

**MINUTES OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2020 AT
THE CITY TEMPLE, LONDON.**

Present:

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

Apologies:

Dr Miranda Malins Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbons

In Attendance:

Mr Stuart Orme

ITEM 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. John Goldsmith welcomed all Council Members to the meeting and noted apologies.

ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (15 OCTOBER 2019)

2. With no amendments, the Minutes of the last Meeting were accepted as accurate and signed by John Goldsmith.

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3. a. **Item 3.4a – Publisher's Licensing (from June 19 Meeting):**

See Item15, minute 44

b. **Item 11.1 – Review of Cromwell Day Service 07 September 19:**

Geoffrey Bush reported that he had given a donation of £150 to St Mary's Church, Putney by cheque. However, the cheque had not been presented and it was not clear what the Association should do. John Goldsmith advised that St Mary's be contacted and asked for clarification in regard to the cheque. Agreed.

Action: Geoffrey Bush to contact St Mary's Church, Putney and ask for clarification with regard to the donation made for the 2019 Cromwell Day Service.

ITEM 4. CHAIR'S REPORT

4. John Goldsmith then continued by reviewing the report circulated to all Council Members prior to the Meeting. Points 1, 2 and 5, required raising at the Meeting.

Item 4.1 – Point 1:

5. Point 1 dealt with the report of a service of thanksgiving for long-time Association Treasurer John Westmacott, and the donation by his wife of about 50 books relating to Cromwell. With the Cromwell Collection in Huntingdon acquiring two of them, he recommended the rest be offered for sale on the Association website with any remaining

unsold books be taken for sale to the AGM. Any books remaining after the AGM should be sold to the book trade, if possible, or passed onto a charity shop. Agreed.

Item 4.2 – Point 2:

6. Point 2 dealt with the “Cromwell watch”, that is, the provenance of a watch that has been claimed to have belonged to Cromwell. Prior to Christmas he called on the dealer with the watch. On examination, he advised that the watch was of the correct period but that its provenance cannot be traced back earlier than the start of the 19th Century and the narrative associated with it was not substantive. There would be a short piece on the watch in the Summer edition of the *Pen*.

Item 4.3 – Point 5:

7. Regarding the concerns raised at the October 2019 Meeting about the then forthcoming series *Charles I: Killing a King*, on the BBC. The 3-part series was watched and had a number of historical inaccuracies. A letter was sent to *The Times* but not published and other attempts to express the Association's concerns in print had also been unsuccessful.

8. It was noted that, leaving aside the historical deficiencies, as a piece of drama the series had been well done. Stuart Orme said that this second three-part series seemed more balanced than the previous one (that dealt with the events immediately prior to the Civil War) but it still remained a storyline with defined point to make.

9. Otherwise, John Goldsmith noted that he had attended the carol service at St Giles', Cripplegate on Monday 16 December and given a reading. This had been agreed at last October's Meeting. He noted that St Giles' were open to the Association returning to the Church at a future date for a Cromwell Day Service. Concluding his report, John Goldsmith noted that registration with Information Commissioner's Office had been renewed and the appropriate fee paid.

ITEM 5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

10. Richard Warren advised that since his report dealt with the upcoming 2020 AGM it would be dealt with later under Item 10.

ITEM 6. TREASURER'S REPORT (INCLUDING SUBSCRIPTIONS IMPLEMENTATION)

11. Geoffrey Bush reported on the current state of the Finances reviewing the Treasurer's Report circulated to all Council Members prior to the Meeting. He summarised the main elements of the Report. There was a continued increase in Membership with 73 new subscriptions in 2019. Renewals were up by 11%. A large number of Members made very generous donations and thanks to Members filling in Gift Aid forms the Association was able to reclaim over £1,100 in tax.

12. Merchandise sales for 2019 were £1,210 and this is due to the Council's re-stocking and extending the lines of products available. The Study Day held jointly with the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology provided the Association a net surplus of £300. The Schools' Conference in Newark yielded a surplus of £685.

13. With two items of exceptional cost, expenses were up. Firstly, there was the purchase of 500 copies of David Horspool's biography of Cromwell. This was to replace the issue to new members of *Cromwell: Four Centuries On*, which were running out. The cost of this bulk purchase was £1,250 and had been fully paid for in the Financial Year 2019. The second exceptional cost was the purchasing of new merchandise at a cost of £2,021. As with the Horspool biography this had been fully expensed in the Financial Year 2019. Despite these expenses, the Association had total funds of £21,925 as of 31 December 2019. As of 31 December 2019, there were no unpaid invoices nor were there any outstanding debtors.

14. Continuing his report, Geoffrey Bush then focused on the increase in the subscription rate and the admin required to facilitate this. This admin could be broken down into the following steps,

- a. Enclosed with the Spring copy of the *Pen*, two items should be included. These would be new a Standing Order form and an accompanying page of Information and Instructions.
- b. With the commissioning of the new Association tri-fold Information Leaflet, this new Leaflet needed to have the new subscription rates printed on it.
- c. The Association website needed to have the new subscription rates on and in place by 01 June 20. Until then there needed to be displayed a "rates going up" message in the appropriate placing.

15. Concluding his report, Geoffrey Bush advised that provision of a copy of the Horspool biography of Cromwell to overseas Members would be done by exception.

16. John Goldsmith thanked Geoffrey Bush for ensuring the new forms were correct and Simon Blake for his work in his ensuring the revising of the format of the new forms.

ITEM 7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

17. Paul Robbins circulated a printed report to the Meeting.

He reported that the Association presently had 560 Members. At the last Meeting in October the total had been 534. As this Meeting date 74 Members had not yet renewed. This was about the same as the 2019 January Meeting.

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

373 (346)	Annual Membership (fully paid)
28 (27)	Family Membership (fully paid)
124 (125)	Life Members
31 (31)	Schools
1 (1)	Corporate
3 (4)	Honorary Members (complimentary)

18. Paul Robbins noted that the distribution of Members remained the same. Most members were UK-based, presently 506 of the grand total of 560. Of the overseas Members, the distribution of Members also remained the same. The United States held the largest number of Members and the number of American Members had increased by 4 from 27 in October to 31 now. With an increase of one Member in Australia, from 7 to 8, representation of all other overseas Members remained the same as in October 2019.

19. Continuing his report, Paul Robbins advised that there had been an increase of one Family Member from October but the Association had also lost one Life Member. The Membership total remained healthy. Concluding his report, Paul Robbins stated that he had only 6 copies remaining of, *Cromwell Four Centuries On* to provide to new Members. When they had all been despatched, he would send a copy of the Horspool biography. This would be accompanied by a short letter of welcome to the new Member from Association President Peter Gaunt. Agreed.

ITEM 8. MERCHANDISING REPORT

20. John Gibbon circulated a printed report to the Meeting. His review of the report confirmed the figures given at the last Meeting in October. Sales over the last quarter of 2019 had been very modest, coasters (£60.00) and ballpoint pens (£75.00), making a total of £135. Taking in other sales between the AGM at Newmarket in April and the end of 2019, there had been total sales of £995.

21. Continuing his report, John Gibbon reviewed his suggested prices for Members and non-Members, with Members paying a lesser amount than non-Members. Regarding the busts of Oliver Cromwell made by a third-party sculptor, John Goldsmith reported that the sculptor was happy for the price differential favouring Association Members over non-Members. There was no cost to the Association and no stocks were held by the Association. All prices approved.

22. Concluding this Item, John Goldsmith reported that Mike Carrigan would get the merchandise pages done and installed on the Association website by the end of February. John Goldsmith to set up a specific designated merchandise email to link in with the merchandise pages on the Association website.

ITEM 9. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2019

23. John Goldsmith circulated a draft copy of the Annual Report for presentation at the 2020 AGM. This was reviewed by the Meeting. With a minor amendment to be made, the draft was approved. Geoffrey Bush noted that the Financial Review should be placed later in the Report and after the section dealing with the Association's achievements. Agreed. Richard Warren agreed to take on the role of point of contact with the Charity Commission.

24. With the above corrections to be made, acceptance of the draft Annual Report was put to a formal vote. The Meeting voted unanimously to formally approve the Annual Report.

ITEM 10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2020

Item 10.1 – Agenda:

25. The Meeting reviewed a draft Agenda provided by John Goldsmith. The format was as standard for an Association AGM and was agreed by the Meeting. Also agreed that each Officer would give a brief report for their role and area to the AGM. Agreed.

Item 10.2 – Nominations:

26. Miranda Malins and Jonathan Fitzgibbons were due for re-election at the AGM. Both had agreed to stand again for re-election.

27. John Goldsmith queried if Council should be actively seeking to recruit additional members. In discussion it was felt that Council had enough Members and present capacity to conduct its business in an efficient and effective manner. As such, it was agreed that whilst no willing volunteer would be turned away, there was no current need to push the issue. Agreed.

Item 10.3 – Practical Arrangements:

28. Richard Warren confirmed that the 2020 AGM would take place at Bridgwater. The venue would be Wembdon Village Hall, situated about 1½ miles outside the town. The format for the AGM would be the standard one. This was as follows,

- a. 1030: Coffee.
- b. 1100: Business Meeting.
- c. 1200: Talk by Dr Elaine Murphy
- d. 1300: Buffet Lunch.

He noted that the Hall would have to be vacated by 1400.

29. Regarding costs for the Day, Richard Warren advised that the cost of the Hall was £32.00 an hour and catering (Lunch and including coffee and biscuits) was priced at £6.00 per person. The Speaker for the talk would be reimbursed for expenses. Agreed and approved; costs for the hire of the Village Hall, catering and Speaker expenses.

30. Regarding setting up the room on the Day, it was agreed this would be sorted out at the next Meeting in March. Paul Robbins agreed to do the raffle at the AGM. John Goldsmith stated he would put a note in the Pen in the information and details about the AGM, stating there would be a raffle and asking for prizes “other than books”.

31. As the venue is some way away from the train and bus stations, it was agreed that the Association might be able to arrange transport to it for members arriving by public transport. A note to this effect to be included on the lunch booking form, and Richard Warren agreed to be point of contact and arrange this.

32. Regarding an afternoon activity, it was agreed that a walking tour of Bridgwater would be suitable. Noted by Peter Gaunt that Bridgwater had been very important in the Civil War, and the events of the siege were particularly well documented. Richard Warren said he would investigate what possibilities there were for the afternoon.

33. While time would not permit it to be included in the formal events of the AGM it was noted that members staying in the area might wish to visit the nearby site of the Battle of Langport. Richard Warren to provide a supply of battlefield guide leaflets for members to pick up if interested.

ITEM 11. VICE PRESIDENTS

34. John Goldsmith reported that Frank Dobson, a Vice President of the Association for almost 20 years had died since October's Meeting. Mr Dobson had been a Labour MP for 35 years and Oliver Cromwell had been a hero of his since childhood. In discussion a number of individuals from a political background were considered for a possible approach to be made. However, it was agreed that this no action should be taken for the present.

ITEM 12. FUTURE EVENTS

Item 12.1 – Save The London Seminar 07 March 20:

35. John Goldsmith reported that he would now be the speaker and give the opening talk at the Seminar. His talk would be on the career and significance of Oliver Cromwell. Booking for the all of the talks during the Seminar would be online. Details would be published in the upcoming Spring edition of the *Pen*.

36. John Goldsmith concluded his report on the Seminar by confirming that whilst supporting the *Save The London* Campaign was completely within the Association's Objectives and Activities, any support at present should be non-financial. Agreed.

Item 12.2 – Study Day on Cromwell's Letters and Speeches 17 October 2020:

37. John Goldsmith reported that the details for the Study Day had all been sorted out. The date was confirmed for Saturday 17 October 2020 with the venue being the Friends' Meeting House in Oxford. The format of the Day would be lectures in the morning and after lunch, a debate between John Morrill and Ronald Hutton. Peter Gaunt confirmed that he would Chair the Day. Other admin details, such as catering would be sorted out nearer the event and full details would be published in the Summer edition of the *Pen*.

ITEM 13. EDUCATION REPORT

Item 13.1 – Schools' Conference (Huntingdon) 24 June 2020:

38. Serrie Meakins reported that the Schools' Conference was confirmed for Wednesday 24 June 2020 at Huntingdon, utilising the Cromwell Museum and Town Hall. Reviewing the programme for the Conference Day it was agreed that it was both full and substantial. John Goldsmith noted that the Association website had mention of the event. Serrie Meakins said she would liaise with Stuart Orme to co-ordinate the admin for the Day.

Action: Serrie Meakins to liaise with Stuart Orme to co-ordinate the admin for the School's Conference.

39. Continuing her report Serrie Meakins reported that four Schools had already enquired if the Association would be running the Essay Prize Competition this year. The answer was yes and that Fred Borch had confirmed that he would again fund it this year. Concluding her report, Serrie Meakins asked for suggestions for a question.

ITEM 14. CROMWELL DAY 2020

Item 14.1 – Cromwell Day Service at Cambridge 05 September 2020:

40. John Goldsmith confirmed that it would not be possible to hold it at Westminster. It had been agreed that it would be held in the Chapel in Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. The laying of a wreath would be part of the ceremony. Agreed that the Members of Sidney Sussex College should be invited to attend the Service. Time of the service to be confirmed.

Item 14.2 – Speaker and Practical Arrangements:

41. John Morrill would be invited to give the Address. If he were not available, a fall-back speaker was agreed. Regarding costs, there would be an organist's fee of £150. The College would only charge the Association for the organist. It was agreed that the Association would make a donation to the College.

42. Regarding other admin for the Day, it was agreed that individuals should make their own lunchtime arrangements. The idea of arranging a Walking Tour was discussed but discounted owing to the likelihood of Cambridge being far too busy on the day. Agreed that a final decision on a visit or other activity was to be left open.

ITEM 15. PUBLICATIONS AND MAILINGS

Item 15.1 – Protector's Pen Spring 2020:

43. John Goldsmith reported that most copy was in. He asked Ismini Pells to send on anything she received from Dunbar. However, if her Dunbar contacts did not respond not to chase them and just to accept their non-response. There was still sufficient content to fill a 20-page issue. Despatch date for the *Pen* and Spring mailing was likely to be mid-February. All arrangements were in place for the database file and all inserts to go via Richard Warren to the printers.

44. On an associated issue but dealt with within this Item for clarity, Maxine Forshaw reported that she had investigated registering with Publishers' Licensing. Her conclusion was that Publishers' Licensing was set up to cater for larger Publishers than the Association and that the Association was too small for any benefit to come from membership. Agreed no further action to be taken.

Item 15.2 – Cromwelliana 2020:

45. Maxine Forshaw circulated a draft contents list to the Meeting. This contained the usual elements of the 2019 Cromwell Day Service Address, Papers from the Study Day, the winning Prize Essay and the other usual contents. Confirmed that Ismini Pells would compile the Writings and Sources item. The draft contents list was reviewed and approved by the Meeting.

Item 15.3 – Protector's Pen Summer 2020:

46. John Goldsmith reported that he had copy coming together for that already.

ITEM 16. NEW MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET

47. John Goldsmith reported that Simon Blake had agreed to design a new version of the leaflet with liaison from Maxine Forshaw. This would be reviewed next Meeting and if accepted, signed off. Once signed off, questions regarding admin and logistics (size of print run, storage of stock and distribution) would be decided.

ITEM 17. ADDITIONAL PROTECTOR'S PEN DISCUSSION FOR e-PEN:

48. There was discussion on whether there was a need to create and distribute to Members an electronic copy of the *Pen*. This would have separate and additional content from the hard copy *Pen* sent in the Spring and Summer Mailings to Members. Geoffrey Bush noted that outside of the regular Mailings the Association had little communication with its Members. There were emails but little actual content and the gap between Mailings was over 6 months. Would an additional *Pen* in electronic form fill in this gap and provide additional value for members to coincide with the increase in the subscription rate?

49. John Goldsmith felt there were two issues to be addressed – content and creation. It would be possible to reduce the content of the hard copy *Pen* from 20 pages to 16 and use those removed pages as the core of the content of an e-*Pen*. Given sufficient content there still remained the requirements to create the e-*Pen* as an electronic document and send it out to multiple email addresses. A possibility to do this was to use the email software tool MailChimp. Furthermore, even if all of this could be done, there still remained the fact that about one-third of Association Members did not have a registered email address. This would mean that they would lose out. John Goldsmith noted that this issue was good to have been raised but that it should be noted only at this point and any decision left for the future. Agreed.

ITEM 18. IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED SPENDING PLANS

Item 18.1 – Grants to research Students – Confirmation of Scheme:

50. Jon Fitzgibbons had circulated a draft of the Postgraduate Research Grant (PRG) documentation and form to Council prior to the Meeting. This was reviewed and agreed by the Meeting. The Chair to set up an email address specific to PRG grants

51. For promoting the PRG scheme, Paul Lay had said he would be able to do so in *History Today*.

Item 18.2 – New Content for Website:

52. Peter Gaunt reported that he was working on putting together cleaned-up copies of early Cromwell biographies. As yet he was working on the texts themselves with any commentary (by himself or others) later down the line.

ITEM 19. SITES AND MONUMENTS REPORT

Item 19.1 - Marston Moor:

53. Richard Warren reported that an academic had criticised the text on the Information Board. The criticism levelled was that the interpretation given did not credit the Scots enough. The Report was noted with the comment that the academic in question had made other professional judgments that had not been accepted by the wider academic community as completely accurate.

54. As well, should the text on the Interpretation Board have to be changed it would mean the cost of a full replacement of the entire Board. Given this potential material cost of replacing the entire Board and Council's view of the accuracy of the original criticism, it was agreed no further action should be taken on this matter. To address any issues, Richard Warren agreed to consider a contribution to the matter for a future Study Day.

Item 19.2 – St Fagans:

55. Ismini Pells reported that things had gone quiet but that she would chase up. The Battlefields Trust were willing to help and they were amenable to being involved in the commissioning and placement of a new Interpretation Board (with a revised text) and the organising of a Study Day. As well, it was likely that Cardiff University could be involved in some respect. The way ahead certainly seemed to be for St Fagans and for the Association to work in partnership with others. Concluding her report on St Fagans, Ismini Pells said she would continue to progress work on both a new Interpretation Board and a possible Study Day in 2021.

Item 19.3 – Online Directory of Parliamentary Army Officers:

56. Ismini Pells had reported that work was going nicely with lots of content being input for the Essex Officers.

Item 19.4 – St Giles, Cripplegate:

57. John Goldsmith reported that the possibility existed of commissioning a Memorial to Oliver Cromwell and his wife at St Giles', Cripplegate. This was where Cromwell had married Elizabeth Bourchier in 1620. The actual Memorial would be in the format of a panel in a window within the Church. There was a similar one already present and in place. An illustration of this was circulated to the Meeting. Having heard from the church authorities that the charge for such a Memorial Window would be £5,000, the question was asked as to whether the Association could afford that cost. It was made clear that no formal approach had been made to the St Giles Church authorities and that this matter was being raised firstly and internally in Council.

58. In discussion it was agreed that the Association's finances were healthy enough to meet the £5,000 cost of a Memorial Window. As well, it was confirmed that seeking the placement of such a Memorial Window in a location that had such a personal link with the life-story of Oliver Cromwell; that this was central to the carrying out of the objectives and activities of the Association. Agreed that John Goldsmith was to consult and raise with the St Giles Church authorities the possibility of commissioning a Memorial Window to commemorate the marriage of Oliver Cromwell in the Church in 1620.

Action: John Goldsmith to consult and raise with the St Giles Church authorities the possibility of commissioning a Memorial Window to commemorate the marriage of Oliver Cromwell in the Church in 1620.

ITEM 20. SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

59. Noted there was nothing of note on social media. Apart from that, in the absence of Miranda Malins, this Item was passed over.

ITEM 21. WEBSITE

60. Reported that there had been minor updates to the website.

61. It was noted that direction to the audio files on the website was not clear and that they should be highlighted more. Possibly they should be given a more prominent placement.

Action: John Goldsmith to investigate placement of and navigation to audio files on the Association website.

ITEM 22. CROMWELL MUSEUM UPDATE

62. Stuart Orme provided an update on the refurbishment of the Cromwell Museum. The final work was being done and the major refit would be completed by 17 February. The Grand Re-opening was scheduled for Sunday 01 March. It was intended to have a Special Viewing for Association Members as soon after the official opening as was practical to so do. In discussion, it was agreed that this Viewing should be scheduled for Saturday 04 April. To alert the Association Membership to this opportunity, Stuart Orme said he would produce a flier that would invite Association Members to the event and it was agreed that this flier should be included in the Spring Mailing at the Association's expense.

63. Continuing his report, Stuart Orme said that, as part of the refurbishment, new signage had been commissioned for the exterior of the Museum together with information panels; the purpose being to draw people into the Museum. He asked if the Association would be willing to sponsor one of the panels and displayed an A4 size illustration of the intended panel. Any panel sponsored by the Association would have the Cromwell Association logo clearly displayed on it. The cost of a panel would be £500. Council agreed that this was an initiative that should be supported and fell well within the remit of the Association's objectives and activities. Agreed.

Action: Council to sponsor and to fund, to an upper limit of £500, the cost of one of the new panels to be commissioned and displayed on the exterior of the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon. The panel to be sponsored to clearly display the Cromwell Association logo.

64. Concluding his report, Stuart Orme advised that detail of the Museum's next lecture series would soon be published and that preparations were already in hand for the commemoration for the 375th Anniversary of the Battle of Huntingdon. To assist in the grant application process he asked if Council would provide appropriate letters of support. Agreed.

Action: Council to provide letters of support to the Cromwell Museum as requested.

ITEM 23. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Item 23.1 – Next Meeting 22 January 2020:

65. The next Council Meeting was confirmed for 1.00pm on Tuesday 17 March 2020 at the City Temple.

Item 23.2 – Subsequent Summer 2020 (June) Meeting Date:

66. In discussion it was agreed the best Meeting Date was Tuesday 16 June 2020, with a fall-back position of Thursday 18 June 2020. Both dates were for 1.00pm at the City Temple.

ITEM 24. AOB

67. It was noted that there had been a change of senior staff at Cromwell's House.

ITEM 25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

68. The next Council meeting was scheduled for 1.00pm on Tuesday 17 March 2020 at the City Temple. The meeting closed at 4.01pm.