

THE DOVER SOCIETY

Minutes of Executive Committee held on December 9th 2010: This meeting replaced the committee meeting scheduled for December 2nd but postponed because of heavy snow.

Present: Derek Leach (chairman), Bill Naylor (secretary), Mike Weston (treasurer), Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Jean Marsh, Maureen Morris, Dr Glyn Hale, Georgette Rapley, Alan Lee, Sheila Cope, Jeremy Cope, Mike McFarnell and Terry Sutton who took the minutes.

Apologies: Jack Woolford, Pat Sherratt, Alan Sencicle and Barbara Stapleton.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as correct.

Matters arising: Jeremy reported the cost of recutting the Charlton school plaque in Granville Street would be £352-91. The wording of the plaque would be checked. Historical plaques trail: Adams had offered to reprint, as amended, the trail leaflet at a cost of £100 (plus VAT if required) for 1,000 copies which was acceptable, although Sheila offered to check with other printers on costs with a limit of £100.

ACTION SHEILA.

It was agreed the chairman would write about Cowgate cemetery for possible publication in Dover Life.

ACTION DEREK.

The chairman's draft comments relating to the LDF site allocation document were accepted for submitting to Dover District Council with the inclusion of no retail development on the issue of the Western Heights. It was further agreed that the submission could be made public.

ACTION DEREK

Chairman's Report: Derek reported The Dover Society had been asked to organise the "unveiling" of a bench in Maison Dieu Gardens in memory of the late Jack Hewitt MBE, a member of The Dover Society at the time of his death, which was agreed. There was a discussion about the suggested cost of the bench although costs did not fall on society funds.

ACTION DEREK

The chairman reported that he, vice chairman Jeremy Cope and Terry Sutton (port consultative committee representative) had met with Roger Mountford (chairman of Dover Harbour Board) and the board's chief executive (Bob Goldfield) to iron out issues over the proposed privatisation of the port.

Terry, Jeremy and the chairman had also sent a letter to the Dover Port People's Trust seeking clarification of the financial basis of the bid and other issues.

Secretary: Bill had nothing to report.

Treasurer: Mike reported subscriptions received last month for the current financial year amounted to £16 while £2.20 was collected from the sale of old newsletters. The October meeting made a loss of 65 pence.

Membership: Sheila reported membership standing at 438, with three new members: Peter and Sylvia Hall of Castlemount Road and Jane Allcock of Heritage Gardens.

Projects: Jeremy reported briefly on the work at Cowgate cemetery and the River Dour.

Refurbishment sub-committee: Issues considered included the ARP post near the Priory Station, the voting system at the recent meeting when bids for KCC grants were made and the KCC chopping down trees, especially those recently planted.

Social Secretary: Pat told of plans to visit the Palace of Westminster on a Tuesday in June while Georgette discussed the feasibility of a visit to the Geoffery Museum at Shoreditch, London (to be further investigated). To date 48 members had booked for the Christmas Feast, which was disappointing.

Bearing in mind the likely change of ownership of Blake's Restaurant, it was agreed that we should continue present practice at least for the rest of this winter.

Speakers at future meetings were discussed at length with a number of suggestions. Terry was tasked with checking if Richard Sturt was still offering to be a speaker at our January 17th meeting (Birds of Dover) and also to check with Nadeem Aziz if DDC would provide the other speaker at that meeting. He was also asked to check what equipment would be required. Terry was also requested to check with David Hannant about the March 21 meeting. Derek would contact Alan Sencicle. Derek would also confirm MP available for April meeting.

ACTION TERRY and DEREK

Planning: major issues already covered by chairman.

Press representative: Terry reported several items published in local newspapers.

Editor: Alan set the deadline of January 12th for the next newsletter (March).

Publications: Nothing to report.

Lottery Bid: Mike McFarnell expressed disappointment at the poor response.

Web: Mike McFarnell was congratulated on the number of "hits" on the society's website (20,000 expected this year). It was agreed he should ask authors for their copyright consent before using their work, taken from the newsletter, on the website.

Next meeting: January 13th 2011.