

**MINUTES OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2020  
BY ZOOM.**

Present:

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

Apologies:

Mr John Newland	Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbons
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In Attendance:

Mr Stuart Orme

**ITEM 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

**ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (22 January 2020) & SUBSEQUENT DECISIONS**

2. With no amendments, the Minutes of the last Meeting were accepted as accurate.

3. The meeting confirmed the record of decisions taken in the light of the coronavirus situation as circulated 23.03.20

4. The meeting also confirmed the decision to cancel the planned Cromwell Day events and Study Day, as circulated by email 13.05.20

5. **Re: Item 22: Website Sales**

John Goldsmith reported that efforts to set up a Shopping Cart system via PayPal had proved frustrating and unsuccessful. Instead it was planned to allow items to be bought individually. Relevant merchandise and prices will be listed separately in the public and members' sections of the website. It is hoped that this can be done in time for an announcement in the forthcoming *Protector's Pen*.

**ITEM 3. CHAIR'S REPORT**

6. The Chair's Report as circulated was accepted, and the following additional issues noted:

6.a **New Membership Leaflets**

These have now been printed & are held by Richard Warren. He would welcome suggestions as to places which he could send them to, plus any offers to take some off him.

#### 6.b **Cromwell Statues**

In the light of recent events a statement had been prepared by consultation within Council to be issued if necessary:

**The charitable aims of the Cromwell Association, in promoting our understanding of the 17th century, include commemorating the life and the achievements of Oliver Cromwell. We would therefore be opposed in principle to the removal of any statues, memorials or plaques which fulfil that intent. Whilst we recognise there are problematic aspects of his career these are subjects for debate and discussion based on the interpretation of evidence.**

However it was felt that the best policy for the present was to keep our heads down and not draw unnecessary attention to the statues at this time.

#### 6.c **Sale of John Westmacott's Books**

This had been very disappointing. A further push would be made in the Summer *Protector's Pen*, and after this the remaining books would be passed on to the Cromwell Museum for them to sell if they could, or dispose of as they saw fit.

### **ITEM 4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

7. The Treasurer's Report and comments was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions from other members of Council. Geoffrey Bush noted the marked rise in new memberships this month, assumed to be a result of the full-page advert we were able to place in the Battlefield Trust's most recent magazine

### **ITEM 5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

8. Paul Robbins confirmed Geoffrey's comments about recent new memberships, and reported that membership remained steady despite the coronavirus situation.

### **ITEM 6. MERCHANDISE REPORT**

9. John Gibbons had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Since then a further bust had been sold at the non-member's rate of £100. The busts now make up some 80% of sales, at no financial risk to the Association.

### **ITEM 7. CROMWELLIANA**

#### 10. **Cromwelliana 2020**

Proof reading and formatting are nearly complete and Patrick Little has agreed to do a final read-through. The only addition is a review by John Morrill of a book on the Caribbean Irish. The size will be very close to last year's edition. The cover will be a print of Lincoln Cathedral, following on from last year's Study Day.

#### 11. **Cromwelliana 2021**

Since there will be no Study Day papers nor Cromwell Day Address this year, Maxine Forshaw asked for ideas as to what might replace them in next year's *Cromwelliana*. Suggestions included anniversaries: 375<sup>th</sup> of the end of the First Civil War, 370<sup>th</sup> of Dunbar etc. Something on Cromwell & Hampton Court, Cromwell & the arts: medals, Walker etc.

also might an approach be made to Ronald Hutton for a companion-piece to his forthcoming major biography of Cromwell.

**ITEM 8. SUMMER MAILING CONTENTS**

12. *Protector's Pen* and *Cromwelliana* with the following enclosures

Association items

- |    |                         |   |                     |
|----|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Membership Renewal Form | } |                     |
| 2. | Gift Aid Form           | } | To be printed as    |
| 3. | Standing Order Form     | } | 2 pages if possible |
| 4. | New Membership Rates    | } |                     |
| 5. | Membership Card         | } |                     |
| 6. | New Association Leaflet | } |                     |

External items

- 7. Battlefields Trust Leaflet
- 8. Cromwell's House, Ely Leaflet

Richard Warren to supply these to the printers as required.

13. Miranda Malins agreed to approach her publishers to see if a discount could be offered to Association members on the purchase of her book when the paperback edition comes out (scheduled for February 2021) for inclusion in the Spring mailing.

14. *Protector's Pen* is well advanced, copy having been submitted in good time. Mailing will depend on production of *Cromwelliana*, mid-July probably.

**ITEM 9. 2021 AGM**

15. 2021 AGM to be a re-run of the abortive 2020 Bridgwater plan.

**ITEM 10. 2021 STUDY DAY**

16. 2021 Study Day to be a re-run of planned 2020 Oxford meeting, to be held in October 2021.

**ITEM 11. 'VIRTUAL' ACTIVITIES**

17. It was felt that the Association should not try to replicate what other organisations are doing with better resources (e.g. recorded lectures) but should seek to co-operate with others, making sure content is available via website.

18. Charlotte Young said the Royal Holloway was planning a series of debates on the theme of the mid-C17th, and received offers of participation from our academic members.

19. Cromwell Museum *Cromwellian Conversations* would like to include a piece on the Association with either John or Peter.

20. Online Book Club – Miranda Malins said she had done a number of online Q&A sessions on her novel, and Cromwell Museum is already running a Book Club for volunteers and happy to co-operate with Association in this.

21. A list of 'recommended' online material with short reviews to be placed on the website. Richard Warren to collate this.

22. 3<sup>rd</sup> September – wreath laying at Museum by John Goldsmith. This to be pre-recorded, with the video put on website, and a notice in forthcoming Protector's Pen.

23. Peter Gaunt agreed to do an introductory video to Schools' Day debates & other resources on Association website. Some technical work will be needed to ensure all these are immediately accessible. Serrie Meakins to provide 'script' re Schools material.

24. As part of the discussion it was agreed that deadline for this year's Essay Competition could be put back to 14<sup>th</sup> August in hope of attracting more entries.

### **ITEM 12. E-PROTECTOR'S PEN**

25. It was agreed that an electronic version of *Protector's Pen* was especially desirable given the lack of actual events this autumn. John Goldsmith recommended using MailChimp which would produce a good-quality email with the capacity to include video links etc, rather than simply an electronic version of a printed PP.

### **ITEM 13. AOB**

#### **26. Post-Graduate Research Grants**

Jonathan Fitzgibbon enquired whether we should be pushing these grants at this stage. Agreed that they should remain on the website, but that active promotion should wait for the re-opening of libraries etc. when opportunities for research activities would expand again. Geoffrey Bush confirmed that financially the Association is well able to meet its commitment to these grants.

#### **27. Monuments**

Ismini Pells reported that she has found someone to look after the Marston Moor Monument. Cost £30 per visit, four times a year, as has been the case previously.

#### **28. 400<sup>th</sup> Marriage Anniversary**

The 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cromwell's marriage on August 22<sup>nd</sup> will be noted in the next *Protector's Pen*, and it was agreed that a notice would be put in the Times.

#### **29. Cromwell Museum**

Stuart Orme reported that they hoped to reopen in July, with local museums being permitted to re-open before national ones.

### **ITEM 14. NEXT MEETING**

30. It is hoped that circumstances will allow this to be held in City Temple as normal. Potential dates Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>/Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Tuesday preferred. Richard Warren to liaise with City Temple re availability.