and there was now a waiting list for places for the Conference. Interest from the Term Deposit of £14,000 (at 0.8%) was £113.00.

16. Payments had been as expected with costs covered for scheduled meetings (Council and AGM), other admin costs, the Spring Mailing and re-stocking of merchandise. There had been a one-off payment of £82.00 to purchase the PA system. Concluding his report, Geoffrey Bush advised that the Association's Finances were holding steady.

**ITEM 6. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

17. Paul Robbins circulated a printed report to the Meeting. He reported that the Association presently had 509 Members. At the last Meeting in March the total had been 493. This included 17 new Members of which 12 were Annual.

As of this date the figures were as follows. Figures for March in brackets:

321 (306)	Annual Membership (fully paid)
27 (26)	Family Membership (fully paid)
126 (127)	Life Members
30 (29)	Schools
1 (1)	Corporate
4 (4)	Honorary Members (complimentary)

18. Paul Robbins noted that the spread of Members remained the same. Most members were UK-based. Of the overseas Members, the disposition of Members also remained the same. With the United States holding the largest number of Members, after a dip to 23, its representation had increased 25. One US Member had renewed after an absence of a few years. Canadian representation remained the same at 6 Members. Representation of all other overseas Members, located in Western Europe, Japan, New Zealand, remained the same.

19. Continuing his report Paul Robbins advised that while the increase in Members was slow there had been a 6.5% increase since the last Meeting. He also advised that he had had a couple of returns from the Spring Mailing and with no viable contact details he was unable to check on these Members' circumstances. He had 52 copies remaining of *Cromwell Four Centuries On*. Paul Robbins concluded his report by noting that the raffle at the AGM had raised £145.00, this being £13.00 down on the 2018 AGM raffle.

### **ITEM 7. EDITOR'S REPORT**

20. Maxine Forshaw reported that she was halfway through the proof-reading for *Cromwelliana*. Everything was in except for 2 reviews. The cover for *Cromwelliana* had been decided on and would be a modern woodcut of the Putney Debates. The cover for the *Pen* had also been decided upon. She would pursue obtaining the rights to publish both illustrations. Peter Gaunt advised that if it was not possible to gain copyright permission to use these images he could source copyright-free images for use. Agreed.

### **ITEM 8. MERCHANDISING REPORT**

21. John Gibbon circulated a printed report to the Meeting. This report noted the sales at the AGM and assessed the lessons to be learned from the event. The pricing of several items was believed to be wrong (with certain items either overpriced or under-priced) and amended pricings were suggested. These amended pricings were agreed by the Meeting. A full amended price list would be created and displayed with merchandise at future Association events and enclosed in scheduled Association mailings.

22. The following was agreed regarding specific merchandise items,  
 a. Coasters ("Pudel and Peper" design): A minimum order of 250 was to be placed with a sale price of £3.00 per unit. This was seen as mainly as a service to

Members.

b. USB Memory Sticks: John Gibbon was to further investigate sourcing a supplier at an acceptable cost. Noted that Maxine Forshaw had a proposed design for use if approved.

c. Oliver Cromwell bust: As agreed at March's Meeting, a sample bust had been displayed at the AGM. Everything was in hand and busts would be sold to order. Financially the Association was not exposed to any risk.

d. Bookmarks: The Cromwell Museum (through Stuart Orme) had requested a quantity of Association Bookmarks to sell at the Museum. Agreed that the Association would sell Association Bookmarks to the Cromwell Museum at the cost price to the Association. This sale to the Cromwell Museum was agreed on the condition that the Museum would also sell the Bookmarks at the same price of £2.00 per unit.

## **ITEM 9. EDUCATION REPORT**

23. Serrie Meakins reported on progress regarding the 2019 Schools' Conference and other matters. The Schools' Conference would be held on Wednesday 26 June at the National Civil War Centre in Newark. The room allocated was the Tudor Hall and the theme would be that of Revolution. Continuing her report, Serrie Meakins advised that the composition of schools attending was different to that of last year.

24. For this Schools' Conference there were 5 State schools attending. There were also 3 Private schools (of which 2 had Teachers only coming) attending. This made a total of 93 delegates (including 14 Teachers). Agreed that the Teachers should be given lunch (costed at £7.50 per person) and this invitation had gone down well with all attending Teaching staff.

25. Continuing her report Serrie Meakins advised that another 30 - 40 places could have been sold. However, it was felt this would have made the Conference too big. A Waiting List was in place. The strong response from schools this year vindicates the decision to reduce prices.

26. The format for the Day would be on the same lines as for the 2018 Schools' Conference with 3 morning topics and afternoon workshop sessions. Speakers for the day would be, Peter Gaunt, Jonathan Fitzgibbons, Andrew Hopper and Joan Redmond. Agreed that the morning sessions only would be recorded as audio files.

27. Regarding new schools they would be given password access to the website and given an email acknowledgment. When there was a password change Paul Robbins would inform all schools with a paid-up Schools' Membership of the new password. Schools with a Schools' Membership in default would not be advised of the password change, nor what was the new password.

28. Serrie Meakins noted that there was already interest about the new Essay Prize. Details of this were on the Association website.

29. Concluding her report, she advised that it was necessary to start investigating locations and venues for a proposed 2020 Schools' Conference.

## **ITEM 10. SITES AND MONUMENTS REPORT**

30. Ismini Pells reported on current activity as follows.

### Item 10.1 – Dunbar:

31. Ismini Pells stated that she was only able to provide a report in outline. She reported that work was pressing ahead and it was confirmed the plan to unveil the new Board this coming September. Date and details to be confirmed. As decided at January's Meeting there should be a piece written for the Summer edition of the *Pen*. Ismini Pells to chase her Dunbar contact for a piece for the *Pen*. This was needed before the copy deadline at the end of June.

**Action: Ismini Pells to chase Dunbar contact for a piece for the *Pen* about the new Interpretation Board.**

### Item 10.2 – St Fagans:

32. Geoffrey Bush reported that he had been to see the Interpretation Board there. This had been put up in the mid-1990s and being outside it was not in a good condition. He suggested that the Battlefields' Trust be approached to sound out whether a replacement Board with more information could be commissioned with the cost of any Board being jointly met by the Association and the Battlefields' Trust.

33. Agreed that Ismini Pells investigate first with the Battlefields' Trust and then with St Fagan's Museum about commissioning a second Interpretation Board with costs being split between the Association and either the Battlefields' Trust or St Fagan's Museum or both.

**Action: Ismini Pells investigate first with the Battlefields' Trust and then with St Fagan's Museum about commissioning a second Interpretation Board with costs being split between the Association and either the Battlefields' Trust or St Fagan's Museum or both.**

## **ITEM 11. SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT**

34. In the absence of Miranda Malins John Goldsmith provided a summary report. Association Social Media was ongoing with lots of Twitter traffic and items forwarded from the Cromwell Museum. Agreed this to be left to Miranda Malins.

## **ITEM 12. REVIEW OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### Item 12.1 – General Comments:

35. John Goldsmith reported on the AGM held at Newmarket on Saturday 27 April 2019. He noted that it had not been particularly well-attended. The catering and food had been fine. All the admin for the morning had worked well with the Business

Meeting dealing with all required AGM matters. John Sutton had given a good talk and it had been well-received by the audience. Those attending agreed it had been a successful day.

**Item 12.2 – Draft Minutes:**

36. Richard Warren was thanked for writing the AGM Minutes in the absence of the Minutes Secretary. Noted a couple of typos to be corrected.

**Action: Richard Warren to correct typos.**

**Item 12.3 – Location of 2020 AGM:**

37. In discussion it was agreed that the 2020 AGM should be on Saturday 25 April 2020. There were a number of suggestions as to where it might best be held. It was accepted that the AGM had not been held in the North for quite a while nor in Wales or the South East. There were specific suggestions offered; Nottingham or Derbyshire, Stow-on-the-Wold, Langport and Leeds.

38. A consensus was reached on the way ahead and the following was agreed,  
a. The location of the 2020 AGM would be decided at the next Council Meeting on 15 October 2019.  
b. First choice location was St Fagans. Alternative options were Burford or Langport.

**ITEM 13. IMPLEMENTATION OF SPENDING PLANS**

39. Confirmed that the provision of an introductory volume for new Members had been covered under Item 4 above. Confirmed also that, as agreed at the previous Meeting on 20 March, any commitment of funds to assist the refurbishment of the Cromwell Museum would only be considered for defined elements of the work. No application for funds had been received.

40. Confirmed also, as agreed at the previous Meeting on 20 March, was the decision to offer some funding to allow a research student to do some targeted research in an Association approved area. It was felt that this would maintain the Association's profile in the Academic world.

41. In discussion the following was agreed,

- a. Jonathan Fitzgibbons was to take the lead on this. Ismini Pells to work with him to establish the scope, procedures and rules for putting this initiative into place and for getting it up and running. This initiative to be discussed at the next Council meeting with the intention of publicising it in the Spring 2020 issue of The Protector's Pen.
- b. A cap of £1,500 is to be allocated to this initiative in the first year of operation. This fund is to be awarded to either 1 chosen candidate with an award of the full amount of £1,500 or to be split into 2 equal awards, each of £750, if 2 candidates are chosen. No more than 2 candidates are to be chosen to be recipients of the award.
- c. Applications to be reviewed by a 3-person Committee (TBD) and choice of selected candidate to be ratified by Council.
- d. All candidates selected will be required to provide a summary of research to

Council and when appropriate provide a Paper for *Cromwelliana*.  
e. The selected candidate will be given 1 year's free membership of the Association.

42. There was discussion on the development of the Association website through the incorporation of key texts. Agreed this would be a worthwhile thing to do.  
The following detail was agreed,  
a. Peter Gaunt was to take the lead on this. He would come back to the October Meeting with firm proposals to move this initiative ahead.  
b. A cap of £1,000 is to be allocated to fund the incorporation of up to 4 pieces of work into the Association website.

#### **ITEM 14. FUTURE EVENTS**

##### **Item 14.1 – Study Day with SHLA 15 June 19:**

43. Jonathan Fitzgibbons reported that 120 people had signed up for the jointly-run Study Day. He did not know what the breakdown was between Association and SHLA Members or indeed, Members and non-Members. Everything was ready to go and it was expected that the Day would generate a profit for both organisations.

44. Continuing his report, Jonathan Fitzgibbons asked for help on the Day from any Council Member attending. The help would be to assist with the tea and coffee for people arriving. John Goldsmith and Paul Robbins volunteered to help on the Day. Use or not of a PA system was the responsibility of the SHLA.

45. Regarding the Papers given on the Day and their publication in the 2020 edition of *Cromwelliana*, Maxine Forshaw asked if the Contributors could be approached about this on the day. John Goldsmith would write a piece for the *Pen* about the Study Day.

46. Regarding Association-specific admin for the Study Day, John Goldsmith stated he would take the Pop-Up Stand, some leaflets and some items of merchandise. Paul Robbins agreed to be point of contact to sell Association Membership at the Study Day. Agreed that Association Membership to be sold at the discounted price of £15.00.

##### **Item 14.2 – Cromwell Day 07 September 2019:**

###### **Item 14.2.1 – Cromwell Day Service:**

47. This was confirmed for Saturday 07 September and would be held at St Mary's Church, Putney at 3pm. It was expected to last for about 45 minutes. Regarding the choice of hymns to be used during the Service, it was agreed that the same hymns be used as for the 2018 Service. It was further agreed the Reverend Tim Woolley, whom would be conducting the Service, be asked to review the choice of hymns. Agreed that Professor Ted Vallance who had agreed to give the Address, be asked to select the Readings.

48. On the Day, the vicar at St Mary's would give a welcome to the congregation

at the start of the Service and also close the Service by giving the Benediction at the end. John Goldsmith would liaise with the St Mary's authorities to ensure the organist was fully briefed and prepped for the Service.

49. John Goldsmith would confirm in the Summer issue of the *Pen* Council's agreement to the Member suggestion that a Non-Council Association Member be chosen to lay the wreath. A volunteer would be asked for and in the expected case of a number of volunteers coming forward, the means of choosing one (likely by lot) would be explained. John Goldsmith said he would organise the wreath.

50. It was confirmed that after the Service a catered Tea in the St Mary's Cafe would be provided. As agreed at the March Meeting, no charge would be made on the Day but a donation (suggested £5.00) be asked for. Members wishing to attend the Tea should book. Richard Warren said he would take the Tea bookings.

Item 14.2.2 – Morning Visit:

51. This was confirmed as the National Army Museum. A Tour lasting 1 hour had been booked for 11am. The Tour would be led by a Museum Volunteer and would be Civil War orientated. Agreed that the Museum's charge of £20.00 for the Tour be absorbed by the Association and that Members not be charged. Members wishing to be on the Tour would be asked to book on in advance before a given deadline. All details would be in the Summer issue of the, *Pen*. On a query as to whether a second Tour be booked, should the numbers require it, John Goldsmith said it would be best to confirm the number booked on by the deadline and then make a decision as to further action, if any. Ismini Pells agreed to be the organiser on the day at the NAM.

Item 14.3 – Possible Future Study Day Themes:

52. There was discussion of what areas might be suitable for a themed Study Day. The following was agreed.

- a. Cromwell's Letters and Speeches. If possible linked the publication of the OUP edition edited by John Morrill, the timing of which is as yet uncertain.
- b. Cromwell in Wales. There was a feeling in Council that this could be the basis of a Study Day or 1 day conference in Autumn 2020. St Fagan's a possible venue, linked to a new interpretation board. (See 10.2 above).
- c. Cromwell and America. This could take in the Caribbean Expedition of the mid-1650s, as well as other elements.
- d. The Role of Women in the Civil War.

**ITEM 15. SUMMER MAILING**

Item 15.1 – Protector's Pen:

53. John Goldsmith reported that the Summer issue of, *The Protector's Pen* was coming together. He noted that this issue was going to be a full 20-page edition.

Item 15.2 – Other Contents:

54. As well as *Cromwelliana* and the *Pen* itself, there would be a new Membership Card, a Membership Renewal form, a Gift Aid form. It was agreed to omit a Standing Order form because of the impending rise in subscriptions. Council Members with oversight of the Association's Membership to liaise to ensure an accurate address file was sent to the Printer.

55. It was reported that a new Member had experience in designing crosswords and had offered a themed crossword for publication. With regret it was decided that the puzzle was too difficult and possibly something less challenging could be submitted. It was agreed that any crossword should have to have appropriate content and be designed to be of a level that was accessible by all Members.  
**Action: John Goldsmith to investigate as above to see if was possible to incorporate a crossword into the Summer issue of the Pen.**

Item 15.3 – Schedules and Processes:

56. The following publication schedule for the Summer Mailing was agreed,
- All material collated and sent to Simon Blake by 29 June 19.
  - All content turned round by Simon Blake by 05 July 19 and sent to the Printer.
  - Summer Mailing despatched to Members during the week 16 to 19 July 19.

**ITEM 16. LUNACHARSKY PLAY**

57. John Newland provided an update on the play about Oliver Cromwell by Anatoly Lunacharsky. As agreed, he had had a hard copy printed out and bound. Regrettably, it had been found that the work done had fallen far below an acceptable standard and would have to be completely re-done. Maxine Forshaw stated that she and Simon Blake would re-print it and have it bound. On a happier note, John Newland had completed his review of the Play for the Summer issue of, *The Protector's Pen*. This was handed in.

**Action: Lunacharsky Play to be re-printed and bound.**

58. On a query from John Goldsmith about sourcing any Russian-language reviews of the Play, Serrie Meakins advised that if any such reviews could be found, she would be able to get them translated.

**ITEM 17. WEBSITE**

59. John Goldsmith reported that there had been only minor changes made to the Association website. For the most part it had been left.

**ITEM 18. CROMWELL MUSEUM UPDATE**

60. John Goldsmith reported that Stuart Orme had provided a report by email. The Designer for the Museum Refurbishment had been appointed. It was confirmed that the Museum would close on 29 September to allow the refurbishment work to proceed. The work was scheduled to be completed early in 2020 and the Museum

was intended to re-open in March 2020.

61. An Autumn Lecture series was scheduled to take place in November. John Goldsmith said he would check with Stuart Orme about putting details of the Lecture series on the Association website.

**Action: John Goldsmith to check with Stuart Orme about putting details of the Museum's Autumn Lecture series on the Association website.**

### **ITEM 19. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

#### **Item 19.1 – Next Meeting 15 October 19:**

62. The October Meeting was confirmed for 1.00pm on Tuesday 15 October 2019 at the City Temple.

#### **Item 19.2 – Timing of 2020 Meetings and Possible Dates:**

63. John Goldsmith advised that it was pragmatic to have the Meeting schedule fixed for at least 6 months in the future. As such, he requested Richard Warren to see if the City Temple would be available for January 2020. If the City Temple were not available (that is, if the planned refurbishment work had started) the fall back would be to book a Meeting room at the Institute of Historical Research (IHR), located in Senate House, University of London.

**Action: Richard Warren to investigate availability (as above) of a Meeting room for the January 2020 Council Meeting.**

64. In discussion it was agreed to keep to the present Meeting start time of 1pm. Regarding the fixing of the date for the January 2020 Council Meeting, it was understood that the Academic Teaching Members of the Council would not be able to advise on their availability until the start of the new academic year. As such, it was agreed to pencil in dates for the January Council Meeting. The following two dates were agreed,

- a. First Choice: Tuesday 21 January 2020.
- b. Second Choice: Wednesday 22 January 2020.

### **ITEM 20. AOB**

65. Geoffrey Bush reported that in his role as Treasurer he had been expecting to receive invoices for work done on the Dictionary of Officers but had as yet not received any. Ismini Pells reported that she had heard nothing and as part-liaison responsible for overseeing this issue she would investigate.

**Action: Ismini Pells to investigate situation regarding the Dictionary of Officers.**

The meeting closed at 3.42pm.

Post meeting note

After the meeting, given the discussion about possible future study day themes, John

and Richard agreed that it was sensible to drop St Fagan's as a possible AGM venue and to pursue Langport, Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire and Burford/Stow on the Wold area.