

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 14 July 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, William Naylor, Georgette Rapley, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston, Jack Woolford

1. Apologies

Mike McFarnell,

2. Matters Arising:

Minutes from May and June meetings were approved.

3. Matters arising

From the May minutes:

ARP post – this is an agenda item for this meeting.

Rifles monument – The **Rifles Veterans Association** has been informed and we await a response re commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the monument.

DHB artefacts – the DHB meeting to discuss the Harbour Board's artefacts was postponed.

Hidden Fortress Publication – MW reported that the **reprint** had been ordered and received.

All other items are agenda items for the meeting.

From the June minutes:

Revised criteria for sale of Trust Ports – There had been a good response from members **to the draft reply** (20 comments had been received). The Executive Committee had amended the formal response accordingly and this has now been sent off.

Port of Dover Community Trust – the meeting for key people has been postponed until September.

4. Chairman's Report

DL attended a meeting with English Heritage and KCC, to consult on the proposals at Dover Castle for the **Officers' New Barracks**. This building **would** become a Kent Archaeological Resource Centre and used to store (and receive) archaeological artefacts for cleaning and restoration. It **would need** funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and **would** establish a sustainable use of this building through educational resources and research.

The **Kent History Federation (KHF)** hold their annual conference in May, and local historian, Tony Belsey, had suggested East Kent as a suitable venue. **The KHF has suggested Dover for 2013.** DL floated ideas and suggested a joint venture with the Friends of Dover Museum. The Executive Committee agreed.

Consultation meeting about the **Dover Surface Water Drainage Scheme** attended by PS who gave an update on the options discussed.

DL reported on **the** recent update meeting with **Mike Dawson, DDC**. DDC have resource problems and need to prioritise. Points raised included the online planning system, green urban **strategy**, regeneration, Connaught barracks and Buckland Mill, old cinema in Castle St., latest on the DTiZ, Buckland hospital, and the Whitfield urban expansion . The message from DDC was shout loud if there was key issue for the Society.

DL acknowledged Lorraine Sencicle's emails about celebrating Harriet Quimby's centenary. This has now been overtaken by **initiatives** from the USA.

5. Secretary's Report

WN reminded the Committee that 8 September will be the next meeting, as there is no meeting in August.

6. Treasurer's Report

MW gave his report, referring to the accounts (circulated by email prior to this meeting). He reported on two months (May and June): Subscriptions received for FY 2011/12 amounted to £520 and we have received £10 in donations. Quarterly interest on the CAF account was £13.18. Payments were £29.00 for the newsletter, £24.31 for printing and stationery costs, and £28 from Projects fund for secateurs and renewal of parts for a strimmer. The sum of £47.25 has been added to the Town Hall Fund. £16.25 came from a dividend payment on shares, £21.00 from revenue brought in by the Town Hall Tours, and £10.00 from MMCF lottery. £14.30 was paid out from the Town Hall Fund to pay for laminated posters advertising the tours. The Palace of Westminster outing was in surplus by £43.00.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

SC reported 8 new members for May & June: Mrs Hillen, Mr & Mrs Brivio, Mr Eyden, Mr & Mrs Browning, Ms Simpson, and the Hon. Reg Hamilton from Australia. Number 1094 was the last allocated. The current membership is 447. Some subscriptions are still outstanding and she is not sure if these will be renewed.

8. Projects

- **Cowgate** – progress has been made and the cemetery looks good.
- **Dour** – JC is going to send email about the surface water.

9. Sub-committee for refurbishment of Dover

JC gave an update:

- DDC had sent an email to Christine Shrubb about contraventions on planning matters. JC will advise CS that the Dover Society will send letters from time to time in support and that she should copy in Nigel Collor, KCC.
- JC would like to arrange regular meetings with Roger Walton, Director of Environment and Corporate Assets at DDC, about issues, such as public toilets, the pond and fountain, the Lindeman Plaque, and about the Society's suggestion about extending powers of enforcement officers. There needs to be a campaign on this latter issue.
- Re ARP, JC reported that the KCC contractors are responsible for the landscaping. At his meeting with NC, the subject of the DS adopting the ARP without the liabilities was raised but there was no resolution.
- There is a planter missing outside the Ellie.
- Regarding PROW, the response on walk no 1 was "negative" and the Refurbishment Committee will continue to press on this issue.
- Street trees – JC will be drafting response to Kent Highways about this. Only a quarter of trees recently cut down have been replaced. Dover Society felt that there was a need for better joint working between authorities working on green issues.
- Godwyn Road path wall – JC gave a thank you to PS on this and sent a letter to KCC on a job well done.
- Graham Wanstall has written to JC raising a number points, which JC gave details of and his proposed response.
- The Executive Committee discussed the proposed Dover Health Centre privatisation and it was agreed that this was something that needed the Society's attention.
- Re 86 Maison Dieu Road, opposite the Dover Health Centre, there was a change of use proposal to turn this into a hostel for 16-18 year olds. PS gave details.
- WN informed the Executive that £1/2m was being spent in Shepway on toilet facilities.

10. Guided tours

These were taking place on the first Wed each month and occasional Saturday, and were doing well. The steering group felt that only one morning/month in the summer was insufficient to support a bid for funding. Plan was for an enhanced programme using the old courtroom as a history room with interpretation panels and other information. This room would be open every Wed from August to March, with guided **tours in the mornings** if **guides** available, but acknowledged the need to work around booked **commercial** events. DL reported that the new contract to run the town hall **would hopefully** include **requirement for** guided tours.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The cost of the Christmas meal has increased to £16.50 pp with Elspeth Robinson providing the entertainment. **When other costs were added**, PH-S proposed £25 per ticket, which the Executive Committee agreed.

The September trip is organised, with 19 seats booked so far. There will be a reminder in the August newsletter.

GR reported that the Society meeting speakers are booked, with details available in September. A volunteer is still required to do the raffle. If no-one comes forward, SC and PHS will do it for the next meeting and ask again for a volunteer.

12. Planning & Local Government Committee

PS referred to the minutes of the Planning Committee (circulated by email prior to this meeting) and reviewed the applications.

- Re the kiosk on the seafront, this requires planning permission as it has been there for over 20 days. Also it is not manned as much as anticipated. WCTA will be withholding funding until the opening hours are confirmed.
- Re the caravan on the Warren beach, this has now gone.

13. Press Secretary's Report

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

14. Editor's Report

AL reported that the August newsletter is in hand. Roy Porter has agreed that some of his **photographs of** the Officers Barracks can be reproduced in the newsletter.

15. Publications

Reprint no 5 of Dover's Hidden Fortress. We received 1000 plus 130 overs and these are stored at MW's home.

16. Any other business

- DL said that the Heritage Open Days leaflets have been **printed**. Archcliffe Fort (Paul Wells) has asked to be part of this, but is too late for the leaflet. It will be included in press release.
- JM asked who was responsible for removing drunks in the town. GR suggested that the PCSOs should be notified.
- AL reported that Dover Castle will only be open to public on Saturday and Sunday during the five winter months. Other days will be for particular purposes. Details are on the English Heritage website.
- MMcF would like to make a presentation to the Dover Society regarding the Dover Tattoo celebrating the Queen's Jubilee in 2012. He has a DVD to promote the plans for the tattoo and seek additional funding.
- GR gave details of a Facebook event **for women** at the Louis Armstrong.

- GH is not getting papers by email. Everyone is asked to check they have the correct email address and bring paper copies to the meeting for him.
- AS reminded the Executive Committee that the Conservative MP had promised **during the election** that Dover would have a hospital. AS asked if the Society should take this up. This was agreed and will be covered by JC.

17. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dover Society Executive will be on 08 September 2011, in St Paul's Parish Room.

9.10 meeting closed.