

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 08 September 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, Bill Naylor, Georgette Rapley, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

1. Apologies

Jack Woolford

2. Matters Arising:

Minutes from July meeting were approved, with the following amendments:

Item 12: this was a boat, not a caravan

From the July minutes:

Rifles monument – there has been no response from the Rifles Veterans Association.

DHB artefacts – the meeting was postponed but has not been rearranged.

Revised criteria for sale of Trust Ports – There will be further consultation now the Government decision on criteria has been made. JC reported that DHB would be submitting their proposals.

Port of Dover Community Trust – – the Community Trust meeting was postponed.

Kent History Federation (KHF) – This is now confirmed: the conference will be in Dover in **May** 2013, at the **Town Hall**. **The host organisation will be Friends of Dover Museum/Dover History Society**. DL is a committee member and will report progress to the next Executive Committee meeting.

Dover Tattoo - The Executive agreed that a 10 minute short presentation should be given at the October meeting.

Election promise on Dover's hospital - JC has yet to pick up the point regarding the Conservative election promise for a local hospital.

3. Chairman's Report

Dover's Heritage Open Days will be held this coming weekend and there was good coverage in local press.

MMF is seeking Society sponsorship for the Dover Tattoo, costing £50. Currently, he has 30 sponsors and gave details. This funding will be used to investigate whether the tattoo is feasible. This was agreed by the Committee (proposed TS, seconded JC).

Regarding the request to lay wreath at the unknown warrior plaque in November, previously discussed by email. AS objected to the decision taken by email and gave his concerns, requesting the subject discussed at the Executive Committee. AS proposed that DL write to Maggie Stevenson-Knight that the Executive Committee had no objection to her laying a wreath on behalf of the War Memorial Project, alongside the Society's wreath. This was agreed.

There was a discussion about comments made on the Dover Forum and AS gave details of what happened. **The existing policy was confirmed that it is for the Executive Committee to decide if and how information should be disseminated and between Executive meetings only with the permission of the Chairman.**

4. Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report.

5. Treasurer's Report.

MW gave his report, which covers two months. The financial statement was circulated previously to the Executive Committee by email.

Subscriptions received during this period amounted to £144.00, while advertising revenue from the newsletter was £35.00. There was an anonymous donation of £250 for the projects fund, while Town Hall Tours brought in £85.00.

The cost of postage for mailing Society members details of the Society's answer to the Government's request for comments on their new proposals for the sale of Trust Ports, including Dover, came to £83.27. Money spent from the Publication Fund in the last two months came to £1354.48, spent on 1130 Dover's Hidden Fortress booklets (£1240.00) and 500 Heritage Open Day leaflets (£114.48). Under miscellaneous, £134.66 was paid out for our websites for the next year. According to Mike McFarnell, this will reduce by £40 next year, when the new website is fully up and running and the old site taken down.

A claim for Gift Aid for the last financial year (2010/11) was lodged in July with HM Revenue & Customs. This has been granted and £638.44 in gift aid and £1.08 in interest has been paid into the Society's account.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

SC reported 4 new members for July/August: Barry & Diane French and Malcom & Katie Smith.

The current membership number is 1098 and the actual number of members is 446 – this is now the confirmed total. Following renewals work, about 8 have not **renewed**, while others are deceased.

Any change to the standing order to increase subscriptions may result in more non-renewals.

7. Projects

- **Cowgate** – Due to the bad weather, the team has lost some working time
- **Dour** – There will be a meeting in October.

8. Sub-committee for refurbishment of Dover

JC gave an update on various issues and reviewed minutes from his meeting with DDC's Roger Walton and Richard Pollard. These included:

Lindeman Plaque was discussed to determine responsibility – DDC or DHB.

Public Toilet facilities shift to town & parish councils. Need for toilets for visitors and residents will be a concern, especially as increased numbers expected in 2012. JC reported on contracts conditions for the toilet properties so it is likely that there will be no seafront toilets in 2012. PS raised DDC cleaning contracts, and was concerned about monitoring, which is done by the contractor.

Civil enforcement officers' duties are governed by central government. JC gave details about a scheme in Folkestone, X Force, which is empowered to give on the spot fines for littering and anti-social behaviour.

The distribution of household waste bins, due to be started shortly, was discussed and the likelihood of bins being left on pavements.

Public waste bins should include a recycling section as public waste was currently being incinerated, according to DDC.

RW suggested that the Society write to Highways Agency regarding the neglect of trees.

JC felt the meeting had been very constructive and that the Society should continue to lobby on issues it felt important. Another meeting will be arranged.

JC has another letter from Graham **Wanstall** about lighting up the town hall clock, which could cost about 6K to do. JC felt that this could be of benefit as part of the Town Hall refurbishment project and will write to GW accordingly.

JC proposed that the Executive Committee should consider the formation of a working group to deal with the proposed **national** planning regulation changes etc and encourage use of Section 215. He felt this could be incorporated into the DTC ambition plan. The timetable for comments for this

consultation process is very tight. PS gave the planning committee views. There was a discussion on the proposed planning changes and the Committee felt that there was too much emphasis on new build. The sub-group will be PS, JC, and DL if available, AS. This sub-group will look at the summaries online with approximately two meetings.

9. Town Hall Refurbishment /Tours

Guide cover every Wed in August was difficult due to holidays. The new interpretation room (History Room) in the old Courtroom was being opened next week. The Town Hall will be open every Wednesday until 31 March with tours in the morning and the History Room open in the afternoon. The Town Hall Group will now start to look at the refurbishment and will seek to influence a new operator contract regarding heritage projects. There is a need to make the public more aware of the Town Hall, and AL asked if the guided tours leaflets could be distributed to schools.

10. Social Secretary's Report

PHS reported that there are six bookings for the Christmas Feast. The costs are to be reviewed in the New Year. The Society's public meeting arrangements are in hand. The Geffrye Museum trip was cancelled due to lack of bookings. Trips for next year need to be agreed early to ensure promotion. PHS will have some ideas for the October meeting.

11. Planning & Local Government Committee

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

Regarding the DTIZ, the Planning Committee felt there is lack of clarity over DDC decisions. AS reported that ASDA had pulled out of DTIZ because DDC wanted a pay car park.

The Society has commented in six applications and PS gave details.

DL thanked PS and the Planning Committee for their work on planning issues.

MMF asked if the Planning Committee could write to St Mary's school regarding rubbish, and it was agreed to leave this for the time being as the school may take action.

12. Press Secretary's Report

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

13. Editor's Report

There was nothing to report. The Executive Committee thanked AL for the work he does on the newsletter.

14. Publications

There was nothing to report.

15. Any other business

AL – questioned the statistics for the website.

GR – gave details of the bookings for Oct and Nov.

MMF – proposed to shut down the lottery and put a notice on the website. The Executive Committee agreed.

AS – will miss Oct meeting, but will let Blakes know the meal numbers. He will email around to remind people.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dover Society Executive will be on 13 October 2011, in St Paul's Parish Room.

The meeting closed at 20.56

