

## The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 25 February 2010 (postponed from 11 Feb)  
at St Paul's Parish Room, Dover

### Attending:

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

### Apologies:

Pat Sherratt, Alan Sencicle, Jean Marsh

### Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 14 January were reviewed and approved subject to deletion of the following:

- all mention of the removal of the Big Screen (page one of the minutes), and
- item 15 delete "the leaflets are going to members". The plaque leaflets are now available and will be sent to the VIC (Visitor Information Centre).

### Matters arising:

- Castle Rise - Following advice from our solicitor, it was agreed to continue efforts to register the enclosed path as a public right of way and to notify the property owner (Ken Gordon) what we have decided.
- Plaques – JC reported that the cost was £300 per plaque including fixing. It was agreed to go ahead with discussions with the St Mary's church authorities about siting of the Pattenden plaque
- Further candidates have been suggested: Cuthbert Ottaway, Wally Hatton, Blanchard and Jefferies.
- Charles Rolls – The cleaning will now be done by DDC
- DL has written to Cameron McSween about the Western Heights Commonwealth war memorial, as agreed at last meeting.
- Issues around membership of the Civic Society are to be discussed at the next meeting. If the Society does not take up membership, alternative insurance may be required. Mike Weston will look into this.
- Copt Hill Cemetery – DL has contacted Martyn Webster and Kathleen Hollingsbee and Clive Alexander who will consider conservation status, but there is nothing to report at this meeting.
- JC has not yet contacted Paul Flood about audit arrangements –item carried forward.
- Lydden Pond volunteers – JC has asked for further information.

### Dover Port Privatisation

The Executive Committee discussed the proposals from the DHB about the port privatisation, and the recommendations from the sub-committee (circulated by email to committee members). The views of the Dover Society are sought by the Secretary of State.

The Society has considered three options:

- leaving the port status as it is
- amending the current trust status
- some form of privatisation, in which case the charitable trust and seafront protection and employee trust should be included.

MW asked about the proposed charitable trust. The figure of 10% is not agreed, it is just speculation in the press. Without privatisation, the T2 development will not go ahead, according to DHB; however, TS reported that the government was looking at other ways to achieve this, although he believed this

suspect information. With the impending election, it is very unlikely that these proposals will be agreed during this Parliament.

JC asked that the Society should press for some form of legal sanctions to enforce any aspects of the privatisation for future purchasers, which was agreed.

TS proposed that the executive accept the proposals, and send this out with the DHB brochure to all members of the Society for comment by next Executive. This was agreed unanimously.

## **T2 proposals**

The Society has already agreed to support the proposals, with amendments as outlined in the Society's original response to DHB. The committee wished to add a further comment to the sub-committee's recommendations concerning noise from any construction at unsocial hours (eg nighttime). The amendments were accepted (JC proposed, JW seconded) by the committee. It was agreed that letters would be sent to Society members for comment by next Executive.

DL was asked to draft letters to the Secretary of State on both privatisation and T2.

## **Chairman's Report**

JW and DL have been asked to a meeting with DDC and DTC to discuss the future of London Road, which has conservation area status. DTC would like to have this status lifted in order to facilitate regeneration here. There was a discussion about the implications of this and whether there would be any impact on existing buildings. London Road Forum will also be attending this meeting.

DL wrote to Paul Watkins at DDC about the closure of toilet facilities in Dover. Mr Watkins did reply and the toilets are now open.

DL reported on a number of meetings with Sue Jones, Mayor of Dover, and John Iveson: covering the restoration of the Maison Dieu. SJ would like to see public guided tours around the Maison Dieu. Dover Society members might act as guides; perhaps three or four visits per year starting with the Heritage open days in September. However, this arrangement would have to work around Thanet Leisure who has the concession to run functions here. The Mayor is going to speak to Thanet Leisure and inform DL accordingly. JC suggested an article in the newsletter asking for guides. Insurance issues need to be looked at.

The Mayor is also anxious to spend £6k of the grant for the River Dour, but she required approval from the Dover Society before taking this to the River Dour Strategy Group. Our approval to spend the grant on part funding a River warden and interpretation panel was outlined in our letter to SJ last October. DL asked if there were other areas which also need to be looked at. JC informed the committee that the river warden could be part funded by the White Cliffs people.

## **Secretary's Report**

WN gave details of the Deal Society AGM, which is being held on 6 April 2010 at Deal Town Hall.

## **Treasurer's Report**

MW presented his report. He asked for any outstanding expenses to be given in by the next meeting to ensure that the annual accounts are up to date. Once these are done, he is proposing to pay St Pauls £130 for the use of the hall for committee meetings. This was the same as last year. WN will be booking the room for the 11 meetings for the coming year. The committee agreed to these proposals.

Following the Wine & Wisdom evening, a cheque for £80 was agreed for the Crabble Corn Mill Trust

## **Membership Secretary's Report**

Two new members - Charlie Elphick (the prospective Conservative candidate for Dover) has joined the Society and Pam Taylor has been rejoined. Total membership remains at 424.

## **Projects**

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

- Dour – nothing to report, but discussed above.

- Cowgate – weather permitting the work will be continuing in March.

#### **Sub-committee for the refurbishment of Dover**

8 Feb meeting – PS chaired this meeting in JC's absence. As PS was not at the committee meeting, JC will report on both meetings at the next Executive Committee meeting.

#### **Social Secretary**

PHS gave her update. The booking of "Quodlibet" as entertainment for the Christmas Feast 2010 was agreed. PHS has booked the College Hall for 18 December and the cost would be £22 per head, same as this year.

GR gave details City Village tours on 26 May, with three pickups. The cost of this will be £20 per head.

SC felt that the Wine & Wisdom evening went on too long, but others felt that there were sufficient helpers to ensure the centre was cleared up in time.

#### **Planning & Local Government**

JW informed that the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies annual conference at the Pines Calyx in St Margarets on 15 May. The subject of the conference is The Kent Coastal Network. JW will be attending, if anyone would like to join him.

JW gave his report – note circulated to committee members.

It was agreed that JW would ask about DTC for its grant criteria.

Location of the Dover Visitor Centre was discussed as the site in the Market Square is too expensive.

MW informed the committee that work had started on Castle Street premises for the Visitor Centre.

Historic Panels – DL will speak to John Iveson about the Society funding one panel preferably for the seafront. DL will also ask John Iveson to speak to the DHB to see if they would fund another.

#### **Press Secretary's Report**

TS reported that there were no matters for the committee.

PHS reported that someone had phoned her regarding the mention of the wine in the press release, and whether the society had an appropriate licence. She clarified the position but asked for more careful wording next year.

#### **Editor's Report**

AL reported that the next issue would be available on time.

#### **Publications**

There was nothing to report at this meeting.

#### **Charles Rolls Memorial**

It was agreed to drop this from future agendas. The committee felt it was disappointing that DDC had not put much investment into the celebrations.

#### **AOB**

DL - felt that there was too much Shepway news in the Dover Express and will write on behalf of the committee to the editor.

TS – the Blue Badge Guides are recruiting if anyone is interested. A Society Member, Dick Bolton, has details.

AL - reported that the Society's tree in Connaught Park was thriving but the area around it was poor. JC will raise this with the Refurbishment sub-committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.30.