

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 14 January 2010
at St Paul's Parish Room, Dover

1. Present

Derek Leach - Chair, Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Dr Hale, PatSherratt, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Mike McFarnell, Maureen Morris, William Naylor, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston, Jack Woolford

2. Apologies:

Georgette Rapley, Alan Sencicle

3. Minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 3 December 2009 were reviewed. A number of items were amended. JC asked that the minute from the October meeting be amended to incorporate the item relating to the Castle Rise. The date for the visit to London should read 26 May. The Committee then agreed the minutes.

4. Matters arising:

- Budge Adams Collection - DL contacted the family to see if they were happy with the decision taken at the last meeting. The family xxxx asked that the collection is offered for reference only **to which the Library agreed. DL had therefore signed the transfer.** **The Dover Society has the option to have the collection returned if the Library decides it is no longer required.**
- Views on DHB T2 proposals - Committee comments have been submitted, and JC and DL have been invited to meet with DHB.
- Castle Rise - the planned meeting with the owner was postponed and is being rearranged.
- **DL and Kathleen Hollingsbee have agreed that no other St. Mary's churchyard burial merits a plaque. xxxxxxxx.** JC and DL will meet with the Church reps to determine an appropriate place. **Xxx JC informed the Committee that the cost per plaque was about £200, excluding fitting. JC will make enquiries about the cost of erecting a plaque, to be in the same style as previous plaques, and will identify a suitable supplier.**
- **xxxx**
- Charles Rolls - TS will speak to John Iveson about the **cleaning** work involved.

5. Chairman's Report

Western Heights - DL had emailed everyone about Cameron McSween who was seeking support for a Commonwealth war memorial on the Western Heights. DL gave details of the proposal, which were discussed. TS proposed that this project be supported **in principle.** This was seconded by Pat Sherratt and a vote was taken. 8 for, 3 against, 2 abstentions.

Civic Society Initiative- DL reported on the latest information, including fees. The effect of additional fees on the current Dover Society membership was a cause for concern. **Whilst the need for a national voice was accepted xxx there did not appear to be much local benefit from**

membership. **xxx**. Insurance was discussed. JW will report discussions to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies. The committee agreed that they would wait for the subscription to be confirmed before **considering** membership.

Copt Hill Cemeteries - **Martyn** Webster failed in his attempt to get the Copt Hill cemeteries listed, but **EH had** suggested that individual headstones might be listed or that conservation area status might be an alternative. DL will speak **Martyn** Webster and Kathleen Hollingsbee about headstones and to Clive Alexander at DDC about conservation area status.

Big Screen in the Market Square - There has been a decision by DTC that the screen should be **removed**, as they had not agreed to installation. JW gave a brief update (see agenda item 12). **(Barbara - I have doubts about this minute but I took no notes so leave as is)**

6. Secretary's Report

WN has handed over his secretarial duties to Barbara Stapleton. He reported that he had done 85 sets of minutes during his tenure. The Committee recorded their grateful thanks for all his work as Secretary and for the Society. He will do the minutes **of the 2009 AGM** and continue as a committee member.

7. Treasurer's Report

MW presented his report.

JC felt that the advertising was good, despite some notable cancellations. He also noted that audit **arrangements have changed** and that it was important that procedures should be put in place to ensure that any auditing of the Society accounts is done correctly. He proposed **to contact** Paul Flood to confirm what the audit arrangements should be. This was agreed.

8. Membership secretary

SC reported that the Society had gained one new member - Cameron McSween - but also lost one. The current membership is 424. JC reported that his emails on behalf of the Dover Society were widely circulated which may solicit new members.

9. Projects

JC gave a brief update on the Society's projects:

- Cowgate - the weather has meant no action on this project.
- Dour - nothing to report.

10. Sub-committee for the refurbishment of Dover

JC gave an update from the refurbishment sub-committee, which met on 11 January. Seven members attended with four apologies. He has had no reply from Paul Watkins (DDC) about the silting of the Dour. JC listed a number of **neglected** properties which the sub-committee felt were of importance to the town and a number of actions have been identified. Decisions taken recently by DDC were discussed.

PS will act as committee representative dealing with empty properties in Dover under the Section 215 legislation. He gave an update on the DDC's strategy on "Empty Homes". He had a

letter from Robin Kennedy (Private Sector Housing Manager at DDC) in response to the comments that the Society has made. He reported on the conflict between housing and planning departments within local authorities over responsibility for empty properties.

11. Social secretary

PH-S gave her report. The Christmas Feast was discussed and it was agreed that hot food would alternate with cold food at future feasts. A number of suggestions were made for entertainment, **which should be in the centre of the hall if possible**, and the date for next year's feast. Currently, there are 27 people attending the Wine & Wisdom evening in February.

12. Planning & Local Government

JW gave his report from the Planning Sub-Committee. The cost of the wind turbine at DDC offices and the cost of the screen in the market square were discussed. Members were asked to write to Gwyn Prosser as individuals.

13. Press Secretary

TS reported that there were no matters for the committee.

14. Editor

An article wrongly attributed in the last issue will be corrected in the next one. Material has been provided for the next issue.

15. Publications

The Plaque leaflets are now available and will be sent to members with the next newsletter. PS reported that if the leaflet could be a standard size, DDC have offered to print it at cost for the Society.

16. Charles Rolls Memorial

Christine Waterman's forthcoming Society talk about Charles Rolls should reveal information about the centenary celebration in June.

17. Any other business

- Any items for the AGM **xxx** need to be included in the newsletter, as members need to have two weeks notice.
- WN asked that anyone not wishing to stand on the Committee next year should let him know as soon as possible.
- AL informed the committee that Dover has two items in the BBC series "Treasures of the World". He gave details about getting information onto the **Market Square** screen and the committee agreed to look at submitting content. He has responded to comments from Cllr John Goodwin, which **xxxx** confused the Dover Society with the Dover Greeters.
- JC has a response from Lydden Pond **volunteers** and gave an update on the cost of the pond liner. **More detailed information was requested.**

- TS asked that the committee considers the privatisation **proposals** of the DHB and it was agreed that this should be agenda item for next meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.10.