

THE DOVER SOCIETY

MINUTES of the 140th meeting of the Executive Committee held at 7.30 p.m.
on Thursday 14 Dec. 00, at the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club.

APOLOGIES : BA ML MW DL HG LG

PRESENT : Chairman, Vice-Chairman TS, Hon. Sec., Membership Secretary,
Social Secretary, JW, GH, AW, MMcF.

The MINUTES of the 139th meeting of the Executive Committee meeting of 9 Nov.
were passed and signed as correct.

1. MATTERS ARISING : from 9 Nov. and ongoing :

(i) The historic plaques and the Zeebrugge information panel.

SC reported :

The installation of the Lord Warden plaque had to be temporarily postponed
because of the recent weather.

The Maritime Hall plaque is due for delivery : 19 Dec.

The Tower Hamlets / Place of Execution plaque is now to be part of
the HERS scheme upgrade. It should be installed by 31 Mar. if we are
to qualify for the Millennium grant. DDC informed.

The Plaques Trail Booklet is in hand, written by TS; BL will produce a proof.

The Zeebrugge information panel for the Town Hall : Well advanced.

A scale-drawing was passed round. The necessary permissions (conservation
and listed building) are being sought.

Funding : + £1000 required. (DTC must purchase in order to avoid VAT.)

It is hoped that DTC will contribute £500.

The Committee, without a vote, considered that the Society should make a
contribution.

(ii) The Philomena memorial. Deferred, in the absence of BA.

(iii) The Picture Dover project exhibition : considered to be a successful
presentation - including entries from Committee members!

(iv) The Waterloo Mansions flower-beds : Still no reply from DHB.

(v) Additional copies of The Hidden Fortress : No decision, as MW had
been unable to contact Doug Welby.

2. CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported the unveiling of the Admiral Ramsay statue, which he
had attended.

Christine Waterman and Jon Iverson were congratulated on their promotions.

Discussions continue with DDC and DTC about street trees.

Member W.L. Naylor will attend the Jan. meeting before deciding whether
he would accept to assume the duties of Secretary in April.

BA may stand down in April.

Ms Tessa George, a more recently-recruited member, is willing to help
actively and will be approached to join the Committee.

3. SECRETARY

(i) The Secretary suggested that, in view of our recent reviewing of finance and membership figures, the figures quoted in the Ramsgate Society Newsletter are of interest.

The Ramsgate Society needs a membership of 250 to be financially sound and they have been seeking two new members for their Executive Committee.

(ii) Twinning/ Hands across the Channel.

The DTC Twinning and Civic Functions Committee on 22 Nov. had received a report on " the current position of " The Dover Twinning Association. "

Robert Bailey reported that it had in fact ' folded'. LW and JL had earlier been recruited as members but were never informed of any meetings. Robert Bailey will be calling a meeting and LW and JL are still willing to serve.

4. TREASURER in absentia

The Financial Statement for the month were presented as usual in print-out and the Chairman read from the following Commentary by the Treasurer :

Financial Commentary for presentation to Committee 14.12.00

During the last month £16.00 were collected in subscriptions for the current year and £6.00 for the year 2001/2

We received £29.00 from revenue for advertising in the Newsletter.

Postage, photocopying costs etc. totalled £4.56 for last month and room hire for the November committee meeting was £15.00.

£150.00 has been received from Dover Town Council as a grant towards the last two plaques installed in our ongoing Millennium project. We paid out £374.83 to Leander Architectural for a further two plaques.

The only uncompleted function at the present time is the Christmas Feast. Bookings for this are still well below last year's levels.

You will note that we are already looking forward to next summer! £50.00 has had to be sent off as a deposit for our trip next June on the m.v. "Princess Pocahontas"

The October meeting and November meetings both have joined the completed functions list. Both unfortunately have made losses – the October meeting lost £10.42 and the November meeting lost £39.09. The November meeting loss is directly attributable to the cost of the three guest speakers at Blakes and the October loss is because the raffle did not produce sufficient revenue [small numbers at meeting] to cover the cost of the hall hire.

5. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

SC reported one new member :

Dr. Anthony LANE of Whitfield

There had been discussion and consultation about financial aspects.

It had been decided to continue to include a raffle at meetings, rather than change to a charge at the door. It was also decided that, for the present, there should be no change in the subscription. To be reviewed after another year.

6. PLANNING, K.F.A.S. and Local Government.

JW reported that the current K.F.A.S. Newsletter carried a substantial article about the Dover Society.

He then proceeded to comment and discuss the Minutes of the sub-committee meeting of 5 Dec. which had been circulated.

The proposed letter (para 4) commenting on the DHB project was approved.

The DTC Transport sub-committee and the Town and Environment committee were reported : in particular Rights of Way, cycle-paths and Parking - as from Jan. 01.

The Chairman will congratulate DTC Management on this year's improved Christmas lights.

JC

To be sorted
The " Buckland Village" project is becoming clearer. ~~It is not concerned with London Road or Buckland Avenue.~~

The proposed Museum Exhibition on Buckland Village, proposed for Sep. 01 could be a valuable rallying point. This should be preceded by the formation of a residents association and a meeting of all interested parties in the Spring.

(DDC DTC Town Centre Management BL MMcF et al.)

(The HERs funding might be extended to Buckland.)

There was considerable discussion about tactics and organisation.

7. SOCIAL SECRETARY

Arrangements for the Christmas Feast were well-advanced : 68 members so far. The music/ entertainment. A Christmas Quiz ?

Raffle Prizes requested.

The Pocahontas cruise : a few more recruits needed : we need 56 takers. We have 38.

JW, looking ahead to the 1001 programme :

Bob Hollingsbee is standby reserve if BA has to withdraw. Diners are invited for 15 Jan.

8. PROJECTS

BL in absentia :

The Chairman reported that at the January meeting BL proposes to fix dates for work at Cowgate, with two teams and two leaders and a start for the first volunteers

9. PRESS SECRETARY

The Society continues to enjoy cover in the Dover Express, thanks to TS. JW and TS were interviewed on Radio Kent - some small benefit to the Society.

10. EDITOR. in absentia

The Newsletter received a lot of praise from the Committee. One or two corrections (of dates etc.) will be announced at meetings and in the April Newsletter.

BA is giving up distribution. JC will update the database.

" Dover, Collected Memories of a Century" is for the moment sold out.

A.O.B.

MNcF drew attention to the annual publication " White Cliffs Country". (Tourism, Marketing.)

He outlined possible advantages to the Society of an internet web-site (Supported by GH.) There was some discussion.

The Chairman asked them to present at the January meeting a concise summary of the advantages and the experience of other societies in this area.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m..

Date of next meeting : Thursday 11 Jan. 01. at 7.30 p.m. at the R.C.P.Y.C.