
THE DOVER SOCIETY

MINUTES of the 99th meeting of the Executive Committee held at 7.30 p.m.
on Thursday 13 March 1997 at the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club.

APOLOGIES : MR MS

PRESENT : Chairman, Both Vice-Chairmen, Secretary, Treasurer
SC JL ML JO TS BA MMcF SS

The MINUTES of the 98th meeting of the Executive Committee of 13 Feb. '97
were passed and signed as correct.

1. MATTERS ARISING

From 16 Jan 1997

- * The Unknown Warrior plaque unveiling ceremony : 17 May.

To be unveiled by the Chief of Defense Staff (new title.)
The Torch of Remembrance Group will also be represented.
£110 for additional brass plaque.
£100 donated by member David Atwood.

- * The Jarrett Memorial.

The art-work has still to be dealt with.

- * The water-meeting, called by the MP 21 Feb. '97.

LW reported the meeting as very satisfactory. In contrast with its predecessor in 1994 there was now abundant research and information reported, and plans for action.

So far OFWAT had not included any finance for safeguarding the R. Dour in their price-fixing. They are now engaged in fixing water-prices for the next five years.

Resolved : We will write to OFWAT urging them to include help for river ecology for the Dour.

Also to DDC, which is giving £2000 for the countryside management of the R. Stour, urging similar support for the Dour. JC

- * The empty shops of Dover

The problem was discussed, as agreed, at the meeting of the Planning sub-committee 12 Mar. '97. No solution emerged.

Some shops could be converted or re-converted into houses but this needs money and compulsory powers. Many local traders cannot afford increased rents nor can they purchase the freehold.

Agreed : In particular :

J. Godden may restore his premises in the expectation of plenty.

Meanwhile, we will write to DDC, Copy to T.C. Management, on health-danger grounds, given the present state of the property. JC

2. CHAIRMAN

(a) The AGM : Under para 6 of the Society's constitution it is necessary to nominate officers for election or re-election to the Executive Committee at the AGM .

All members present were willing to stand again, with the following proposed changes in office :

AJW to stand down as Chairman and JC to succeed as Chairman.
(Proposed : AJW Seconded : SS)

Je.G wishes to stand down as Treasurer and she proposed member Capt. M.H. Weston to be elected and to succeed as Treasurer.
(Seconded : LW) Je.G willing to continue to serve and in particular to help on the social side.

The dates of the handovers must remain flexible in view of the circumstances of the members concerned.

All these proposals were carried unanimously.

Agreed : to ask MS whether, in view of his difficulties in attending, he wishes to stand down. r
LW

Relevant to all meetings: the question of screen, stand, p.a., and recorder was raised.

Agreed : MMcF with member J. Harman will take responsibility for the use of the St. Mary's system. BA offers additional equipment if needed.

AGM - dinner at the Wine Bar, with Paul Bennet; JG + ?

(b) White Cliffs Public Art Trail

This had been discussed at the Planning sub-committee, with some Executive Committee members present, and the Chairman presented a draft comment on the proposal. The draft was approved, with minor amendments.

JG reported that the project was not welcomed by all D.D. Council officers and could be considered as over-hasty.

(c) Maggi Waite request re-library closures. LETTER. KCC reply : political blame-laying.

(d) Congrats to WCCP. Request for more Dover History Archive money : £250 sent.

(g) Confirmed : Gubbins still on the list as possible future speaker.

(h) KFAS AGM Spring Conference : 10 May. Some takers.

(j) Letter of congratulation to London Fancy Box on their award.

From the DOVER EXPRESS

13.3: Whitfield Factory Shop refused by Gummer(!): WE WON AGAIN: Fairclough continues development
: Water meters penalise poor
: Libraries furor: voluntary donations?
: Archcliffe Fort dig: DSOC
: London Fancy Box wins training award: LETTER

3. SECRETARY

- (a) Received and circulated :
Ramsgate Society Newsletter
KCC Staff Newsletter
- (b) Annual request for our support for the Dover League of Friends
Hospital Fête.
Clashes with D.S. excursion to Le Touquet.
Letter : Regrets and hope that we may be able to offer some
small financial support.

LW

4. TREASURER

The accounts were presented in writing, as has become customary.
Attention was particularly drawn to the Peverley Paper sales : over 450
copies sold so far. And to the income from advertising in the Newsletter.

- Agreed : To donate £50 to Crabble Mill
To open an account at Unwins
To renew Civic Trust subscription and insurance.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Nothing to report.

6. SOCIAL SECRETARY

The programme up to November was presented.

ML spoke at this point, suggesting that, as a follow-up to the March meeting
(Ken Scott) the Castle should be a theme in the next Newsletter.
Also at the March meeting, she proposed that there should again be a members'
" brain-storming " : Subjects : The future of the Castle
Future meetings and excursions
Derelict shops
The proposed sculpture trail
Rubbish and litter

7. PROJECTS

As reported in the Press and on Radio Kent ' Operation '97 ' had been
successful, though not without difficulties.

8. PLANNING

- (a) The empty shops problem reported above, in matters brought forward
- (b) Wellington Dock Slipway : JC had written suggesting a yacht on the
slipway undergoing inspection would be an attraction ; also that the
mud is used by birds, in particular the house-martin.
The voluminous planning application is being examined by LW and AG
with particular attention to the proposed petrol-station and fast-food shop.
- (c) Harbour reclamation : JG produced photomontage. Wall not obtrusive.
- (d) AG wrote to say Chilton Way development was too concentrated but otherwise
satisfactory.
- (e) Notwithstanding alternative suggestions, Dover Town Council has voted
to locate the Miner's statue in the Market Square.
- (f) Bicycle routes and transport to be further studied by JC and JG.
- (g) Town Grant Scheme : Letter written to Chairman Bannister asking
for it to be re-instated.

9. EDITOR

For the Newsletter :

Report on the AGM : TS

Report on the proposed sculpture-trail : AJW/JC

ML invited volunteers for another season, welcoming cruise-liner passengers

TS reported that a good number of responses had been received from the shops survey.

10. A.O.B.

- * JG intends to write re litter on the track at Priory Station.
- * BA will have available for the ceremony an enlarged, framed photograph of the arrival of the Unknown Warrior at Dover.
- * BA requested that thought be given and action be initiated about the future long-term future of the Newsletter.

JG and JC will consult with Adams Printers.

Date of next meeting : Thursday 10 April at 7.30 p.m. at the R.C.P.Y.C.