

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 09 September 2010
at St Paul's Parish Room, Dover

Attending:

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

Apologies:

Jean Marsh, Maureen Morris

DL welcomed JW back to the Committee and JW thanked everyone for the good wishes that he received during his absence.

Minutes from the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held 8 July were reviewed with the following amendment: Under Refurbishment Committee: This should read "Section 215" instead of "Section 151". The minutes were then approved.

Matters arising:

- **Castle Rise** – JC reported that he had put up notices and an article had appeared in the paper. A briefing paper will be done for members of the Committee, covering the procedure involved.
- **Granville Street Plaque** – JC gave an update. Blackmans are now happy, but the lessee is not willing to take on maintenance. JC suggested that the Dover Society take responsibility for this and this was agreed.
- **Historic Plaque Trail Leaflets** – AL presented a draft of the revised leaflet for comments. All members are asked to make their comments known to AL by 30 September. DL thanked AL for his work on this leaflet.
- **Lottery** – Article appeared in the Dover Express. MM has redrawn the promotion leaflet and passed it to the Refurbishment Committee for comments but has not had any back yet. DL asked if 50 copies could be run off for the Heritage Open Day (11 September) and DL would write his contribution in time for this. This was agreed.
- **Terms of Reference** – Covered by JW's report.
- **Thos Pattenden Plaque** – DL reported the installation.
- **Future plaques** - Chairman has responded to Lorraine Sencicle on two items: A miners' plaque on the old Coal Board offices and John Ottaway. She has also suggested a number of others for the future. DL suggested that members review the thumbnail sketches she has provided and that these be considered for the next round of plaques. This was agreed.
- **Guided Tours of the Town Hall** - John Iveson has produced a working document for the guides. The town hall has been included in the Heritage Open Day (11 September), albeit late, and the Roman Painted House will also be open.
- **Town Hall Refurbishment** - DL reported that a number of key people attended the meeting about the town hall refurbishment and gave a summary of his discussions. A draft background document and specification for the Heritage Fund Officer will be prepared for the next Steering Group meeting.

Chairman's Report

DL gave his report. He has received a document from the Department of Transport, which gives details of the submissions received regarding the DHB privatisation. He gave details of the summary. He also reported that DHB has responded to the DS's concerns about T2 (letter dated March 19) and DL gave details. Further comments 25 August were requested by the Sec of State views of the committee were sought and the DS formally responded in the letter dated 23 August. JC gave details of the DHB letter 2 September.

Western Heights Preservation Society membership is due for renewal and it was agreed to renew, (proposed by TS, seconded by WN).

The Mayor's Quiz is 13 November costing £6/head and DL asked if members would like to take a table.

The President has invited the Executive Committee to attend drinks and nibbles at his home on 7 November.

Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, annual dinner 28 September – JC and JW will be attending on behalf of the Dover Society.

DDC have produced a report on restructuring local services for consultation as they are looking to make substantive budget cuts. They have weighted their services and are looking for feedback. DL gave details. Consultation needs to be completed by 4 October. Concern was expressed about the Dover Museum. The restructuring and funding of local services is vitally important and JC proposed that a sub comm be set up to respond to this report. This was agreed and JC, PS, TS, DL volunteered. DL will make arrangements for the first meeting.

Secretary's Report

WN had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

MW circulated latest figures.

JC distributed a copy of the previous year's annual accounts in the format that is now required by the Charity Commission and MW thanked JC for his work in producing this. JC reviewed the accounts, which are unaudited. The annual report figures are the same as MW produced for the AGM, but are in a slightly different format. Executive Committee members are trustees of the Dover Society and have to be happy with the annual report. Any comments have to be returned to JC or MW within 7 days by 16 September. The Executive Committee, as Trustees, approved the accounts subject to their scrutiny (proposed by TS, seconded by AL).

Membership Secretary

SC reported that she had one new member David Palmer from Guston. His interests are local, social & military history and would be willing to write for the newsletter. Last membership number issued 1053. Current membership is 430. Copies of the magazine have been distributed to GP surgeries, and in future, these will be done through normal distribution channels.

Projects

- **Cowgate** – JC reported that really good progress had been made. There has been one serious accident involving JC and some wasps. Cuttings etc. will be cleared in the autumn.
- **Dour clearances** – AL reported that two new seats have been placed along the bank at Charlton.

Sub-committee for the refurbishment of Dover

JC gave an update.

Toilets and the Visitor Information Centre are falling between two political entities and JC is seeking clarification before sending a letter. JC suggested covering this within the spending review. The WW2 Warden's Post at the rail station is now an eyesore since the area's refurbishment and it has been suggested that the Dover Society offer some funding to KCC to encourage the improvement of the building environment. This was agreed. Planters are being refurbished and trees are being replaced. Members are asked to monitor any vandalism. Re monitoring of conservation areas in Dover, JC has been discussing these with DDC and gave details. He suggested that the Dover Society may have to take greater participation in this. One suggestion is for old photos to be used to improve empty properties.

DDC provide litter pick-up sticks and JC suggested a request to members for volunteers to do pick up litter in their area. A footpath from Langdon to Castle was discussed. JC will be contacting KCC about the trees in Barton Road. MW had raised concern about KCC replacing paving slabs with tarmac and JC will be raising this with KCC.

DL reported that the manager at McDonalds is organising litter pickups in a number of areas. There was a discussion about littering in the town and what some companies in the town should be doing.

Social Secretary

PHS reported that payments are trickling in for the Christmas Feast. DL confirmed the speakers for the Dover Society members' meetings for 2010. JC reported that Roger Walton would be happy to talk to members about new waste collection in the district. This would be at the November meeting and JC will speak to JW about arranging this. For 2010, it is suggested:

- In January, Richard Sturt on birds and it was proposed that DDC/DTC should be invited to speak about council services cutbacks and the effect of the Big Society.
- In February it is the Wine & Wisdom evening.
- For March, David Hannent is to be asked about his plans for creating the Lanes in Dover and Brian Rees to talk about P&O in Dover.
- For the AGM in April, Charlie Elphick MP should be invited.

Planning & Local Government

JW presented his report from the Planning & Local Government sub-committee, (circulated by email).

WN offered to attend the 2012 Festival Events Committee on behalf of the DS.

JW asked about the reporting of DDC decisions about planning applications, comparing them to DTC decisions. PS produced a spreadsheet with this information and has circulated this to the Planning Committee.

JC gave an update about the location of the new cemetery and reported that Darran Solley at DDC is happy to have representations from the Dover Society. JC proposed wording which was agreed. DL asked if the Planning Committee could look at the proposed development at Western Heights and Great Farthingloe Farm.

Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report on press. However, TS reported that the plaque for the Hippodrome in Snargate Street has been removed and the Executive Committee agreed that he should write something in the Dover Express.

Editor's Report

AL asked for a couple of articles for the next newsletter.

Publications

MW had nothing on publications.

Lottery Bid

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

AOB

SC reported that she had received favourable comments on the magazine.

MM offered Castle Connections, a report on tourism done in 2006, as a way to start a new tourism plan for the town. He has a PDF version if committee members would like a copy and was asked to circulate this around the Executive.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday 14 October, 7.30pm in St Paul's Church meeting room.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.55 hours.