

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 12 May 2011
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

Present:

Derek Leach – chair, Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Mike McFarnell, William Naylor, Georgette Rapley, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston, Jack Woolford

1. Apologies

None

The Executive Committee welcomed JW on his return to the committee, congratulated TS on becoming a Freeman of Dover and PS on becoming a town council member, and commiserated with GR who lost her seat at the recent elections.

2. Minutes

Minutes from March were approved with the following amendments:

- Jack Hewitt Bench - AL took pictures,
- item 11) “listed buildings” instead of “historic plaques”,
- item 16) “he” instead of “she” (MMcf).

Minutes from April were approved with the following amendments:

- Item 11) “£523” not “£560”, and quote should be ‘obtained’, not ‘agreed’,
- Item 7) “White Cliffs Countryside Project”, not “Tourism Association”.

3. Matters arising

Port Privatisation - DL sent the letter about the Society’s referendum on port ownership and has received acknowledgement.

The Zeebrugge Memorial event was attended by members of the Executive Committee, and was a good event.

DHB artefacts - TS/DL/JC are going to see Bob Goldfield about the DHB artefacts. There was a discussion about these, about what was there and where they may end up when the port is privatised. If DPPT bid succeeds, all artefacts would most likely be held by the DPPT. Issues about the storage, security, insurance and display of these items and the importance of them remaining in Dover were discussed. PS proposed that there should perhaps be a maritime heritage museum in Dover, as the town and port has a long and interesting history, and the Lord Warden House was considered to be a suitable place.

Hidden Fortress Publication – MW gave details of the quote from Adams for the leaflet on Dover’s Hidden Fortress, which is still selling well. For a print of 500 / 1000, the cost would be £875 / £1100 ex any VAT which may or may not be payable. 1000 copies would last for 6-7 years at current rate of usage, but storage could be a problem. MW offered to store the books. The Committee agreed to purchase a reprint of 1000.

4. Chairman’s Report

Dover Tattoo - MM has drafted a leaflet for the proposed Dover Tattoo at Fort Burgoyne in June 2012. He gave an update on the progress of this project, which is being organised by the Dover Festival. The leaflet is seeking pledges to buy, rather than tickets, to find out what the potential audience would be. Tickets are £5 - £10, depending on place. The leaflet will be published in October. The Executive Committee endorsed MM’s work on this project.

5. Secretary’s Report

Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

MW had circulated the financial report prior to the meeting.

Subscriptions received during the last month for this financial year amounted to £564, while the sum of £337 was taken last month from advertising in the newsletter. Payments were made to Adams Printers (April newsletter £695), postage (£46.50), general printing & stationery costs (£40.40), and annual subscription for White Cliffs Country Tourism Association (£40). £228.25 was the cost of postage and stationery incurred sending out the poll information about the People's Port referendum. Wreaths for the Zeebrugge Memorial and the British Legion cost £71.

The publications fund benefited from the sum of £523.36 through the sale of the 265 "Dover's Hidden Fortress". The Town Hall Fund has had a further £10 contribution and the AGM yielded a surplus of £17.09 thanks to a profitable raffle.

AS asked if the Dover Society was able to buy National Savings indexed certificates/bonds. MW clarified that these were savings certificates and could only be held by individuals.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Sc reported that there were no new members last month. Number 1086 was the last allocated. The current membership is 446. SC is now chasing outstanding subscriptions.

8. Projects

- **Cowgate** – This is going well and the team is on top of the work. Strimmers have been lent to the Western Heights Preservation Society for their use, and have been returned.
- **Dour** – There is nothing to report.
- **St Edmund's Chapel** – David Ridley has asked if the Executive Committee could help with looking after this chapel, which is showing signs of damp. JC gave details of his findings but before any actions can be taken, permission is required from the Trustees. JC is to contact Paul Smythe-Rumsby and update the Rev. Ridley.

9. Sub-committee for refurbishment of Dover

JC gave an update

- Re Cliffe Court Hotel and Dover Harbour Hotel, East Cliff, a member of the Society has asked for the Society's help with a number of breaches in planning laws. JC gave details. GR reported that authorities have been involved for 11 years, but there is unwillingness to prosecute until there is a firm chance of success. This was discussed and a way forward agreed. PS will raise the problems with Mike Dawson and with Nigel Collor. If no action, the Society will approach the s MP.
- AS reported that the East Cliff toilet facilities were open, but the Western Docks facilities were closed.
- JC will be raising problems about Connaught Park pond with DDC, which may lead to the Society adopting it, which will need to be approved by the Executive Committee.
- Other matters discussed included: Section 215, walks around the town, highways and pathways (particularly by Netto) and other environmental issues. PS gave details of the need for a Green Urban plan and he and JC will liaise on this. The Executive Committee expressed concern that trees being removed are not being replaced.

10. Social Secretary's Report

PHS confirmed the Christmas Feast was booked for 17 December, with Quodlibet, at Dover College, and will cost £24 per head. Re the trip to Palace of Westminster, she has a waiting list of 40 people for this and is proposing to hold a second trip next year.

GR reported that there are 19 on the list for Geffrye Museum with 40 people required to break even on this trip.

GR gave details of the speakers she has booked /is considering for coming winter.

11. Planning & Local Government Committee

PS had circulated the Planning & Local Government report by email prior to the meeting. He reviewed the report . PS agreed to seek meeting with Mike Dawson for update and certain issues. DL reported that there was movement regarding the development of the Buckland Mill site.

12. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report. A number of short items have appeared in local papers.

13. Editor's Report

AL reported that the next newsletter is on track. Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 11 June.

14. Publications

There was nothing to report. "Dover's Hidden Fortress" reprint discussed earlier.

15. Lottery bids

Lottery bids: This is to be changed on the agenda to Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours.

DL gave an update on the guided tours of the Town Hall and the feedback he has received from visitors. The next tour will be first Wednesday in June followed by Sat am 18 June. MM will check that the dates are on the Visit Kent website.

MM had no update on the Town Hall Refurbishment Lottery bid.

PS suggested a wall mounted box for donations, but it was generally felt that theft was a concern. PS asked for a further 1000 flyers on Town Hall guided tours for the National Trust.

16. Any other business

- MW asked about a meeting being held on Friday. This is a "debate" about the use of empty buildings, with an exhibition. Members are invited to attend.
- TS reported that the most frequent question asked at the seafront information kiosk was about public toilets.
- JW said he was gratified to see the Executive Committee was still operating as smoothly as ever.
- AS asked if the Executive Committee knew about the process for nominations regarding Town Freemanship. They were aware. DTC would limit Hon Freemen to 12 at any one time.
- AS informed the Executive Committee that KCC has put up signs about the parking on pavements, asking for any objections to be registered. Concern was expressed that these may well be ignored.
- MM asked for feedback from the Executive Committee on the content of the Society's website.
- GH asked when the Dover Mayor Making ceremony was being held. This will be on 19 May 2011.
- BN commented on recent articles which were disparaging about Dover. There was a discussion about this.

17. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dover Society Executive will be on 14 June 2011, in St Paul's Parish Room

The meeting closed at 21.10pm.