

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 11 November 2010
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

Attending:

Derek Leach – Chair, Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Mike McFarnell, Maureen Morris, William Naylor, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

Apologies:

Jean Marsh, Georgette Rapley, Jack Woolford.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 14 October 2010 were reviewed. The minutes were then approved and signed by the chairman.

Matters arising:

- **Granville Street Plaque** – JC has not heard anything from Unipart, and will be going to see Blackman's to facilitate.
- **Historic Plaque Trail Leaflets** – AL has circulated this via email. Committee members made a number of comments on the copy. DL thanked AL for his work on this leaflet.
- **Guided Tours of the Town Hall** – Kent Greeters will help on the tours.
- **Town Hall Refurbishment** – meeting on 12 Nov so nothing to report.
- **Planning Process** – JC gave an update. DL thanked the group. KFAS is, holding a civic day workshop in Ashford 11 December. JC will send John Walker's email address and PS will attend if available.
- **Dover Life** – DL has written the article and sent it off.
- SC has contacted **Waterloo Mansions complainant** and left a message, as the lady was not home.
- **Neighbourhood Forums** - AS and PHS attended the meeting and reported back. Concern was expressed about the voting and unfairness of the allocation process for grants. Dover's mayor, Sue Jones, has also made comments.
- **Editor's Report** – AL has completed the articles on the Freemen of Dover.
- **Visitors via Manston** – In response to MMcF's comments last meeting about bringing people to Dover from Manston Airport. AS and PS reported on their findings.

Chairman's Report

DL has laid a Remembrance wreath at Western Docks **Unknown Warrior** memorial. He also attended an event at St Martin's school - a performance of a specially written musical entitled **The Unknown Warrior**.

Regarding the DHB privatisation, DL received a file of representations from the Dept of Transport, requiring a response by 12 November. After consulting other members on the Committee, he drafted a response which he read out. This was approved and a copy is attached to the minutes. WN and MW commented on the recent statement made in the Houses of Parliament from Charlie Elphicke MP about the People's Port and the legality of who has the right to sell the port. PS clarified this.

Civic Society Insurance has written to the Society **repeating its introductory** offer of £0.75 per member. This reduces the **full** cost. TS proposed no action, seconded by WN, and this was agreed. The Mayor has unearthed a variety of old **town council** documents and has asked the Society if it would like to catalogue the items. This was agreed **if volunteers could be found** and DL will speak to the Mayor, telling her the Society is interested and will have a look at them.

DTC has asked approval to spend £500 of the Town Centre Management grant of £6000 for planting in the troughs along by Riverside. This was agreed.

Secretary's Report

WN had attended another meeting of the Dover Festival Committee.

Treasurer's Report

MW gave the finance statement for October, details circulated at the meeting.

JC has emailed the Charities Commission for advice on small companies if the Society incorporates.

Membership Secretary Report

SC reported that there were three new members making 435. These are: Mrs J Pateman from Kearsney, Mr DS and Mrs JM Screene.

Projects

- **Cowgate** – The team started moving the waste piles and will be there this Saturday, weather permitting.
- **Dour** – DL and JC attended the opening ceremony of the refurbished Charlton Green riverside. JC gave a summary of the meeting of the River Dour Steering Group on 20 October. He complimented the work of Environment Agency staff. The EA are pressing KCC Highways to accept responsibility for Barton Path and to ban fishing from it and roads fronting the river in the area. JC read out some stats from the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership. Problems around silting up of the river around the Crabble Corn Mill were discussed and quotes for clearing it are being sought.

Sub-Committee for the refurbishment of Dover

The questionnaire from DDT has been circulated to 1000 households chosen at random across the town. AS indicated that the deadline has been extended to 20 November. There was a discussion about where the DTC funding is spent as it appears only 1/3rd of the budget is shown.

JC will prod Nigel Collor about the Air-raid Warden's post. The next meeting is Tuesday 16 November.

Social Secretary

PHS asked DL to remind Society members of the Christmas Feast in December, as numbers were low. She has spoken to GR about proposed trips for next year. PHS has spoken to Charlie Elphicke MP about a trip to Parliament sometime in June and the Committee asked PHS to arrange this trip.

JC has not yet spoken to Barry Late regarding Dover Municipal Charities. AL will contact JW for an update on confirmed speakers for the newsletter.

Planning & Local Government

In JW's absence, PS gave the report from the Planning Committee. MW reported in more detail on the application for 5 Pharos Drive detached dwelling.

PS reported that the Society's Planning Committee is in a strong position to comment independently on planning issues in Dover. It is in need of strengthening as a number of members have resigned. They are looking for three new members, who would have strong links to parish councils in River, Whitfield and Temple Ewell. JC suggested that a flyer be added to the next newsletter asking for volunteers. PS asked SC for a copy of the membership details of members in these parishes who have an interest in Planning.

AS reported on the planning proposal on the Western Heights and the recent application for housing and hotel. This area is designated as an ancient monument. There was a discussion about this application. Any changes to the development area will require a new public enquiry. DL reported

that there is a consultation document on a number of areas around the town which requires a response before 12 Dec deadline. PS proposed that Planning Committee members, plus DL and JC meet to work out a suitable response. This was agreed, and the meeting will be held on 7 December at PS's house at 7.30pm.

Press Secretary's Report

TS gave a report.

Editor's Report

The next newsletter is ready to run. He has a letter from someone offering photographs and it was suggested that they be offered to the museum.

AL distributed details of a new magazine Kent Past, which offers free registration and no subscription. DL asked committee members to look at the site and make a decision at the next meeting.

Publications

There was nothing to report.

Lottery Bid

There was nothing to report. MMcF was disappointed in the take-up.

AOB

There was no other business for this meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Thursday 2 December 2010, 7.30pm in St Paul's Church meeting room.

The meeting closed at 21.38.

Attachments to these minutes:

- DL's response to the Dept of Transport on submissions on the DHB privatisation.
- Minutes of the Planning Committee, 2 November.