

The Dover Society

Minutes of the 146th. meeting of the Executive Committee which was held
in the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club on Thursday 14 June 2001.

Present: Mr T. Sutton Chmn; Mr W. Naylor Sec; Capt M. Weston Treas; Mrs S. Cope; Mr J. Cope; Ms T. George; Mrs L. Gordon; Mr H. Gordon; Dr G. Hale; Mr D. Leach; Mrs J. Liggett; Mrs M. Lilly; Mrs A. Wood; Mr J. Woolford; Mr L. Wright.

Apologies: Mr M. McFarnell gave notice that he would be late arriving.

Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting 145th. were agreed with minor amendment.

Matters arising from the minutes:

of 6 Form
1) Mr & Mrs Cope reported that they had visited the Girls Grammar School and had met the Head and discussed the Philomena Memorial. There were various suggestions made as to the form it should take. It was agreed that a target date of Sept. 2002 be set for its introduction. The Head suggested that the award should be made to a member of the lower sixth form and that the trophy should be displayed in the School with the recipients name inscribed either on or adjacent to it. The form the memorial will take was still subject to consideration. Mrs Cope suggested that an original picture painted by Philomena might suffice if a suitable one existed. She undertook to make further inquiries and report back.

2) Mrs Merrill said that the Budge Adams records were now ready for examination and she and Mr Leach would make arrangements with the family to see them.

3) The Chairman said that he understood that the Council wished to move the Zeebrugge Grappling Iron from its existing site and place it along side the War Memorial. There were no objections raised to the proposal.

4) Mr Woolford said that he had received a suggestion that the circulation of interesting items from the Dover Express need not be circulated to all the committee. After some discussion this was agreed.

Chairman's Report

Mr Sutton said that he had attended the DHB's consultative meeting when a lot of interesting information had been revealed. He had asked a question in order to have our presence noted by other important stakeholders who were present.

A letter had been received from DDC asking if we had any plans for the Queen's Jubilee next year, a reply had been sent stating that we were taking part in the Dover pageant.

An invitation from DTC for four of our members to attend a talk by Col. Christopher Nunn OBE on the Zeebrugge Raid. The talk will be on July 6 in the Dover museum at 18.30hrs.

Secretary's Report:

Mr Naylor reported that he had attended a meeting of the town's twinning committee and that there had been very little interest shown in continuing to maintain this group. After some discussion it was agreed that the group should be allowed a natural death.

A letter had been received from the Western Heights Residents Association asking for support in opposing the development of land in that area. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Planning Committee who would monitor any plans which might come forward and would certainly oppose any development which would spoil; the existing sky line. Mr Woolford undertook to contact the Association.

As it now appears that the Yacht Club was closing, contact had been made with the Motel at Whitfield for a suitable meeting place. After some discussion it was agreed that we should take up their offer of free use of a committee room and that the Sec. should endeavour to book it for the next meeting in July.

Treasurer's Report:

Capt. Weston circulated a copy of the present financial state of the Society and a paper on the background to the Publication Fund.

He said that during the past month £366 had been collected in subscriptions for the current year, and that £22 had been received in donations.

£80 had been received in donations towards the Society's share of the cost of the Zeebrugge Bell. The total sum from all sources left £14.57 short of our commitment to this project which had to be paid from the General fund.

The final AGM figure showed a loss of £17.92 on the evening, this was due to the high cost of photocopying etc.

Membership Secretary:

Mrs Cope said that six new members had joined the Society bringing the total number of members up to 429. The new members are: Mrs Lilian Roberts: Maurice Miles: Nicholas & Anne Humphrey -Smith: and John & Colette Cotton.

After some discussion it was agreed that because of the high rate of postage the subscription for overseas members be raised to £10 p.a.

Projects:

Mr Gordon said that the clearance in Cowgate Cemetery was still continuing and that there had been a session today and that another was planned for Saturday.

Mrs Gordon reported that the examination of tombstones was following the clearance work and that there were areas which were still impenetrable

Planning:

Mr Woolford drew attention to the Planning Committee's minutes which have been circulated.

Our letters to the Council concerning design of converted shop fronts and Buckland Village were still unanswered.

The Noah's Arc building site is likely to be overcrowded with the number of houses currently proposed.

There is to be a public meeting in Sandwich concerning a proposal to build an incinerator for the disposal of rubbish date to be announced.

It was agreed that we should support a suggestion that some buses be routed via the Market Square with suitable bus stops provided.

The Council have been asked to take steps to stop the dumping of old cars in Oswald Passage, Wind in the Park. A request has been made from some bands men for a suitable wind break to be erected near the new bandstand in Pencester Gardens.

It was pointed out that the duck pond at Lydden had gone dry. It was thought that there might be a hole in the pond lining. After some discussion and speculation as to how this had happened it was decided not to take any steps to repair the damage.

Kent Amenity Society are to hold their Autumn Conference at Bethesden in September cost £8.

Social Secretary:

Mrs Liggett reported that the London Eye outing had been very successful and that the Pocohantas trip was fully booked. There were still vacancies for the Wine & Vine and arrangements were being made for a trip to Brugge later in the year.

Editor:

Mrs Lilly reported that two new advertisers had applied for space in the News Letter. The next edition would be 44 pages and should be ready for distribution on the 1st August. All copy now required.

Publications:

Mrs Lilly gave an account of the present state of books still to be published. Ivan Green's book should be ready for October, Derek Leach and Joe Harman were planning a public launch of their book in Dover Museum in September.

* There was a prolonged discussion on the support the Society should give to potential authors it was decided that each should be treated on its merits.

A request for support had been received from Dr Burville who intends to publish a book on the White Cliffs Cave Dwellers. Mrs Lilly was asked to make further inquiries and report back.

At this point Mr McFarnell joined the meeting.

Any Other Business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30

Date of next meeting : 12 July 2001 Please note new venue **Forte Post House Whitfield** (aka Dover Motel)

Chairman