

The Dover Society.

Minutes of the 160th. meeting of the Executive Committee which was held on Thursday 10th October in the Parish Room of St Paul's Dover.

Present:

Mr & Mrs Cope; Mr & Mrs Gordon; Dr Hale; Dr Lane; Mr Leach; Mr Liggett; Mrs Lilley; Mr McFarnell; Mr Naylor; Mr Sutton (Chmn.); Capt. Weston; Mr Woolford; Mr Wraight.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Dr Lane.

Minutes:

Minutes of the 159th. E/C Meeting held on 12th September which had been circulated were agreed.

Matters arising from the minutes:

Covered in Chairman's Report.

Chairman:

Mr Sutton reported that apologies had been received From the President who would be unable to attend the open meetings October - December - February and April 2003.

A letter had been received from Mrs T. George resigning from the E/C .

On behalf of the Society Mr Sutton had attended the official launch of the Old Kent Coal exhibition at Dover Museum.

The Chairman and V/Chairman attended the Cinque Ports Speakers day ceremonies, on behalf of the Society, the only civic society to be invited.

Mr Sutton welcomed the Honorary Recorder Judge Andrew Patience QC, when he unveiled the tenth and final blue plaque at the Eagle Public House. He thanked all concerned, especially Mr & Mrs Cope.

A group of members of the Society attended the 'Open Day' at the Unitarian Church, where they sold some of the New Letters. Thanks were expressed to Mr & Mrs Gordon for organising the rota.

The Chairman was invited to the Dover Town Hall for an evening meeting of the Veterans Support (Pensions) Group.

Mr Sutton then drew attention to the forthcoming meeting organised by Dover District Council at Dover Town Hall on Wednesday 16 October to consult on the cost-cutting budget. He reported that he had received a letter from the Head Custodian of the Dover Museum drawing attention to proposed reductions in Museum staff. After a long discussion it was agreed that the Chairman should write to the DDC protesting to the cuts. Members were also invited to write to the Museum, as individuals, opposing any cuts to staffing levels.

The Secretary:

Mr Naylor said that it had been a very quiet month and there was nothing of any significance to report..

The Treasurer:

Capt. Weston distributed the monthly financial statement and pointed out that £100 in subs had been paid during the month, plus £89 from adverts and £30 from the sale of News Letters.

£107.47 had been paid out for the refurbishment of the computer equipment used by the editor in the production of the News Letter and £26.41 had been spent on postage connected with the distribution of the News Letter.

A further £200 has been paid during September by Merrill Lilley Triangle Publications off the loan of £1800. The outstanding amount on the loan is now £900.

Postage, photocopying and stationary etc came to £25.66 for September.

The accounts for the trip to France are not yet complete but the indications are that a small profit should accrue.

The Society received the sum of 32 pence in interest from its current account. The CaF account returned quarterly interest of £105.30.

Membership Secretary:

Mrs Cope said that she had a large number of spare copies of the News Letters which she hoped to sell at the members open meetings. The price yet to be fixed.

Mr David Embry of High Halden, Miss Margaret Johnston and Mrs Anne Johnston of Whitfield have joined the Society bringing the total number of members to 418.

Projects:

Mr Cope reported that there had been a big turn-out for the Autumn grass cutting at Cow gate.

Mrs Gordon said that she had received two letters of thanks from the Unitarian authorities. She also said that the recording of the gravestone details was proceeding satisfactory.

Planning & Local Govt.

Mr Woolford distributed the minutes of the last meeting of the Planning S/C, and reported on the first meeting of the DHB's new committee. It is to be called 'DHB Consultative Committee' and all the members are invited. Various aspects of local development were discussed and the DHB pointed out that they had no jurisdiction over the roads and streets outside the dock areas, these were within the ambit of the Highway authorities.

A proposal from the Planning S/C was then discussed which was that a competition be held to 'Name & Shame' the worst buildings in the town. Mrs Cope proposed an amendment to change the competition to 'Praise and Shame' and to produce a list for publication. This was carried by 8 in Favour - 2 Against.

Capt. Weston drew attention to a planning application to build on the site of the old convent at the junction of Park and Castle Avenues. Passed to the Planning S/C for investigation.

The Social Secretary:

Mrs Liggett said that the trip to Agincourt had been a success and that a small profit was expected when the account was finalised. She said that Miss Kay had agreed to lead the Carol singing at the Christmas feast and that accompanying music was being arranged. Mr Cope proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Liggett for the arrangements in connection with the Agincourt trip. Carried.

Mrs Lilley raised the question of the subjects for discussion at the October Open Meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that there be four groups:

- 1) The future of Local Govt.
- 2) Cuts, Savings, and Restrictions.
- 3) Praise and Shame List.
- 4) Suggestions for the future.

Press Secretary:

Mr Sutton said that there had been lots of publicity for the Society with the installation of the final plaque.

Crabble Mill

Mr Wraight reported that the Charity Commission had carried out a preliminary inquiry and found that all was correct. However Mr Wraight said that finances would be difficult during the winter.

The Editor:

Mrs Lilley said that she was willing to carry on as editor until a new incumbent could be appointed. After some discussion it was agreed that an advert calling attention to the impending vacancy be placed in the News Letter. There was further discussion on the actual work of the Editor.

The deadline for inclusion in the next New Letter was announced as being 14 October.

Publications:

Mr Leach reported that the sale of books had slowed down and that he proposed that the price of Ivan Green's book be reduced to £5 for members and £8 to shops. Agreed.

Budge Adams Collection:

Mr Leach said that all the printed books had now been catalogued and bookplates inserted. An informal agreement had been reached on books for the Library. The current task was the scanning of the slides which was very slow going. The museum has allocated two days per week for scanning. More volunteers required.

Any Other Business:

It was agreed that copies of the News Letter be sent to Dover District Council and Dover Harbour Board.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.35 hrs.

Date of the next meeting Thursday 14 November.