

THE MINUTES OF A MEETING AT  
BEACONSFIELD.

THE following is copied from the original print of the Minutes of a Meeting held at Beaconsfield, communicated to the Society by our Member, Mr. GEORGE WELLER. The Meeting was evidently convened in consequence of the disturbed state of feeling aroused in the public mind by the revolution through which our French neighbours were then passing, from the contagious effects of which this country was not then wholly free. As these Minutes refer to a past generation, they may very suitably find a place in these pages as a contribution to our local history.

BEACONSFIELD, Bucks.

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AT a very Numerous and respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of *Beaconsfield, Amersham, Chalfont Saint Giles, Chalfont Saint Peter, Wooburn, Pen,* and the Neighbourhoods thereof in the County of *Bucks*, held at the Saracen's Head Inn, at BEACONSFIELD, the 27th Day of *December, 1792.*

The Rev. MORGAN JONES,

One of his MAJESTY's Justices of the Peace, for the said County, in the Chair.

The following DECLARATIONS and RESOLUTIONS were entered into and agreed upon.

IMPRESSED as We are with the most grateful Sense of the Blessings and Happiness we enjoy under our present mild and excellent Form of Government in this Kingdom, we observe with Grief and the deepest Concern that there are in it designing and dangerous Men, who by their Industrious and Artful Circulation of Wicked and Seditious Writings, have endeavoured to infuse into the Minds of the

Ignorant and Unwary ; motives for Discontents tending to inflame and excite them to Acts of Tumult and Disorder againſt the Public Peace, and thereby to overturn the Conſtitution and Ruin our Liberty, Property, and Proſperity in this Realm. Influenced by this Conſideration, it appears to become a Duty upon us and all Perſons who have any Regard for our holy Religion, for the Security of our moſt excellent Eſtabliſhment, and the Welfare of our native Country, to uſe our moſt vigorous Exertions to oppoſe and prevent the dreadful Effects that may ariſe from ſuch diabolical Attempts and Proceedings ; and therefore we do hereby UNANIMOUSLY declare and Reſolve as follows :

We do hereby UNANIMOUSLY declare our firm Attachment to our gracious Sovereign, and to our moſt happy Conſtitution, conſiſting of KING, LORDS, and COMMONS, and do reſolve to the utmoſt Extent of our Abilities of every Kind, to preſerve the ſame inviolate ; it being a Conſtitution, which we learn from Hiſtory, and feel from Experience, to be the moſt wiſely framed for the Diffuſion of Happineſs and true Liberty, and which contains in itſelf a Power and Energy to correct thoſe Defects, which from the incidental Imperfection of all human Inſtitutions may be found in the beſt regulated States.

We do UNANIMOUSLY Reſolve and engage ourſelves to each other, that we will as far as in us lies, Suppreſs the Reading, and Peruſal of all Treasonable and Seditious Publications in our ſeveral Neighbourhoods, and that we will, when ever it is in our Power, aſſiſt the Civil Magiſtrates to bring to Juſtice, and by every legal Proceſs to puniſh not only the Authors and Abettors, but all other ſuch riotous and diſorderly Perſons, as by Acts or by Words, ſhall dare to diſturb the public Tranquillity. And for the more effectual Prevention of ſuch Offences, and as a Caution to the Unwary, we ſubjoin the following Quotations, from the learned Mr. Juſtice Blackſtone's Commentaries, Book iv. Chap. 9, which we deſire may be printed, and put up in the moſt conspicuous Places of this and the neighbouring Towns.

“ If a Party apprized of any Treason, does not as ſoon  
 “ as conveniently may be, reveal it to ſome Judge of  
 “ Affize, or Juſtice of the Peace, he is Guilty of Miſprifon

“of Treason, which is punished by the loss of the Profits  
 “of Land during Life, forfeiture of Goods, and Imprison-  
 “ment during Life.—But if there be any probable Circum-  
 “stances of assent, as if any one goes to a Treasonable  
 “Meeting, knowing before-hand that a Conspiracy is  
 “intended against the KING; or being in such Company  
 “once by Accident, and having earned such Treasonable  
 “Conspiracy, meets the same Company again and hears  
 “more of it, but Conceals it; this is an implied Assent in  
 “Law, and makes the Concealer Guilty of Actual High  
 “Treason. Contempts and Misprisons against the KING’s  
 “Person and Government may be, by Speaking or Writing  
 “against them, Cursing or Wishing Him Ill, giving out  
 “Scandalous Stories concerning Him; or doing any Thing,  
 “that may tend to lessen Him in the esteem of His Sub-  
 “jects, may weaken His Government, or may raise  
 “Jealousies between Him and His People. These being  
 “Acts which impliedly Encourage Rebellion.” For these  
 “Species of Contempt, A Man may not only be fined and  
 “imprisoned, but suffer the Pillory or Other Infamous  
 “Corporal Punishment.”

We do jointly and individually Resolve, That we will in our several respective Situations of Life, use our whole Influence and sincerest Endeavours to imprint upon the Minds of all those, who are in any Way connected with, or dependent upon us, Reverence towards GOD, Loyalty to our KING, a willing Obedience and a Conformity of Conduct to the Laws of this Realm.

RESOLVED, That a Committee of the following GENTLEMEN be appointed from the Members of this ASSOCIATION, and that any five of them, may call other Meetings, and Transact any Business relative thereto.

The Rt. Hon. Earl Inchiquin,  
 The Rt. Hon. Edmund Burke,  
 Sir Hugh Palliser, Bart.  
 Sir Henry Tho. Gott, Knight.  
 William Drake, Esq.  
 Edmund Waller, Esq.  
 John Philips Laughton,  
 Esq.  
 Rev. Robert Stebbing, D. D.

Thomas Grove.  
 Charles Burton Eddy.  
 Joseph Jagger.  
 Edmund Grove.  
 Steven Woodbridge.  
 John Stransum,  
 Joseph Stransum,  
 Jacob Howard,  
 Henry Turrell,

Rev. John Drake, L. L. D.	} Esqrs.	Samuel Best,
Rev. Benjamin Anderson.		Christopher Fellows,
Rev. John Middleton.		James Rumsey,
John White,		Joseph Trone,
Thomas Bennett,		John Marshall,
John Lawrence,		John Weller,
Thomas Mason,		William Weller, Jun.
William Taber,		William Fellows, Sen.
Charles Clarke,		William Fellows, Jun.
Charles Harrison,		Daniel Plater,
John Howard Chan- ning,		Robert Lunnon,
William Leivers,		Henry Turner,
		William Sedgwick.

RESOLVED, That all Communications to this Purpose, will be received with Thanks, and are desired to be addressed to the Secretary of this Association.

RESOLVED, That these Resolutions be subscribed by the Company present, and that the same may remain open at this House and at the Secretary's, and that duplicates thereof, may be engrossed and sent for Signatures to the different Parishes already mentioned, in this Neighbourhood, and that they be printed and published in the Buckinghamshire Herald, Whitehall Evening Post, the Evening Mail, and the Oxford Papers.

RESOLVED, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Reverend MORGAN JONES, for his Readiness to accede to our Request of assisting us at the Meeting, and for his proper and impartial Conduct in the Chair.

ROBERT CHARSLY,  
Secretary.

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An identification of many of the Members of the Committee is here given. Some names cannot be traced, but probably might be identified by further inquiry in the locality.

*Rev. Morgan Jones*, conjectured to have been Curate of Taplow.

*Murrough O'Brien, Earl of Inchiquin*, created Marquis of Thomond, whose seat in Buckinghamshire was Taplow Court.

*Edmund Burke*, as is well known, lived at The Gregories, Beaconsfield. The house was burnt down; some of the offices are, or recently were, standing.

*Sir Hugh Palliser*, of The Vache, Chalfont St. Giles, was Admiral of the White, and is remembered as a patron of Captain Cook.

*Sir Henry Thomas Gott*, Newlands, Chalfont St. Peter. He laid out the gardens of Windsor for George III.

*William Drake*, Shardeloes, Amersham.

*Edmund Waller*, Hall Barn, Beaconsfield. A descendant of Waller, the poet, and possessor of Hall Barn, the poet's estate.

*Rev. Robert Stebbing*, Rector of Beaconsfield.

*Rev. John Drake*, Rector of Amersham.

*Rev. B. Anderson*, subsequently Vicar of Penn.

*Rev. John Middleton*, then Vicar of Penn.

*Thomas Mason*, Beel House, Amersham.

*Thomas Grove*, Penn.

*Edmund Grove*, Penn.

*James Rumsey*, Amersham.

*John Marshall*, Solicitor, Amersham. His descendants are still residing in that town.

*John Weller* and *William Weller, Junr.*, the owners of The Brewery, Amersham. The grandsons of the latter continue the owners of it.

*Robert Charsley*, the Secretary, was a Solicitor at Beaconsfield. One of his descendants continues the same profession in that town.