

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 08 July 2010
at St Paul's Parish Room, Dover

Attending:

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

Apologies: Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Jack Woolford

DL gave an update on Jack Woolford.

Minutes from the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held 10 June were reviewed with the following amendments:

- The date on the minutes is incorrect - the minutes should be dated 10 June, not 13 May as shown.
- Treasurer's Report – MW provides figures for the meeting which are circulated; he does not circulate a report.
- Planning & Local Government – "Height of the proposed development is a concern" should read "The height and roof design is a concern". Also "There was confusion about the costs of the big screen in the Market Square" should be deleted.

The minutes were then approved.

Matters arising:

- **Castle Rise** – JC reported that he has 12 witnesses
- **Granville Street Plaque** – Blackmans have asked for more details and JC has asked Ivor Spencer to provide details
- **Historic Plaque Trail Leaflets** – SC gave an update on progress. AL offered to help draft the layout. It was agreed that the current supply might last the summer so no reprint.
- **Lottery** – MM gave an update. He has done a leaflet encouraging teams to take part. These leaflets incorporate the comments made by committee members and are available from the website. GR felt that the leaflet was not clear enough and a discussion followed. TS agreed to write something for the Dover Express.
- **Vista Leisure donations box** – MM has not spoken to Vista Leisure, although he has spoken to others involved.
- **Volunteers for lifts** – AL has included this in the forthcoming newsletter.
- **Terms of Reference** – This item is waiting for JW's return to the Executive Committee.
- **Thos Pattenden Plaque** – The builder needs to put the plaque up a few days before the date for unveiling. SC will be liaising with the builder. The unveiling is proposed for 10.45am Wednesday 21 July 2010 – date to be confirmed by SC. DL will ask Kath Hollingsbee to do the unveiling.

Chairman's Report

DL gave an update on invitations. He will be attending the Civic Service on Sunday 18 July. He has been to a "salon" in Victoria Park with Dover Arts people discussing the purpose of local museums and gave an update. Lorraine Sencicle has emailed DL about two things: She has objected to the removal of the Miner from the seafront, but this will be going ahead. She asked the Executive if they agreed that a monument to mining in Dover should replace it. This was discussed. The Executive Committee agreed to support this in principle, subject to suitable site type of memorial and potential funding. The other was recognition for John Ottaway, the first England football captain in 1872. DL read out the details he had received from Lorraine. AL agreed to publicise the book in a future newsletter. It was agreed that this request would be considered in the next round of plaques and DL would contact Lorraine accordingly.

DL has been talking to John Iveson about the guided tours of the town hall. A draft script will be available for the Heritage Open Days in September. Increased insurance may be required. The Society has identified four possible guides, who will be given training.

Re John Clayton's email about refurbishment of the town hall, DL gave details. The town hall requires some considerable work on the external fabric of the building. Mr Clayton has indicated that the Rotary Club might be willing to help in a possible Heritage Lottery bid for this. DL proposed that a small working group from interested parties within the town work together to devise a strategy and if appropriate prepare a bid in due course. The establishment of a town hall trust representing key stakeholders and users has been proposed and this was discussed by the Executive Committee. DL will speak to Dover Town Council (DTC) and Dover District Council (DDC) to see what the options are.

Secretary's Report

WN had nothing to report for this meeting.

Treasurer's Report

MW circulated the latest figures (copy circulated at meeting) and gave details.

Membership Secretary

SC reported that there were no new members.

Projects

- **Cowgate** – JC reported that this work is going well given the current fine weather.
- **Dour clearances** – JC did not attend the last clearance but will be at the next one. TS reported on the new snare on the Dour.

Sub-committee for the refurbishment of Dover

JC gave an update on the Section 115 properties work and discussions with DDC. Neglected properties are being reported.

Concern has been expressed about planters in the town, and JC read a response from DDC. Roger Marples was very critical of the listed WW2 building by Priory Station and now looks an eyesore since the area's refurbishment. An information panel has been suggested.

Conservation areas have been discussed and JC is confident of progress in this area.

Comments made by Dover Society members regarding things like dog mess should be reported to DDC and it was proposed that something be put into the next newsletter. Also, JC asked if "litter picking sticks" could be provided by DDC for volunteers to use. This was discussed. It was agreed that JC would find out what support DDC would give and, if none, the Society would purchase 10 sticks. AL agreed to put information on DDC services in the next newsletter.

New Cemetery – JC gave an update. Charlie Elphick (MP) has identified two other sites for this and JC has asked for details. The committee agreed that DL and JC will respond to Mr Elphick on behalf of the Society.

MM reported that New Bridge House, which has been renovated, now looked excellent. MM was asked to find out who was responsible for the painting so that they could be congratulated. DL asked if the Society should resurrect the certificate that they used to have for improved buildings. This was agreed and DL asked for ideas at the next meeting.

Social Secretary

The Christmas Feast is organised. JC asked for an insert for the next newsletter.

Planning & Local Government

In JW's absence, PS attended the last DTC Planning Committee, where he was made very welcome. He reported that The Dover Society has been given a seat on the Planning Committee, which is due to JW's work with DTC.

PS reported there had been 29 applications, and he had circulated information on particular ones to members for comment. He gave details. The Executive Committee approved the recommendations the sub-committee proposed. TS reported that the Government has been

talking about removing "retrospective" planning consents. DL asked about the article in the Dover Express about the proposal for hotel development on Western Heights / Farthingloe Farm. DL asked about the timing of the Society's Planning & Local Government sub-committee meetings and those of DTC and DDC. PS has details of the process and timing, but was loathe to change the dates of the Society's committee without JW's approval. The key concern was how to effectively comment on planning issues. PS was asked to talk to JW about this.

Press Secretary's Report

TS reported that there is a plaque being unveiled on Saturday 17th July (11am at the Seasports Centre) commemorating HMS Wasp. This will be put on Southern House. The Sea Sunday service will be held at the Lifeboat Station on Sunday 18th July.

Editor's Report

AL asked for a list of the speakers for the forthcoming meetings. In JW's absence, this was discussed and confirmed.

Publications

MW had nothing to report for this meeting.

Lottery Bid

This item will stay on the agenda as a prompt for possible future discussions.

AOB

JC hopes to have the article for Dover Life shortly.

MM has registered new domain names for the website, and showed the design for the new site. DL commented on the shape and size of the logo.

AS reported that Lorraine Sencicle had written letters about the proposed closure of KCC care homes. DL asked if it was appropriate for the Society to comment on these; JC reported that the Executive Committee had commented on the hospital plans. It was agreed that further information should be sought before making further comments. DL will forward Lorraine's letters to the Executive Committee.

WN asked if anyone wanted copies of the Dover Life magazine, there was a supply in Morrisons supermarket and DTC offices. Also, there was an article in the current issue on the Dover Society.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday 09 September, 7.30pm in St Paul's Church meeting room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.10 hours.