

THE DOVER SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 137TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT 7.30 p.m ON THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2000 AT THE ROYAL CINQUE PORTS YACHT CLUB

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: LW, LG, HG, BL and BA.

2 PRESENT: JC, MW, SC, AW, ML, JL, MMcF, GH, TS, JW and DAL.

3 MINUTES OF 13 JULY MEETING: were accepted as a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING:

(i) Historic Plaques

Two plaques will be installed on Tuesday 10 October at 10.30 am. Please attend if possible and assemble outside Museum. Budge will install Zeebrugge plaque with historic overview from John Iveson. Town Mayor will install William Burgess plaque (on Town Centre Management building) with Mark Frost talking about the artist.

Planning applications have been submitted for Lord Warden Hotel and Camden Crescent plaques.

Contact has been made with Dover Municipal Charities re siting of Place of Execution plaque. In view of no response from RMT, owner of Maritime House (intended site for Philip Yorke plaque) , JC agreed to seek the good offices of the MP. **ACTION JC**

(ii) Philomena Memorial

Astor School had agreed to design and produce the memorial.

(iii) White Cliffs Painting

No progress had been made regarding restoration.

(iv) Water Sports Centre

JC and MW had met the DHB hydrographer, Bob Mackenzie, who had not apparently been consulted by anybody about a site for the Centre. In his view the eastern end of the harbour would be unsuitable but the western end (Harbour House and beyond) would be suitable. Agreed that JW should write to Jonathan Sloggett suggesting that the advice be sought of their hydrographer re alternative sites. JC would supply a first draft to JW.

ACTION JC, JW

(v) Picture Dover project

The prints of the photographs taken were awaited.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(i) Donation of £50 toward the Admiral Ramsay statue had been acknowledged.

(ii) President's Lunch would be on Wednesday 4 October at 12.30 at the Park Inn.

(iii) DHB Performance Meeting: There was much discussion about road congestion. There are plans for a large extension to the west of Admiralty Pier (Westport) to contain a staggering increase in traffic. This increase would impact on Dover until Westport was built in 15 years. JC had written to DHB expressing concerns.

(iv) JC had accepted David Attwood's kind offer of a lectern for members' meetings.

(v) Deborah Turner, a member, had suggested a Vera Lynn statue for the town. Agreed that JC should suggest that she tests the water for the idea by writing to the local press.

ACTION JC

(vi) Tourism Debate: TS reported on a lack lustre debate. Concern that DDC policy was

changing with a switch of funding from tourism to regeneration. Agreed that JC, MMcF and TS should draft a letter regarding concerns. **ACTION JC, MMcF, TS**

(vi) Trustees were being sought for Dover and Deal Sports Centres (being set-up as Trusts to save money) but their role would be to run businesses.

(vii) Waterloo Mansions Association had advised that DHB was planning to remove attractive flower beds from the frontages in favour of low maintenance, low cost gardens. JC had written to Bill Fawcett asking him to reconsider.

(viii) Invitation to newly arrived Parachute Regiment battalion cocktail party had clashed with this meeting. TS had attended.

(ix) Car free day walk over Langdon Cliffs: it was poorly attended (in thick fog). 3 DS members wearing other hats had walked.

6 SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was no report in the absence of the Secretary.

7 TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer presented a report for July and August. In particular: £25 had been received from the sale of Queen Mother booklets; 3 Heritage Flagstones had now been bought at a total cost of £435 of which £351.50 had been contributed by members. Pfizers had donated another £400 toward Newsletter costs (but this may be the last). Both the Faversham and Marlowe trips had been completed in profit.

Following investigation by the Treasurer and Chairman, MW recommended that the Society should open banking accounts with Charities Aid Foundation which offers much better interest rates (for registered charities) than High St banks, currently over 5% on current account of 0.25% and nearly 6% on long term saver of 3.25%. Chairman proposed that Treasurer's recommendation be accepted and this was agreed. It was also agreed that the Barclays current account should remain open to receive subscriptions paid by standing order.

ACTION MW

8 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership was 410 with 6 new members: Miss Jane Francis and Mr Christopher Francis (Churchill Road); Mr Peter and Mrs Eileen Collins (Monastery Avenue) and Mr Chris and Mrs Fiona Tapley (Whitfield).

9 PROJECTS

JC expressed thanks to BL for visit to 2nd Cruise Liner Terminal. Another visit was envisaged next year.

BL had submitted a paper on the role of a Projects Coordinator (to replace the Projects Secretary) which was discussed and accepted as was BL's offer to be the Project Coordinator.

ACTION BL

It was agreed to defer any discussion about actual projects until the next meeting except for Cowgate Cemetery. Following the guided walk by Martyn Webster and the subsequent article by TS in the Express regarding the sorry state of the cemetery, Kirk Alexander (WCCP) had written to JC suggesting that DS adopt the Cemetery as an ongoing project for assistance.

Since DS priorities for the Cemetery could well be different from WCCP it was agreed that JC and DL should meet Kirk to clarify the situation.

ACTION JC, DL

10 PLANNING, K.F.A.S. AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

JW gave details of the KFAS autumn conference at Rochester on 7 October. Contact him for

venue etc if interested.

JW spoke to the Planning Committee minutes of 5 September which was followed by discussion of the Planning Committee's submission regarding the St. James' area redevelopment options. Option C was preferred - mixed development. JW noted additional points made including a (glass) cliff lift to the Castle with access from the old Army Recruitment Centre (rather than a suggested funicular railway from the Health Centre), the need for bridge links from St. James' area to the seafront (possibly enclosed), the need for new buildings to be in sympathy with Castle Street, possible inclusion of Castle Street in the scheme encouraging its return to residential use, the need for a tourist information centre to be in the town centre rather than on 'a bypass' and the need for any car park on Townwall Street to be attractively screened. The Chairman expressed the thanks of the Executive to JW and the Planning Committee for the detailed consideration of the options. **ACTION JW**

The Planning Committee's comments on the proposed modifications to the District Local Plan were endorsed.

ACTION JW

11 SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

8 more people were urgently needed for the French trip on 23 September in order to break even. The shuttle would be used and not the ferry. Mike Scurfield had been booked as the Christmas Feast entertainment for £50. Unitarian Church would be open to the public on 17 September. The Earl of Guilford had been booked to speak 15 October 2001.

12 PRESS SECRETARY

TS had nothing to report.

13 EDITOR

Next Newsletter target date for articles was 1 October with 9 October the absolute deadline. Agreed that agenda for next meeting should include topics for discussion at 16 October members' meeting

ACTION LW

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Doug Welby had sold 120 more copies of The Hidden Fortress leaving only 58 in stock. Agreed that we should consider at next meeting whether to order another 500 copies.

ACTION LW

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 12 October.