

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 14 October 2010
at St Paul's Parish Room, Dover

Attending:

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

Apologies: Glyn Hale, Alan Lee, Mike Weston

The Committee congratulated JW and John Turnpenny on their recent appointment as a Freeman of Dover.

Minutes from the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held 09 September were reviewed. The minutes were then approved.

Matters arising:

- **Castle Rise** – JC has emailed the briefing paper to the Executive Committee. It is to be attached to the minutes for this meeting.
- **Granville Street Plaque** – JC has written to Unipart but has no response as yet.
- **Historic Plaque Trail Leaflets** – SC reported that the Tourist Information Office has run out of the old leaflets. AL is dealing with the new one.
- **Lottery** – DL wrote something for the leaflet, which had been handed out during the recent guided tours of the Town Hall.
- **Guided Tours of the Town Hall** – These were well attended and DL gave details of possible improvements for next year. He was also negotiating with DDC/DTC for a number of days when there would be no functions. TS reported that the Kent Greeters had offered their services for tours, which DL would pursue.
- **Town Hall Refurbishment** – DL gave an update on the recent meeting of the Town Hall Refurbishment Committee. He asked if the Executive Committee had any ideas for future use of the rooms at the Town Hall to help with the bid for funds.
- **Planning Process** - JC reported that he had met with Laura Sandys, who was asking for input into possible government restructuring of the planning process (Open Source Planning). The proposals are to focus planning concerns at a very local level and JC suggested that there be a small group to deal with this. JW reported that the Civic Voice was already committed to this new policy. JC, JW, DL and PS volunteered for this and JC will convene the first meeting.
- **Festival of Dover 2012** - WN attended the inaugural meeting of the steering group for the Festival of Dover 2012 and gave details. Don Soppitt was elected chairman. The Lord Warden has agreed to be patron and had suggested a number of possible vice-patrons, which will be followed up by the chairman.
- **Hippodrome Plaque** – TS has written a piece for the local paper.

Chairman's Report

DL gave his report. He has been invited to the Remembrance Service at the Western Docks on 9th. TS will lay the wreath at the Sunday Service at the War Memorial on 14th. SC has two wreaths.

MMcF has asked if Dover Society can place an advert in the Dover Film Festival programme at a cost £35 (proposed by TS, seconded by JC). This was agreed and he was asked to add a line to recruit new members.

Dover Life, containing the article by JC, was distributed. The next issue needs an article and it was agreed that DL would write one on the heritage open days and Town Hall refurbishment. A letter was received from a resident complaining about the wave effect on the seafront. The comments were noted and SC was asked to contact her to see if she would like a supporting letter from the Dover Society regarding the surface.

Secretary's Report

WN gave his report above (re Festival of Dover 2012).

Treasurer's Report

As MW was not at this meeting, JC gave the treasurer's report and financial statement.

The audit group has checked the Dover Society accounts but had raised a number of issues. JC gave details and thanked the audit group for their hard work. This was agreed by the Executive Committee.

Membership Secretary

SC reported that there were six new members. [ADD DETAILS]

Projects

- **Cowgate** – JC reported on a very good strimming session. He is meeting with officers from DDC to discuss removing cuttings, etc. and will report back at next meeting.
- **Dour** – JC said that the next meeting of the Steering Group is on Wednesday and he will report more at next meeting.

Sub-committee for the refurbishment of Dover

JC gave an update on the sub-committee meeting held 13 October.

DTC are proposing to offer residents the opportunity to influence what public services are to be funded. There was agreement that DDC and DTC should work closer together. Mike Webb has made a number of points to JC and has asked for the Dover Society's comments. Public toilets were discussed in depth, with shops possibly opening their facilities to the public, payment to use facilities, evening opening suggested.

Concerns have been expressed over the Esso petrol station at Whitfield, which the parish council is lobbying to improve. It was agreed that the Dover Society will write in support.

JC has written to KCC Cllr Nigel Collor about the Air Raid Warden's Post at Dover Priory station, who has passed the letter on to the appropriate department at KCC for action.

Cllr Collor raised an issue about the KCC Neighbourhood Forums and was concerned that public voting on community grants were not from Dover. PS and DL gave details of their experience of the Neighbourhood Forums and the bidding process for grants. AS suggested that a representative from the Dover Society attend to report back. This was agreed and PHS and AS will attend on behalf of the Executive Committee.

JC asked if the Executive Committee was happy for the Dover Society to take active role in monitoring conservation areas and this was agreed. He will report back to DDC. DL suggested that the Dover Society certificates should be resurrected but a letter from the chairman was felt sufficient. The bridal shop in Castle Street was considered but a decision was deferred. Also JC asked for the Executive Committee view on writing letters censoring poorly kept shops. This was discussed and it was agreed that doing this may cause possible legal problems.

Listed buildings on the website and the planning application concerning Charlton House (Old Youth Hostel) were also discussed, as was the Walk 1 to the Castle crossing the A2 dual carriageway.

Social Secretary

PHS had nothing to report. DL was asked to mention the Christmas Feast at Monday's Society meeting.

DL asked about the November meeting. Roger Walton is speaking about the proposed litter system and then questions from the floor. Raffle and refreshments are covered for the October and November meetings.

Planning & Local Government

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

JC raised a point about the proposed cemetery, which apparently is not a DDC statutory requirement.

MMcF reported to that the Ray Warner film archive is being digitised and that the 1960 film is to be released in time for the 2011 Film Festival.

Press Secretary's Report

TS had nothing to report.

Editor's Report

DL asked if there should be an article about John Turnpenny and Jack Woolford becoming Freemen of Dover for the next newsletter. TS agreed to write John Turnpenny's article and PS will write JW's. Both articles are to go AL to be combined into one with a reference to Bob Tant the other new Freeman.

Publications

There was nothing to report on publications.

Lottery Bid

MMcF gave an update on the progress of leaflet distribution and fundraising.

AOB

The Executive Committee agreed to the distribution of DL and TS's new book at the next Society meeting.

PS reported that the planning applications for Buckland Mill were only approved on 1 October.

MMcF is looking at the Manston and Manchester air connection. AS suggested that the rail journey was equally effective.

GR asked if anyone was donating raffle prizes for the Christmas Feast, could they give food so she can make up gifts.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday 11 November, 7.30pm in St Paul's Church meeting room.

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