

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 November 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

Presentation

Rob Prince Operations Manager, China Gateway International PLC attended the meeting and gave a presentation regarding the proposals for the development of the Western Heights & Farthingloe site. A number of questions were raised by members of the committee. A copy of the presentation is available from the chairman.

2. Matters Arising:

Minutes from October meeting were approved.

Matters arising from the October minutes:

Dover Port Community Trust – The **long awaited** meeting **would be** held at the Marina Hotel on 17 November.

Remembrance wreath-laying – The wreath **at the town memorial** was laid by TS and DL had laid the **wreath at the Unknown Warrior plaque together with relatives of one such unknown warrior.**

Kent Federation of Amenity Societies conference at the Turner Centre at Margate – This will be the coming Saturday and PS was attending .

Society's Accounts – JC has sent letters to the auditors who checked the Society accounts, and **DL had thanked the internal auditors.**

Kent History Federation (KHF) - A cheque has been sent for membership for the Society.

3. Chairman's Report

The death of John Turnpenny was noted.

There was nothing further to report, as some items were covered above.

4. Secretary's Report

BN reminded the Committee that the December meeting was on the first Thursday of the month.

5. Treasurer's Report.

MW gave his report for November. The financial statement was circulated previously to the Executive Committee by email. **[NOTE: I HAVE MISLAID Mike's notes so have asked for another copy] .**

6. Membership Secretary's Report

SC reported there were 4 new members in November. The last membership number is 1104 and the actual number of members is 451. SC asked for comments about the Christmas raffle prize (quality food and drink). Donations from committee members required asap and SC will buy any extra items to make up the prizes.

7. Projects

- **Cowgate** – The Working Group is making good progress. Servicing costs on the equipment are likely to cost £300. MW asked what the situation would be when the projects fund is empty. JC will look at fundraising.
- **Dour** – Environment Agency continue to work on the river and JC gave details. Main concern was that the White Cliffs Project funding is coming to an end and this may mean **no clean-ups** in future. Wellington Dock **will be drained** while the DHB work on the lock gates.
- **Blue Plaques** – English Heritage have asked for information about the blue plaques in Dover. JC will be responding.

8. Sub-committee for refurbishment of Dover

JC gave details of the last meeting of the committee. He reported that the committee supported the work that PS and the planning committee were doing on Section 215. There are six consultations ranging from shop fronts in conservation areas to mineral and waste sites, and PS suggested that the Society should be aware and comment on them. It was agreed that a sub-committee should be set up to consider these. JC & PS will work on this along with anyone else from the committee who would like to volunteer.

JC will write to Morrisons and Dover Town Council (DTC) regarding the litter along the Dour. AS reported that this area has been cleaned up and looks good.

JC has been discussing the need for a decent path from Langdon Cliffs to the Bleriot Memorial. MW has already taken this up with Kent PROW. He walked the path recently and notices have been put up there closing the pathway. The path was apparently extinguished in 1973 when the Jubilee Way road was built. Therefore, the Society should campaign for a new pathway, working with English Heritage and National Trust.

JC gave details of why the water levels in the Dour were low at present.

9. Town Hall Refurbishment /Tours

The first group tour has taken place and DL gave details. Tour Fund earned £55 from this. DL has an enquiry from a company in Dorchester for a tour in March. Next steering group meeting presentation from Ms Leach to share her experiences in arranging group guided tours.

Town Hall Lease renewal – DDC is seeking to extend the current lease for 2/3 years **to enable the future of the building and its use to be incorporated in any new lease.**

10. Social Secretary's Report

Bookings are trickling in for the Christmas Feast and PHS will review figures first week in December. Regarding the proposed trip to Goldsmiths Hall, PHS has details of tours which run during the period Oct – March. October or March was considered as a potential date, with October 2012 suggested. The Brick Lane Music Hall trip, provisionally booked for September, might have to move.

GR gave details of the speakers for the Society meetings. Slots for the meetings to the end of March have been booked. AL noted there was only one more newsletter between now and March, so trip details are needed urgently for the next newsletter.

The replacement for Blakes has been sorted. Guests and members are now dining at Il Rustico, Bench Street, for a trial period.

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. PS gave brief details of the meeting that he and DL had with Dover District Council (DDC) about the DTIZ. No information has been received on DHB's response to the Public Bodies bill, which is going through Parliament. The Localism Bill does not have anything **to** replace Section 215. Development of the old ABC cinema in Castle Street is on hold as Weatherspoons is awaiting news on the DTIZ. The application for Coombe Valley Road gives concern and PS reported on the comments.

Re Section 215, PS reported on how Hastings Council is using this to drive regeneration. DDC say they can not do it because of high legal costs. However, this appears not to be the case at Hastings. The Society (via Refurbishment Group) is working with DTC and DDC to identify potential buildings for Section 215. Hopefully, the DTC budget for Section 215 will remain.

12. Press Secretary's Report

TS reported that he had received criticism about an article on the Society's speaker from the Dover Museum, reported in the Dover Express, and gave details. In future, TS suggested that any final arrangements letter contains a sentence about local press reporting. This was agreed. Now all speakers will be asked to confirm no objections to a report on their speech going onto the website, newsletter, video recording and press reporting. DL will respond to the complaint discussed. DL will also consider the wording covering permissions and pass to GR.

AL has a request from "Talking Newspapers" for permission to read the Society's newsletters. There were no objections, and this was agreed.

13. Editor's Report

The December newsletter is ready to go to print. TS will review DL's new book.

14. Publications

There was nothing to report.

15. Any other business

Dover Film Festival - MMcF asked if the Dover Society wanted to rerun the advert they put into last year's Film Festival programme. Cost £35. This was agreed. SC will review the ad and submit the details to MMcF.

Dover Tattoo - MMcF gave details of the Dover Tattoo. The grant from the MOD has been reported in the Dover Express.

Recycling – AS reported that the cost of aluminium was currently £14000 a tonne for manufacturing, but only £700 from recycled material. Therefore the Society should encourage can recycling.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be 1 December 2011, at 7.30pm, in St Paul's Parish Room.