

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 January 2011
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

Attending:

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

Apologies:

Jeremy Cope, Jack Woolford.

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting, Dec 9th, taken with thanks by TS, were approved and signed.

Matters arising:

- **Historic Plaque Trail Leaflets** – SC reported quotes checked and going with Fields at £60 for 1000.
- **Article for Dover Life** - DL still has time to do this on Cowgate.
- **Jack Hewitt Bench** – We are awaiting DTC to advise date for delivery.
- **Dover Port People's Trust (DPPT)** – PS **declared an interest as** a director of the DPPT. DL & TS gave details of recent developments and there was a discussion about the issues around the DPPT proposal on privatisation of the port. (PS did not take part in this.) It was proposed that there was no further action at this time (TS proposed, WN seconded). However, GR asked for amendment: to write to Minister of State and urge him to seriously consider the bid. (Proposed by GR, GH seconded, and the Committee voted 8 for, 3 against, so this was carried. AS gave details of the latest freight figures (from DHB) compared to previous years, showing a reduction, and there was a brief discussion about the accuracy of the figures supplied.
- **Christmas Feast** – This was cancelled due to the weather; the numbers were lower (48) than previous years and it was likely to make a loss. Caterers and Quodlibet did not charge for the cancellation. Next year's event could be on Saturday 17th December, or perhaps look at alternative dates such as Easter. The last Sat before Xmas is getting very popular for events. It was agreed that PHS would investigate holding it at Easter this year, on Saturday 16 April, and would provisionally book the December 2011 date. TS thanked members of the Exec who made all the phone calls and returned the cheques. GH also suggested an American style, social light hearted evening in St Mary's.
- **Social Programme** – DL and TS have sorted out the meeting speakers as there was some confusion. Jan: Butterflies of East Kent, plus DL, TS and PS talking about the **Localism Bill**. Feb: W&W. Mar: **Debs Newman of** Dover Castle talking about the new tunnels project and Dover Municipal Charities about what they do /with London Fancy Box as a fallback. DL will contact David Hannett re not speaking. (**nb David Hannent is now speaking after all**) Apr: AGM & Dover's MP. AS had previously suggested Stephen Jones of the Dover College. Somebody to take over arranging speakers is needed to replace Jack.
- **Town Refurbishment** – DTC has planted one of the trees that was chopped down and the cycle path has been started.

Chairman's Report

Nothing from the chairman at this meeting as items were covered above.

Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report

MW had previously circulated the latest figures by email. He reviewed the figures, giving details. Cancelling the Christmas Feast presented a loss of £67.46 but this may be recovered by using the prizes at future raffles and he is confident that the loss on the evening will be brought to under £20.

Membership Secretary Report

SC reported that the Society had one new member – Miss Evelyn Reeves –and she is the first new member from the placing of magazines in GP surgeries. Membership number 1066 was the last number allocated. The Society currently has 429 members.

Projects

In JC's absence, SC reported:

- **Cowgate** – **Barry Late was** in charge in JC's absence.
- **Dour** – nothing to report.

Sub-Committee for the refurbishment of Dover

In JC's absence, AS took this item.

- Dover's public toilets were discussed in detail, but feedback from the consultation has not been reported. AS gave details of the facilities provided in other council areas, which cost less than the prices quoted in Dover. Local people know where the facilities are in the town but tourists do not and this was a concern.
- Air raid warden's Post at Dover Priory – AS contacted Nigel Collor to remind him about this. **DL will write** to KCC as they are the landowner, outlining the Society's concerns, suggesting an interpretation board and renewing financial offer.
- There are additional planters and trees around the town, but concern has been expressed about them blocking CCTV cameras **and failure of CCTV to identify vandals**.
- Jim Pople had written to Stagecoach about the condition of their building in Pencester, but had been told there was no money to do this.
- There was a discussion about civil enforcement officers and AS had a chat with one about what their duties and responsibilities were. There are 13 employed by DDC. The Executive Committee had a discussion about some of the social behaviour problems in Dover and the resources available to deal with them.
- There was a suggestion that some of the content on the website should be more current. MM responded to this, as he is still waiting for comments and feedback on what is there before proceeding further. The Executive Committee was happy with what is there and asked MM to add further content.
- Roger Marples showed photos of a key footpath to the Bleriot Memorial, Castle and Langdon Cliffs. On the cliffs there are no signs to the memorial or castle, and there is no break in the mid-road barrier. This will be pursued with KCC.

Social Secretary

PHS reported that for the W&W evening there are only 2 tables booked plus 1 other person interested in coming.

The trip to the Palace of Westminster is booked for 14 June at £15 a head.

The Geoffrey Museum trip in September has not been arranged yet and GR will look at this.

Planning & Local Government

PS had circulated his report of the last meeting by email. He reviewed the key points.

- PS reported that Cllr Young was upset about the Dover Society's comments on Western Heights **development** and spoke to PS before the DTC planning meeting. PS then reviewed the latest DTC planning applications. There were 21 decisions made.
- Re Whitfield Urban Development, PS circulated a summary of comments that the Dover Society made to DDC on the outline planning application. The Executive Committee expressed thanks to PS for his work on this. TS asked for permission to use DS comments in a newspaper article. This was agreed.
- Re 45 London Rd River, DL gave an update on the change of use application, which was before River Parish Council, who decided to object to the change on a number of issues. PS asked for details as the **DS would like a rep for River.**

Press Secretary's Report

TS was disappointed that the Dover Express did not use the article on the localism meeting on Monday, though the Dover Mercury did.

Editor's Report

There was nothing to report.

Publications

There was nothing to report.

Lottery bid

MM reported that there was no further take-up of the lottery.

AOB

The arrangements of Monday's meeting were finalised.

TS reported meeting in Kings Hall, concerning attempts to **XXXXXXX**

GR reported that the Dover Regatta has been rescheduled to coincide with the Carnival 2/3 July, with the Carnival being held on 3 July.

Chris Precious' Heritage Group meeting, aiming to develop a walking. Next meeting 4 Feb. GR would report back.

GR offered to report back on DTC council meetings. This was agreed.

AL reported on KCC cuts: rural bus routes, schools and library services.

Connaught fountains are still not repaired.

Memorial for the Channel Dash to replace the miner.

WN mentioned the recently published league tables for schools – there was no school mentioned for the SE Kent/Dover area and wondered why. MW offered an explanation.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Thursday 10 February 2011, 7.30pm, at St Pauls.