

THE DOVER SOCIETY

MINUTES of the 139th meeting of the Executive Committee held at 7.30 p.m.
on 9 Nov. 00 at the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club.

APOLOGIES : AW BA LG GH McF

PRESENT : Chairman, Both Vice-Chairmen, Hon. Sec. , Hon. Treasurer,
Membership Secretary, Social Secretary, Editor, Chairman of Planning ,HG , BL.

The MINUTES of the 138th meeting of the Executive Committee, with three
corrections (equals record) were passed and signed as correct.

1. MATTERS ARISING from 12 Oct. and ongoing :

(i) The historic plaques :

SC reported that permission had been given and orders placed for the last
four plaques. Delivery of two plaques (probably the Lord Warden and the Dickens
in Dover plaques) expected next week.

Permission had been given for the plaques on the Maritime Hall and Bridge St.
There is a delay on the latter (Dover's place of execution) awaiting the H.E.R.S
decision on the refurbishment of the end gable.

The Zeebrugge Bell Plaque on the Town Hall.

Time has passed since this was last considered and discussion now centred on
whether the plaque should be in keeping with the historic plaques.

The original proposal was for a panel with some 200 words. Alternative suggestions
include 2 x 50 words, in English and French or Flemish. With the target date
of St. George's Day (23 April) 1001) time presses.

Agreed : DL and the Treasurer will join the Plaques sub-committee for
discussions, next week, and liaise with Jon Iveson and Clive Alexander.

(ii) The Philomena memorial.

In the absence of BA : no further information.

(iii) The Dover Picture project.

N.B. 14 Nov. : The show, in Dover Museum.

(iv) Waterloo Mansions flower-beds.

Still no reply from D.H.B. B.L. will pursue.

B.L.

(v) Additional copies of The Hidden Fortress :

MW had not so far been able to contact Doug Welby.

Adams' quote for printing : 500 copies £775

300 copies £ 715

Agreed : Welby to be consulted whether this is viable. Important to ascertain
whether the price is printed in the book. MW

2. CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Committee and our members, the Chairman congratulated
our President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton, on his appointment as
Vice Lord Lieutenant for Kent and Medway.

The Chairman raised again the question of a successor to the Secretary.
Mrs Audrey Wood, in absentia, was suggested.

AW

JW volunteered to take on the correspondence.

It was agreed also to include an advertisement in the Newsletter.

ML

CHAIRMAN contd.

The White Cliffs painting : the Council cannot restore or display it.
It has no future.

DHB to be informed.

JC
BL

The Tourism Debate. The Chairman had written to DDC.

Crabble Corn Mill had thanked for our donation.

Folkestone and Dover Water Services invite comments on their Environmental
Report 1999/2000. We will comment.

TS
LW

3. SECRETARY

* Publications received to date were presented.

* The Friends of Dover Museum : invitation to their meeting : 21 Nov. 00.

Speaker : Frank Grey : Curator of the South East Film and Video Archives

St. Mary's Parish Centre : Admission Charge £1.

4. TREASURER

The monthly financial statement was presented as always in print-out, with
commentary and explanation.

Advertising in the Newsletter had realised £54. DDC had paid £117.22 as a
grant towards the last two plaques installed. The RCPYC charge for room-hire
has increased, from Nov. : £10 to £15 per meeting.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Total membership : 408 , including 3 new members :

Mr John MAVIN (Clarendon Place)

Mrs Fay SMITH and Mr S.H. THOMSET. (Dour Street)

There was satisfaction and congratulations that total membership remains so steady.

SC made a request for raffle prizes, particularly for the Christmas Feast.

SC proposed that the subscription might be increased - particularly to finance
the Newsletter. (3 x £ 800 last year.)

With no increase since 1996 an increase of £1 over 5 years is modest.

There was a short discussion of our overall financial position.

Agreed : Joan, Nike and Sheila will discuss and report back.

SC
MW
JL

6. PROJECTS

Ref. the list of seven items raised for consideration at the October meeting.
BL expressed the opinion that these were desirable objectives but the only
ones within our scope as projects were Cowgate Cemetery and the Plaques Trail
Booklet

6. PROJECTS continued :

BL proposed to write to those responsible for Nos. 2 and 5. BL

SC recalled that residents of the Gateway (including some members) would be opposed to restoring the lake and fountain in Marine Gardens.

TS will write to the Police about 3 (Cyclists - Danger Off Road.) TS

6. (River Dour : weed-clearing)

The strong flow has cleared much of the weed. It is now a watching-brief and BL will watch

7. (Plaque Trail Booklet)

It was agreed to go ahead with this. TS will write.

TS

MMcF will be invited to participate

MMcF

Design , style and layout to be decided. † 200 copies ?
Desk-top publishing. Format similar to " What's On ".

1. COWGATE CEMETERY

There was detailed discussion of a work-plan. The following were the tentative decisions :

One area rather than two, at least initially, for one year.

The adopted area is 600 sq. feet and thus manageable.

SC reported that 19 members on enrolment had expressed willingness to help with projects.

Draft proposal of organisation :

A regular team of four, monthly, with two teams, thus demanding attendance only every-other month. JC DL and HG volunteered as leaders. BL would attend every time.

Two groups could be formed : one of retired and one of non-retired members.

4-hour sessions : 9.00 - 13.30 ? Planning in advance, tools ?

All the above details to be regarded as exploratory rather than decisive.

The Society's insurance to be investigated.

MW

Also the terms of the White Cliffs C.P. insurance.

Tree-felling can only be by professionals.

Other tasks : Decyphering inscriptions.

The Interpretation Panel : The Plaques sub-committee could be consulted

Agreed :

It should progress. We start with one plot. Any decisions about donations/funding postponed.

To be featured in the Editorial and as a small banner and an article in the current Newsletter.

7. SOCIAL SECRETARY

The future programme was submitted in print by JL as also was the winter meetings programme up to Nov. 2001, by JW.

N.B. Only 21 bookings so far for the Christmas Feast. Publicise !

8. PLANNING

JW commented and amplified the Minutes of the Planning sub-committee of 31 Oct.

In particular : the ongoing discussion about the " Buckland Village " project which is basically the problem of parts of London Road.

JW had spoken with James Somerfield. Our role can only be as a promoter/propagandist.

Agreed : The Chairman and JW to meet James Somerfield to discuss possibilities for the London Road area in particular. JC will arrange.

JC

Other items :

1. Sea-front parking for caravans.

If it is not legally possible to forbid the parking it should be in a clearly-marked area and with high parking charges.

If possible, an alternative caravan-park should be sign-posted.

2. The low standard of maintenance of the parks is probably financially inevitable and it was thought not to have deteriorated further.

3. The expansion of DHB, Westport etc.

We need more detailed information than has appeared in the Dover Express.

The Planning sub-committee and a working group will examine:

JC DL TS BL MW and Bruce Lilley

9. PRESS SECRETARY

Nothing to report.

10. EDITOR

ML requests that all visits and excursions should be reported.

JL

The Membership Secretary will continue the practice of reporting all new members in the Newsletter.

SC

The December number will again be 44 pages.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 22h15.

Date of next meeting : Thursday 14 Dec. at 7.30 p.m. at the R.C.P.Y.C.

From the Dover Express :

- 9.11: DHB seeks SEEDA/SRA investmt for Westport; housing, hotel, CTRL, extramural truckport, new shipping routes, new E.Dock berths & extended roads, new exit rd avoiding Jubilee Rdbt
- : £30 pa to park outside house?
 - : 68 Pavilion paving stones
 - : Bgdr M. Atherton Vice Lord-Lieut for Kent & Medway: CONGRATS!
 - : Marina Parade caravan parking?: write Nadeem Aziz
 - : Sensicle for MP?
 - : KCC Framework for Rural safety
 - : www.Dover Web.co.UK plug for Dover
 - : Kent Civil Society 01732 873335 for links w. Europe