

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 11 March 2010
at St Paul's Parish Room, Dover

Attending:

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

Apologies:

Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Sencicle

Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 25 February were reviewed and approved, with one amendment under Matters arising: of those named for possible plaques Wally Hatton should read Wally Hammond.

Matters arising:

- **Castle Rise** – As agreed, DL has sent letter to the Gordons. JC circulated a proposed motion for the Society's AGM to ask members to confirm the actions of the Executive Committee to have the path designated as a Right Of Way. This is an extension to pathway EXB9. JC proposed, TS seconded, and the motion was approved.
- **Pattenden Plaque** – DL and SC met with the vicar of St Mary's and Mrs Yarrow. They have agreed a place for the plaque on the Dieu Stone Lane side of the Parish Centre. The Executive Committee agreed that JC, SC and DL should devise appropriate wording for the plaque and get a mock-up made for final approval.
- **Civic Voice** – For the first year the subscription would be £500, then in year two £800. Joining in the first year early achieves a 10% discount. This subscription rate is far higher than the Committee expected. With regards to insurance, MW has investigated a number of companies. Bluefin had indicated that the premium is dependent on being members of the Civic Voice. However, he has since had email correspondence which would allow the Dover Society to renew this year but that, in future years, the policy renewal may depend on membership of Civic Voice. JC felt that there may be a third option – affiliation rather than membership. It was agreed that the Executive Committee recommend to members at the AGM that it takes no action on membership of the Civic Voice at this stage, and that it seeks the third option of affiliation. The Executive Committee will consider joining in the future if circumstances change. This was proposed TS, and seconded by GR.
- **Copt Hill Cemetery** and the possibility of conservation - DL reported that he had not had any response yet on this.
- **Audit arrangements** – JC gave some background to why the audit arrangements need to be revised. Charity Commission rules and guidance have changed. JC has drafted an amendment to the Society's constitution that proposes an audit committee which would carry out an independent audit and report back to the members of the Society. (The motion is attached to these minutes). If agreed, the audit committee will need to be elected at the AGM. The Executive Committee agreed to propose three people who might be willing to stand for this committee and recommend them to Society members at the AGM. This should be added to the AGM agenda. PS proposed and JW seconded, and the motion was passed.
- **Lydden Pond volunteers** – Ray Newsom will be discussing this with JC.
- **Historical panels on the seafront** - DL has offered payment by the Society for refurbishment of a panel, preferably one on the seafront. JI agreed to speak to DHB about a contribution.

- **Dover Express coverage** - DL wrote to the Dover Express about inclusion of Shepway news. He discovered that the Shepway news in the Dover Express is actually an advertisement paid for by Shepway Council.

Dover Port Privatisation & T2

DL circulated updated recommendations of the sub-committee, which met on Mon 8 March to review the comments received from members. (Updated recommendations are attached). He outlined the changes to the original recommendation in the light of these comments. Charitable trust protection is difficult to secure and JC felt that this would need to be dealt with at each stage. It is unlikely that there will be any dividends from shares in the foreseeable future. There was a discussion on the sale of the port. The circumstances around the sale are changing on a daily basis and much is still unclear. In some circumstances, the T2 which is driving the privatisation may not happen until 2020 or even later. DL proposed that the updated recommendations be accepted and that the sub-committee be empowered to draft and send the letters to the Secretary of State based on the updated recommendations and taking account of any further developments. Copies will be sent to DHB, DDC and DTC with email copies to Executive Committee members.

Chairman's Report

DL attended a meeting to discuss the proposed building of new homes around Whitfield, but there were no plans available. The meeting was asking for comments and requirements. The WAG (Whitfield Action Group) has already issued a statement of need (infrastructure) and DL asked if the Executive Committee should join WAG or just offer support. The planning committee were asked to consider this and the Society's role and make recommendation.

Market Square Big Screen – According to the Dover Express, £59k has been allocated to this in the DDC budget and DL proposed writing to the paper to raise concern. There was a discussion and subject to DDC not obtaining revenue from content, it was agreed that DL write to the council on behalf of the Society. The Executive Committee was also concerned at the paucity of people who actually watched it. However, MF reported that the Dover Film Festival had a number of visitors from promotion of the festival via the screen.

Dick Bolton stained glass presentation – Mr Bolton had brought the Committee's attention to a piece of film on UTube. It was his understanding that, when booked to lecture the Society, his lecture was not recorded in any way. DL will be writing to him with a full apology. This has revealed the need for a policy for future speakers and this was discussed. Clips on UTube are used to promote the Society and activities around Dover. It was proposed that speakers be asked to sign an authorisation or a refusal for filming and use by the Society. GR proposed that this authorisation should be covered when the speaker is booked and this was agreed.

DL gave details of the invitation to attend and lay a wreath at the St George's Zeebrugge Day. JW will arrange the wreath (£30 was paid last year) and about six members of the Executive Committee will attend.

JW and DL had been invited to a meeting on the future of London Road. There was particular concern over the properties between Bridge Street and Beaconsfield Road. Eighty percent of these properties are owned by Dover Municipal Charities. It was agreed that there should be two pronged approach to tackle this with the view to getting these properties into use as social housing. It was agreed that Dover Municipal Charities (owners of 80% of the properties) should be encouraged to enter into partnership with a housing association to convert the properties to residential use.

Secretary's Report

WN had nothing to report.

JC has revised the October meeting minutes as agreed and circulated them.

JC asked for the final agenda for the AGM. It was felt that there may have to be a ballot if there were 17 nominations for the 16 places on Executive Committee and it was agreed that a single sheet of paper with all names on was suitable for voting purposes.

Treasurer's Report

MW presented his report. Cheques for Crabble Corn Mill and payment for the room at St Paul's have been sent off. Insurance for the coming year premium was down from £230 to £200 this year. One area that has not been included previously is to cover charity trustees protection. This is costing a further £50. The Committee agreed to pay £250 for the premium and this charity trustees protection.

Membership Secretary's Report

No new members. Total current membership is 425.

Projects

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

- Dour – nothing to report, but clearances will start soon..
- Cowgate – a meeting was held on Thursday and the working party will be there this Saturday.

Sub-committee for the refurbishment of Dover

JC gave his report on the last meeting of the sub-committee 8 March, with PS giving details from the meeting that JC missed previous month. It was agreed that a representative would be sent to the London Road Forum. The sub comm. asked if the Society should ask Kent Highways to provide a speaker on the care of and use of pavements. Nick Chard, KCC Cabinet Member for Highways was suggested. DL offered to give his speaking slot to allow this. JW will write to see if possible.

Re anti-social behaviour, the police were not interested or helpful, but PS reported that the ASB Unit at DDC was very effective and if 3 complaints for the same problem were reported to them, the Unit would take action.

Connaught Park was not discussed at this meeting.

PS gave details of concerns of heavy vehicles damaging pavements and what actions Westminster City Council did in a conservation area.

Social Secretary

PS gave PHS's update. Quodlibet have been booked for the Christmas Feast.

Planning & Local Government

JW gave his report – note circulated to Committee members.

There appears to be no planning application for 70 Maison Dieu Road, and the Planning Committee was asked to pursue this with DDC.

With regards to the East Kent Partnership, GR corrected the report: Shepway council have pulled out of housing but are still in the waste partnership.

Press Secretary's Report

TS reported that there were no matters for the Committee.

Editor's Report

The magazine is going to print on Monday 15 March.

Publications

There was nothing to report at this meeting.

AOB

With regards to speakers at Monday's meeting – JW will check what equipment they require. GR has the raffle sorted, but needs more wine. She will discuss with MW outside the meeting.

DL reported that the Society President will not be attending AGM.

The Executive Committee congratulated MM on the Dover Film Festival.

MM proposed that there should be a boat race lottery to raise funds for the Town Hall refurbishment. He gave details. The race would aim to raise £10K, which would then attract greater match funding from lottery applications in future. There would be the purchase of plastic boats but these would be

collected for future use. There was concern that the £10k would take the Society over the Charity Commission monetary level. However, provided that this was limited to £10K, there should be no problem. This was agreed.

GR reported that the lottery "People's Millions" has restarted and community grants are now available. Details are on line for possible projects and GR has the address.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday 8 April, 7.30pm in St Paul's Church meeting room. MW gave his apologies for this meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.20pm.