

THE DOVER SOCIETY.

Minutes of the executive committee held on April 12th 2012 at St Paul's Parish Room.

Present: Derek Leach (chairman), Jeremy Cope (vice-chairman), Sheila Cope, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Jean Morris, Bill Naylor (secretary), Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Mike Weston (treasurer), Mike McFarnell and Terry Sutton.

Apologies: There were no registered apologies apart from Jack Woolford.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on March 9th 2012 were accepted as correct apart from one minor change.

Matters Arising: Jeremy Cope reported he had written to Mr Wanstall about the Town Hall clock and Mrs Wilkes.

Chairman's report: The chairman reported receipt of a letter from Mr Tim Brown regarding safety conditions at the pedestrian access to Samphire Hoe. It was agreed members of the refurbishment committee should make a visit to ascertain any danger. The chairman reported receipt of a letter from Mr Kelvin Carter objecting to the proposal to erect a "rearing horse" statue on the hills on the approach to Dover. The letter was noted and it was agreed to await a planning application before taking any action.

An invitation had been received from Brigadier Maurice and Wendi Atherton to an "At Home" in the summer. The committee suggested the dates should be either July 1st (best) or June 24th.

There was considerable debate regarding an application from a member who wished to put a motion before the April AGM. The secretary pointed out that this late application had received no notification on the AGM agenda sent to all members and the constitution made no provision for members' motions. It was agreed that the member's application to put the motion should be declined but the member be informed that her submission to the Executive, regarding a possible development at the Western Heights, would be considered at the appropriate time (when a planning application had been submitted). It was accepted that others were also likely to express their views at that time and a special general meeting might be advisable. It was agreed to consider amending the constitution. There were no votes recorded against these decisions.

Secretary's report: Bill Naylor reported receipt of copies of The Deal Society's newsletters.

Treasurer's report: Captain Weston reported that, as instructed, £80 had been donated to Crabble Corn Mill Trust from the Wine and Wisdom evening. Despite a good attendance the March meeting made a loss of £67.98 with raffle takings down to £76. Our insurance company had agreed to provide cover again for the next 12 months at a cost of £251.91 (a slight increase).

Quarterly interest on the Caf account was £13.18.

Membership Secretary's report: Mrs Sheila Cope reported membership at 457. New members-Philip Headon, Stephen and Susan Yarrow, Miss Emma Smith and Mrs Sheila Judah.

Projects report: Jeremy Cope gave a report on progress at Cowgate and that the first of the season's clearance of the Dour was scheduled for April 27th.

Refurbishment committee report: It was agreed to take no action on a suggestion to "list" the sea front toilets near Harbour House. Jeremy Cope told of a possible approach to the Heritage Lottery Fund for financial help towards the cost of repairs to Connaught Park pond. He also reported that a meeting was to be held to submit an

application for funding for a safe path linking the Castle, Northfall Meadow (Bleriot site) and Langdon Cliffs.

Town Hall refurbishment: Derek Leach told of an increase in groups touring Dover Town Hall with 37 Rotarians recently and 40 Belgians soon to visit. Since the society began the tours last May there had been about 500 visitors with more than £500 taken in fees. A heritage wish list had been created for the restoration and future use of the Town Hall. No consultant had yet been appointed.

Social Secretary's report: Mrs Hooper-Sherratt told of views received about future Christmas Feasts and that the Sissinghurst and Scotney Castle visit (May 18th) was already in profit.

The Chairman submitted a list of possible future speakers on subjects including the Cinque Ports, St Margaret's archives, the Dover-based hovercraft, Walmer Castle, Duke of York's RM School, the railway war in Kent, regeneration projects. Other suggestions were also made.

It was agreed to buy a replacement projector stand for about £25.

Planning and Local Government: Pat Sherratt warned that the £20 million ring fenced for the rebuild of Buckland Hospital could run out in 2013. He also reported on the latest position regarding the proposed development on the Western Heights.

Press Secretary's report: Nothing significant.

Editor's report: Alan Lee said the deadline for the July newsletter would be May 16th.

Any Other Business:

It was agreed to make £50 available to buy a Dover Society publicity stand.

It was also agreed to make enquiries regarding a Society plaque in memory of Dr. Koettlitz.

It was agreed that up to £70 could be spent to speed up the transfer of data from the old website to the new.

The Chairman would make an appeal at the AGM for a raffle organiser, minutes' secretary and speakers' secretary.

It was noted that John Morgan had joined the internal audit team.

Date of next meeting: May 10th.