

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 October 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, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

1. Apologies

Georgette Rapley, Alan Sencicle, Jack Woolford

2. Matters Arising:

Minutes from September meeting were approved.

From the September meeting:

Dover Port Community Trust – The meeting is to be arranged for November.

Rifles monument – No response from Rifles Association and the opportunity has passed. JC will send a note to Tim Brown (member) accordingly.

Kent History Federation (KHF) – Their conference is confirmed as 13 May 2013 at Dover Town Hall. The Town Hall is free, and DL gave details of the proposed agenda for the event.

Election promise on Dover's hospital – JC & DL felt that it was not appropriate to take this forward at present, as there were consultations going on into hospital care in the area. Also, time and resources required to undertake the project are not available. It was agreed to let the matter rest unless something happens.

Dover's Heritage Open Days – There were 10 places around the town open on the day, with 60 people at the Town Hall on Sat morning. Other places also reported good attendance.

Remembrance wreath-laying – Maggie Stevenson-Knight is happy about the Executive Committee's decision and has asked to say a few words about the Unknown Warrior project. DL will tell her to contact the organisers accordingly. The ceremony will be at Western Docks on 8 Nov, 9.30 for 10am. SC suggested that this should be announced at the Oct meeting.

Remembrance Sunday – DL will be laying wreath at River and TS volunteered to lay the Society's wreath at the town memorial on Remembrance Sunday. DL will notify the town council.

Town Hall clock – JC has yet to write to Graham Wanstall, regards the town hall clock. GW has also written to DL about putting £500 into the clock fund. It was felt that the preference was to support the Town Hall refurbishment, rather than an individual item.

Rubbish at St Marys School – the school has sorted this now and the area looks good.

3. Chairman's Report

Saturday 12 November – Kent Federation of Amenity Societies will be holding its conference at the Turner Centre at Margate. DL gave details. £16 per head. As DL can't go, PS & PHS will consider attending and representing the Society.

The Society could join the Kent History Federation for £12 a year allowing any Society member to attend the annual conference. This was agreed, proposed by GH, and seconded by JC.

4. Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report.

5. Treasurer's Report.

MW gave his report for October. The financial statement was circulated previously to the Executive Committee by email.

Income received during the month was: subscriptions for 2011/12 amounted to £38, with a further £6 for 2012/13 and £6 for 2013/14. There was £17.50 in donations. £38 was from advertising

revenue and £1 for the sale of a newsletter. £13.50 was from the sale of 3 newsletter binders, and quarterly interest on CAF account was £13.29. Payments made during the month: £34.27 for mailing out of area newsletters, £11.94 for stationery, etc., and £50 paid to the 2012 Dover Tattoo Fund, via Mike McFarnell, as agreed at the last meeting. Revenue from the Town Hall Tours was £140.75 for tours in August/September, and the shares gifted to the Society for the Town Hall Fund brought in a dividend of £13.75, while £3.99 was paid from the Town Hall Fund for a book required to record names of those on the tours for health & safety purposes.

MW & JC hosted the internal examiners for the Society's accounts. Two examined the accounts and have signed them. The other examiner, John Turnpenny, was unable to take part. JC proposed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Barry Late and John Widgery. This was agreed.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

SC reported there were 2 new members in October: Terry & Maureen Nunn. The last membership number is 1100 and the actual number of members is 448. SC has a poster for the November Society meeting and there was a brief discussion about places where the event could be publicised.

7. Projects

- **Cowgate** – JC reported that good progress had been made, despite the wet weather in August, and there had been 6 working parties over the last two months. JC felt there could be a problem if he were not available. He takes the required equipment to Cowgate for the working parties and he has been offered the opportunity to have a shed for storage, rather than keep removing the equipment. This would give greater flexibility. JC will look into this and report back at future meeting.
- **Dour** – nothing to report.

8. Sub-committee for refurbishment of Dover

JC gave an update on various issues and details of their last meeting.

PS has asked for three buildings to be submitted under the Section 215 of the 1990 Planning Act – for buildings that need external repair – and JC has asked members to propose other possible buildings which might benefit as PS is looking to encourage DDC to take on properties under this scheme.

Enforcement Officers duties have been raised by a Scrutiny Panel at DDC. The views raised fit with the Dover Society views on this subject.

JC reported that Roger Marples had indicated that Alison Burton had offered to help Society causes if she could be copied into the Society's correspondence. The Executive Committee would need to approve this and there was a discussion about the pros and cons of any decision. It was agreed in principle to copy correspondence where appropriate, on a case by case basis, with the Executive's approval or the chairman's between meetings.

Maureen Morris is working on the history of Dover Priory.

9. Town Hall Refurbishment /Tours

The History Room has been launched, with 40 people attending and DL had received a number of letters of thanks. The Town Hall is open all day on Wednesday with tours in the morning. Meeting of the Refurbishment Steering Group discussed the initial openings and have addressed a number of issues raised. Regarding publicity, a new leaflet has been distributed. They will also be approaching groups about private tours which could include lunch or tea etc., and also investigating what could be offered to schools. DL is speaking to people organising tours for cruise passengers. It was stressed the importance of web browsing for local events as some tourists prefer self organise local visits rather than the pre arranged tours from the cruise operators.

Re the Heritage Lottery Fund bid, the current operator lease expires at the end of March 2012 and it is not known at the moment what heritage access would be. DL gave details of possible options and is seeking a meeting with DDC to discuss this further. Once the new operator conditions have been sorted, a bid for funding can proceed.

10. Social Secretary's Report

A number of people want to go on garden trip and PHS is proposing Friday 18 May to Sissinghurst/Scotney Castle. A trip to Goldsmiths Hall in June is to be arranged. She asked that a mention regarding the Christmas Feast be made at the next meeting. The Wine & Wisdom will be held 20 February 2012 and it was agreed to increase the cost to £6 per head for food & wine. She will get costs on visiting the Brick Lane Music Hall.

There is to be a Friends of Dover Museum trip to the Cutty Sark and Greenwich Park after the Olympics in 2012, probably in September.

Blakes have ceased to provide the pre-meeting meal at short notice, so the October meeting meal has been cancelled. There is a need to find an alternative venue and there was a discussion about a suitable venue. JC suggested a buffet at St. Marys and SC gave details of how this would work. Issues such as the availability of the small hall, licensing, etc would need to be considered. AL will look at Italian restaurant in Queen street and email details.

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. There is now an exhibition on the possible developments for the DTIZ in the Library. PS reviewed the list of applications/matters arising.

JC had emailed the draft responses on the Government's Planning Regs and Business Rate changes. These were discussed. The responses were agreed and will be sent off to DDC, DTC, central government and Dover's MP.

Mrs Ellingham had written regarding tree felling at Western Heights and PS has put her in touch with the appropriate planning contact.

There is information on the DDC website regarding the Western Heights scoping study by China Gateway. PS gave details of this and there was concern about the effect on the historic areas on Western Heights and it was suggested that China Gateway be asked to attend the next Executive Committee to discuss their proposals. This was agreed and PS was asked to arrange this. DL felt there was no planning gain for the Western Heights as a tourist attraction and any preservation. PS felt these issues would be addressed by any presentation from the developers.

JC asked for any further comments to DTC on their ambition plan.

12. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report.

13. Editor's Report

Articles for the next newsletter were agreed and AL indicated that the next news letter reports are pressing.

14. Publications

There was nothing to report.

15. Any other business

The next Dover Life magazine deadline will be Christmas/ New Year and DL asked for possible subjects. It was suggested something on Western Heights might be appropriate.

Dover Community Association – TS gave details. There is a new management team and the DCA derives income from local groups and rents. As the current premises are not suitable for functions,

the new team is considering whether to sell the building and distribute money to groups who use it; extend it, or sell it and build a new centre. There was a discussion, and the Executive Committee felt that there was too much government emphasis currently on youth to the exclusion of other groups. There should be research into what the community wants, canvassed from its current users.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Dover Society Executive will be on 10 November and will begin at 7pm (to be confirmed by email), in St Paul's Parish Room.

The meeting closed at 21.15