

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 March 2011
at St Pauls Parish room, Dover

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Jean Marsh, Maureen Morris, Jack Woolford

Members of the Committee gave an update on Jack Woolford and all wished him well.

2. Minutes

There was one correction to the previous minutes: the spelling of the Geffrye Museum was incorrect.

3. Matters arising

Jack Hewitt Bench – A short ceremony was held on 18 Feb, and AL took pictures for the newsletter.

Raffle - MW contacted Dover District Council, regarding the suggested changes to the raffle at winter meetings. DDC replied there was no problem. Following discussion it was agreed that the current system will prevail but cash vouchers are offered as prizes. This will be effective from October/November, as there are a number of raffle prizes in hand, with prizes of £25, £10 and £5.

Public toilets - DL has spoken to the Mayor. Seafront toilets were not part of the agreement between DDC and DTC. It is hoped that the hotel and the Beach will allow public access to their facilities. SC had received a letter from Graham Wanstall, asking what the Society was doing about access to public toilets on the seafront. SC was asked to write as per above. He also complained about the condition of Harold Passage, by St James' Church. SC will respond as agreed, with details of the DDC department.

Air Raid Warden's Post - DL, GR, JC and Roger Marples met with KCC's Heritage group. The building is being currently being refurbished. Once this is done, the area will be smartened up, subject to phase 2 funding. KCC asked if the DS would adopt it to ensure it is kept tidy. RM has offered to notify authorities if it needs tidying. This was agreed. Some form of information board is to be considered. JC suggested that a publicity photograph is prepared and will contact Colin Smith

AGM – JC has circulated the papers for the AGM.

4. Chairman's Report

DL represented the DS at the funeral of Barry Smith, a founder member of the Society.

Lorraine Sencicle has emailed asking for the Lidice plaque to be replaced. This was discussed and it was agreed that DL should write to the DTC after the elections and suggest they should fund the replacement, failing that contact the mineworkers' union..

The DS was represented at the Film Festival, and DL felt that a table top display system might be useful for future events. This was discussed. MMcF will attend the Lifeboat coffee morning on 16 March and look at the display system used there. TS will ask DDC if a display could be used at their forthcoming launch event.

DL has been asked if the DS will join Civic Voice, who has a new insurance cover, a new partnership with English Heritage, and an arrangement with the Co-Operative Bank. The CV fee is £1.00 per member (under 500 members). This will mean a membership increase and SC pointed out the rules covering subscription increases. There was a discussion about the potential benefit of joining CV. PS gave an update on his recent visit to Tunbridge Wells about the Localism Bill, as CV presented there. It was agreed no action on CV membership (proposed MW, TS).

Following this discussion, SC requested that the Executive Committee consider an increase in subscriptions to members after the AGM.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

MW circulated the financial report by email prior to the meeting.

Income during the month came from subscriptions (£46), newsletter (£19), and a donation of £10 given during MMcF's film festival. Outgoings were £140 paid to St Paul's church for the hire of the room, and £176.45 paid to Cleverley & Spenser for the Charlton School plaque. The Wine & Wisdom evening will have turned in a profit of £178.02 when the accounts are completed. A donation of £85 to the Crabble Corn Mill was agreed.

JC referred to the letter from Spain Brothers about the audit of accounts and the suggestion that the DS becomes incorporated as a company. He gave details of what this would entail for the DS and the liabilities of trustees. There was a discussion about this. JC was asked to get an estimate on company auditing costs. He will also review the disclaimer that working group members have previously signed covering working on projects.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

SC reported that the DS has lost four members recently: Mrs P Gould, Mr B Smith, Mrs J Jannaway, and Mrs M Wright. Two new members: Mr B Cope and Ms L Lang. The last number allocated was 1074 and the total number of members is currently 433.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – JC gave an update and thanked those members of the working group who have stood in for him recently. Darran Solley (DDC) has arranged for the rubbish to be removed.
- River Dour – Nothing to report.
- Town Hall Refurbishment – DL gave an update. He is meeting the tour guides to sort out the summer programme. AL has produced a sample leaflet and will get a quote for 1000 copies in colour and black/white. DL gave an update on the meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund. There is a lot of work to be done but he felt that the proposed bid would be worthwhile. The aim is to make the bid early next year. Re the lottery, DTC have pointed out that there is no draw date on the leaflet and DL felt that the lottery should be withdrawn now and re-launched when the Heritage bid is submitted, especially as there has been poor take up. The rules governing the lottery indicate that the draw will be made when there are 100 applications. It was agreed to continue with the lottery while the current licence is in place. MMcF was asked to explain the lottery to DTC staff.

9. Sub-committee for refurbishment of Dover

JC gave an update on the Refurb-Committee

- Cherry Tree Avenue – The tree work has been completed but there are no birds.
- Planters – JC is going to email Darran Solley at DDC re this.
- JC has a response from Nigel Coller, KCC, about the film factory. There will be a film showing at River rec on 13 August.
- MW and Aaron – Are searching the Land Registry for ownership details on empty and disused properties.
- Section 105 – There is nothing to report here.
- Volunteers – JC's letter to DDC's Chief Executive has brought no response.
- Parking Wardens – Regarding anti-social behaviour and litter, DDC's Roger Walton has responded in a letter indicating that these people are responsible for car parking not litter

enforcement. JC will send a letter to him asking him to encourage these officers to enforce litter laws.

- Joan Leggitt will be working with MMcF on historic plaques.
- Highways and Walkways – JC gave details of efforts re the Castle to Langdon Cliffs walk.
- Castle Rise right of way – JC is keeping a photograph record of people using the pathway.
- Castleton Park – AS gave an update on this. JC suggested that the facts are clarified. This will be followed up by the Re-Furb Committee.

10. Social Secretary's Report

PHS has taken a number of bookings for the coach trip to the Houses of Parliament from the Friends of Dover Museum, but as this has not yet been announced to DS members, there is a potential problem. The tours have been booked, so it is not possible to book extra places. It was agreed that this will be announced at the next meeting and advise members to book quickly.

GR reported that everything was going well for the Geffrye Museum trip in September. GR is asked to let JC have details for a slip in the next newsletter.

Re the Christmas Feast, PHS gave details of the venues and menus, and gave a rough costing per head for St Marys on 10 December or Dover College on 17 December. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Christmas Feast should be held at St Mary's Parish Centre on 10 December and that PSH should look at other catering companies. It was agreed to see if Quodlibet were available for entertainment.

GR presented a draft list of proposed speakers for the winter 2011/12 programme. Oct/Nov/Dec speakers were approved.

11. Planning & Local Government Committee

PS circulated the Planning & Local Government report by email prior to the meeting. He reviewed the report. Re the Dover Port referendum, this will be held on 23 March at normal polling stations, which will be between 9am and 4pm. The DS has been able to help Mr Brown with his objection to a boat permanently sited on the beach at the Warren. Reduction in planning officers at DDC and the removal of democratic accountability in future planning matters was discussed. If this becomes public, the DS will make representation.

12. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report. TS reported on the Port Consultative Committee meeting that he attended earlier today. DHB will not be taking part in the referendum on the future of the port.

13. Editor's Report

AL asked TS to prepare a report for the newsletter at the next meeting.

14. Publications

There was nothing to report.

15. Lottery bids

There was nothing to report.

16. Any other business

AS reported on problems at Blakes, as they have an event planned. He will contact members for the meal on 21 March and asked committee members to let him have numbers by 18 March.

MMcF asked about daylight change proposals which have been dropped by the Government.

MMcF reported that there is a network evening at the Dover Transport Museum on 20 April, 7.30pm, and encouraged members to attend.

She reported that Richard Mahony had permission to have a tourist stand in the centre of the seafront and gave details.

GR also reported that a number of mature trees were being felled around the St James' area.

DTC are looking at having music in the bandstand in Pencester.

SC gave details of the over Ladies Luncheon Club luncheon club which she will circulate to members.

AL reported on the closure of Dover Castle during the winter.

17. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 April 2011 at St Paul's Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 10.07pm.