

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 May 2010
at St Paul's Parish Room, Dover

Attending:

Derek Leach – Chair, Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Mike McFarnell, Maureen Morris, Georgette Rapley, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston, Jack Woolford

Apologies:

William Naylor

Minutes from the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held 08 April were reviewed and approved, with two amendments requested regarding the spelling of names – under Planning & Local Government Peter Sherrad; under membership – David & Joy Moynan. With these amendments, the minutes were approved.

Matters arising:

Castle Rise – The resolution was approved at the AGM. Peter Sherrad, has now asked for 12 witnesses, instead of the 6 previously requested. Committee agreed to JC being the applicant as himself and as vice-chairman of The Dover Society. (TS proposed, AL seconded).

- Granville St Plaque – DL wrote to Charlton Church School and the Church PCC. The school sent a cheque for £100 for the Dover Society. DL has had no reply from PCC yet. JW pointed out that there would need to be a new plaque and it was agreed that a quote for this should be obtained. JC offered to do this and DL will acknowledge receipt of cheque.

- Downing St petition for the demo of Burlington House – It had been previously agreed that members would sign this as individuals if they wished, but the election intervened and the petition is still not active. John Clayton has written with concerns about possible financial consequences. Also, DL met with Paul Watkins, who indicated that charging business rates could increase the purchase price for DDC. JC will contact John Clayton accordingly.

- Swingfield Masts – Clive Alexander (DDC) has asked English Heritage to consider listing these.

- DTiZ – DL has written to DDC as agreed and gave details. He and JW had attended a meeting with David Hannett and 50 others for a lunchtime discussion about this. Mr Hannett gave details of a scheme he had previously revealed in 2004. This is a piecemeal development and whilst supportive DL had questioned the upfront cost of demolition and new infrastructure. DL and JC subsequently met with Tim Ingleton and Paul Watkins and reported their discussion to the committee. DDC did not have the funding to provide infrastructure, purchase outstanding leases or demolition but were anxious to retain current planning consents. It is not possible to have the space turned into open space for residents (compulsory purchase orders would not be justified and Burlington House etc would still stand). Leisure options have been considered, but operators would only take on this if suitable buildings were provided. There was a discussion after which it was agreed to suggest to DDC that the bus garage site be used temporarily for Castle coach and overflow car park and that the Dover Society should approach Bond. to emphasise style and quality development.

- Historic Plaque trail – DL has contacted DHB, and was referred to Visit Kent, for the attention of Cheryl Parker. TS will chase this up. MM gave details of his discussions with Mike Atkins about having leaflets on his bus tours. SC agreed to provide a holder and some leaflets for one bus as a trial.

- Easter Crosses – DL had been given a number of reasons. However, it appears that the holes for the crosses were not prepared and previous weather conditions meant that it was too slippery.

- AGM - The resolutions presented to the AGM were passed. JW reported that affiliation to the Civic Voice is not permitted as the Dover Society is not a federation. DL had received a comment that some members of the Dover Society were not attending meetings because of

transport problems and was it possible to arrange transport. It was agreed that this should be left to private arrangements. DHB had as promised donated £150.

Chairman's Report

DL gave details of forthcoming events - Sun 6 June – Evacuees reunion (TS has details).

DL has been invited to the mayor making ceremony on 21st May.

Dover Chamber of Commerce has arranged a festival of arts at Dover College 15 May.

DL has been invited to the Rolls celebrations in June.

DL has a request from Bob Goldfield to discuss setting up a separate trust for the preservation of the DHB artefacts if and when appropriate. This was agreed.

DL asked for 500 to print leaflets for the heritage open day 11-12 Sept 2010. This was agreed.

Loraine Sencicle has asked for a commemorative plaque for Harriet Quimby – the first woman to fly across Channel. Whilst a plaque was not thought appropriate, it was agreed that a street name in Whitfield would be ideal and DL will write to Whitfield Parish Council. TS proposed and JW seconded.

Secretary's Report

There was no Secretary's Report as WN was not at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

MW circulated the latest financial statement and gave an update recent / income expenditure. The proposal by JC and PHS to renew our subscription to the White Cliffs Country Tourism Association was agreed

Membership Secretary

SC gave details of the eight new members: David HALL, Brian & Mary GARDNER, Janet TAYLOR., David & Jennifer FAGG, Linda LEACH, Graham SCRIVENER. The current membership is 437. SC reported that from members: Mike Faulkner has offered to sing at a Society function; and Dick Liggett is willing to show visitors around the Town Hall if required. Society newsletters are being distributed to GPs and dental surgeries around the town. SC has a lot of back issues of news letters and SC suggested that they be handed out at the October meeting, rather than be dumped. TS suggested they could be offered to Old Peoples Homes and AL offered to put something in the next newsletter.

Projects

Cowgate – JC reported that with the good weather, this work was going well.

Dour – The first clearance made good progress, and the next one will be on the morning of 20 May. JC gave update on recent meeting of the River Dour Steering Group. Suggestions for use of the grant of £6000 held by Dover Town Council (DTC) for the River Dour have been agreed. DTC are continuing with the care of Charlton Green and hope to have this completed by the summer.

Cycle paths – Sustrans are to construct a cycle/pedestrian route along the Dour and have confirmed that this will not impinge on the river course. JC suggested inviting Sustrans to address the DS Executive with details of their plans, but this was refused due to time. JC agreed to write asking for details.

Sub-committee for the refurbishment of Dover

JC gave details of work done on listed buildings by Joan Liggett, who is going to write an article for the newsletter. JC felt that this information should be added to the website and gave details of his discussions with MM. This would make information on Dover's treasures more widely available.

MM gave information on the current website and how it could be improved and managed. The additional cost for this improvement would be in the region of £380. There was a discussion about the newsletter going on the website and the resilience of the data. MM was asked to provide firm costings and spec.

JC agreed to provide an article for Dover Life on refurbishment work by mid August.

Social Secretary

GR reported the outing was fully booked.

JW asked for suggestions for speakers for the Society programme for October 2011.

MM suggested that a visit to the Olympic village might be worthwhile.

Planning & Local Government

JW presented his report (distributed).

DL informed that there is to be a meeting of the London Road Forum and the Dover Municipal Charities and, as he is unable to attend, asked for a representative to go.

The Executive Committee thanked JW for hosting the Planning Committee for many years. These meetings will now be at the Sherratts' home.

Press Secretary's Report

TS reported that there were no matters for the Committee.

Editor's Report

The deadline for the next issue is 2 June. Suggestions for future issues are welcomed.

Publications

There was nothing to report at this meeting.

AOB

DL represents River Parish Council on the Fairtrade Group, who are now targeting community groups to be 'Fairtrade'. This means that Fair Trade goods would be used wherever possible at Dover Society events and meetings. No decision was taken.

TS reported that one of the members, David Atwood, is poorly and having an operation.

GP thought the new grid on the Dour at the underpass is very effective.

JC showed a drawing of the Thomas Pattenden plaque. The wording and cost of about £300 were agreed.

MM has been filming at Fort Burgoyne and reported on the film set that has been erected there.

Re the lottery bid, MM has put details on the website and asked committee members for their comments.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday 10 June, 7.30pm in St Paul's Church meeting room.

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