

THE DOVER SOCIETY

MINUTES of the 96th meeting of the Executive Committee held at 7.30 p.m.
on Thursday 12 Dec. 1996 at the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club.

APOLOGIES : MR

PRESENT : Chairman Both Vice-Chairmen, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Sec.
JL ML JO TS MS BA MMcF SS

The MINUTES of the 95th meeting of the Executive Committee of Thursday 14 Nov. '96.

After the insertion of a note of JC's report on the water situation
were passed and signed as correct.

1. MATTERS ARISING :

From 14 Nov. 1996

- * The suggestion of a memorial to Admiral Ramsey.
JO had supplied the address of the Royal Naval Association and the Chairman
had informed Brig. Godsall of the Committee's recommendations.
- * The ex-Tunnel site, Farthingloe.
JG had, as agreed, spoken to John Clayton who had confirmed the planning
situation which is that if no developer appears before the planning permission
lapses the situation reverts to the original requirement for re-instatement.
(He also recalled that in the past DDC had wished to develop the site.)

Agreed that in the circumstances no public attack on DDC was called for at present.

BUT

the D.S. planning sub-committee would re-examine the matter at their next
meeting, to decide whether further action is called for. JC

- * Water problems.
The long-considered and prepared letter had been sent to a wide distribution.
Replies and comments had begun to come in (including a very long letter from
John Clayton.) It is clear that there are many and varied opinions and proposed
solutions, often very strongly, even emotionally, held.

Agreed : The next step should be a meeting of opinions : first the one proposed
by the M.P., perhaps in January, and, if necessary the D.S. to call a public
meeting after that.

Reported that the Dover Town Council had voted against the merger of FDWCo.
and Mid-Kent.

- * Further thoughts on the possible future use of Society funds.
Discussion and suggestions continued, such as a Millennial project of historic
plaques but it was stressed, from several sides, that considerable reserves are
necessary when we consider, for example, the impact of future printing and
stationery.

Further discussion was deferred until January

- * The memorial to the Unknown Warrior.

David Atwood wished to convey his gratitude for all that we have done.
He is currently seeking a suitable high-ranking officer for the ceremony .

He requests a general picture of how the Committee sees the ceremony.

Agreed that a basically low-key ceremony was called for, with an invited public.
JG will bring forward proposals in January and will keep David Atwood informed.
Suggested : (JeG) that the relatively small plaque should be set against a
suitably coloured mount-backing.

2. CHAIRMAN

- (a) Hands across the Channel. Chairman, LW and JL will produce an article for the Newsletter on Calais Accueil and Association France- Grande-Bretagne.
- (b) An appreciative letter received from Gubbins re Shopping Survey.
- (c) 9 Dec. Meeting with the new Town Clerk, Robert Bayley of Ashford, at his request.
Town Council new responsibilities and resources : e.g. allotments, footpaths, grants : e.g. Mott McDonald (who built the A20); replacement of boundary-stones. Where were they located ? BA TS
A central PC notice-board (£2000 available)
- (d) 4 Dec. Town Council Meeting. JW. LW. MW. (4/4 public seats taken.)
Gubbins. Thanks. Good Chair.
- 3 Jan. Planning : D. S. Planning sub-committee will try to send a rep. JC
- (e) Questionnaire on the future of Kent. (KCC)
JG : other pre-occupations have intervened. JC will try to complete. JC
- (f) B and Q : ENV UPDATE : LA 21 link-up with District Council.
Letter to B and Q. LW
- (g) Comment from George Curry :
" I think they (the D. S.) underrate the capacity of Dover for serious entertainment. "
- (h) Margram Budget Hotel for Guston roundabout. (Only at the outline planning stage.) The planning sub-committee will consider in Jan. JC
but the initial reaction is approving.
- (i) Junior-doctor housing at Buckland.
As the D.S. has worked to save the Buckland Hospital this project attracts our approval but the planning sub-committee will consider in January. JC
- (j) No report of Gerontius in the Dover Express. Chairman will write, as on the previous occasion. JW

DOVER EXPRESS

12. Dec.

FDWC say no reservoir needed but water-grid : OK if merger with Mid-Kent allowed.

It was the Channel Tunnel- i.e. water shortage.

Town-hall scaffolding for months but no work done.

DHB suggests lorry-park to relieve Ch.T. congestion but cannot find one.

Local radio decision soon

Margram budget hotel for Guston

FDWC : MKW re merger : rival theories : now with Trade Sec.

Junior-doctor housing at Buckland.

3. SECRETARY

- (a) Publications : the KFAS and the Ramsgate Society newsletters.
: Southern Water hand-out on the Farthingloe treatment plant.
- (b) Request from KCC for a copy of the Peverley Paper. LW. D. Welby.
- (c) Request from KCC for our Newsletter.
BA will add them to the distribution list. BA
- (d) 15 Nov. The opening of the Bradelei Wharf reported . A later visit on a Tuesday afternoon suggested local interest and custom.
- (e) Information requested by P. Kennedy for Deal Library for BBC radio programme " On this day..."

Subject : the 250 thousand -ton cliff-fall at St. Margaret's
Feb. 1947.

4. TREASURER

- * The healthy balances were again observed. Discussed above.
- * Details were explained, including book-sales.
- * No participation in raffles was agreed.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Three new members : Councillor John Husband Heathfield Avenue
Interested in photography,
writing reports, special
interests and expertise.

Dr. A.S. and Mrs C.C. Jackson.

He is deputy head at the Boys school. She is French
which she teaches at the Girls' School.

Current total : 434 Highest number allotted 675

6. PROJECTS

Sunday 1 Dec. The visit to Lousyberry Wood where the beeches are doing very well. Reported.

There would be the annual Cadets' project in March.

Discounts for D.S. members at Dover shops.

The Committee having had the opportunity to study the draft project, opinions and comments were expressed.

It was agreed that the highest priority was to support the local shops not to seek benefit for our members.

Reservations expressed included doubts about the attitude of the shops
doubts about whether it would further the
overall purpose of benefiting the shops
that the shops most frequented by our members
(chain stores) would not join
the extra administration : e.g. membership cards.

Decided : that further research was needed. JC said that consultation with
Town Management and the Chamber of Commerce was essential.

MMcF said that the Retailer sub-committee was the best forum for this. Their next meeting 13 Jan.

Agreed to submit the suggestion to that committee. JO to submit a
written report.

JO
ML
MMcF

7. EDITOR

Warmest congratulations were expressed for the December number and the Chairman, as Chairman of KFAS, asserted that the D.S. Newsletter is, in content, presentation and production, the best in Kent.

The deadline for No. 28 : 28 Feb.

BA estimated that the cost per issue, at the going-rate, would be in excess of £900.

The Chairman, in grateful recognition, took the opportunity to praise the extent and importance of Budge's contribution.

8. SOCIAL SECRETARY

14 Dec. The Christmas Feast : 101 coming. Place-names : agreed without titles.
9.30 Barbers' Shop - 10.30 ?
Raffle Prizes requested.

Open events will continue to be notified to DDC Arts and Entertainment.

Payments to some lecturers will be paid at the discretion of the Social committee.

9. PLANNING.

There had been few applications and no meeting had been called. The Jan. meeting of the sub-committee will consider the items already noted above and will continue to study cycling.

Also : The security gates in Worthington Street and security shutters in general.

10. A.O.B.

* TS informed the Committee : The "TIMES " is targeting Dover as a crucial electoral constituency. In this connection the Co-ordinator is planning a detailed survey of business in the Town Centre during the past year. The assistance of the Chamber of Commerce and the D.S. is invited. Detailed questionnaires in Jan.

Agreed : ML will meet Gubbins and TS

The participation of Members will be invited, initially at the Christmas Feast.

JW

* MMcF urged all members to re-cycle Christmas trees.

* The Chairman suggested that we should congratulate Astor School on the completion of their theatre.

LW

Date of next meeting : Thursday 9 Jan. at 7.30 p.m. at the R.C.P.Y.C.

The longest Minutes after the shortest Agenda ever.