

## **The Dover Society**

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 May 2012  
at Saint Paul's Parish room, Dover

### **Present**

Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope (Vice Chairman), Sheila Cope, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Bill Naylor (Secretary) Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Mike Weston (Treasurer) and Terry Sutton.

Two new members, Susan Jones and Diane French were welcomed.

Yvonne Miller was warmly welcomed as the new Minutes Secretary

### **1. Apologies**

There were no registered apologies.

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2012 were approved with one amendment, Jean Marsh pointed out her surname was incorrect.

### **3. Matters Arising**

The invitation received from Brigadier Maurice and Wendi Atherton to an "At Home" has been extended to include Di French and Sue Jones (and partners). The confirmed date is Sunday 24 June 2012 from noon.

It was agreed to consider amending the constitution to allow motions to the AGM from members. JC was asked to draft amendment.

A replacement projector stand has been purchased.

The new Dover Society publicity stand will be suitable for inside use only. We now need to draft the content and the Chairman will circulate a first draft.

Chris Tutthill has agreed to transfer the data from the old website to the new for £70.00.

A Society plaque in memory of Dr. Koettlitz was agreed. JC to action.

Denise Lee has agreed to be raffle organiser. New member, Lara Pimblett, is an event organiser and has offered to help as the speakers' secretary.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had attended another working group meeting to consider provisional arrangements for a Port of Dover Community Trust. A Trustee of the Northern Rock Foundation offered her valuable experience. She recommended that there should be a board of 9 Trustees and all should be totally independent, not representing any organisation. The Dover Harbour Board has no power to establish a trust, as this will lie with the new owners who also would decide on the process to appoint trustees.

Bishop Trevor, the working party chairman, had suggested that following his discussions with the Dover Port People's Trust, he had come to the conclusion that when DHB's revised proposals are available for consultation that it would be useful if the working group could submit the view that a community beneficial trust should be a requirement for any future owner of the port since in his view this was the only way to guarantee benefit for the local community. Each organisation represented on the working party would need to consider whether it could support such a view.

The Chairman with others had met a DHB Representative to discuss opening the Gun Turret on

the Admiralty Pier to the public at least once a year and up to 4 times a year. At the AGM there were concerns about the lack of sea front toilets. The Chairman had subsequently put a question to Dover Town Council. There are funds for refurbishment and the East Cliff toilets will open, although DTC are open to offers to manage them.

A request has been made from the Western Heights community to be recognised as Braddon village with a suitable sign. As it does not have a parish council it is unlikely that a road sign would be erected but a historic panel could be considered but it would depend on the cost. Chairman to make enquires.

The Society has received more suggestions for blue plaques. One is for a Commander C H Lightoller. He was part of the Dover Patrol in WW1 and lodged at 8 East Cliff in Dover. Others were to mark the River Tram accident in 1917 and Old St. James' Churchyard.

### **5. Secretary's report**

Nothing to report.

### **6. Treasurer's report**

The Financial Statement for the first month of this financial year, 2012/2013 had been circulated to committee members. Subscriptions received during the last month of this financial year amounted to £1676.00 and a donation £6.00 was received. The Town Hall fund received £106.00 from the Town Hall tours. Advertising revenue received from advertisers in our Newsletter amounted to £375.00. A payment of £695.00 was made to Adam's Printers for printing of the March Newsletter and a further £50.32 was spent posting 'out of area' newsletters. Last month we spent £29.42 on stationery and £76.32 on postage. The postage cost was mainly due to buying in postage stamps in advance of the horrendous price increase. The publication fund received £10.00 from the sale of one book and £4.00 from the sale of two Society badges. Under miscellaneous a cheque for £37.00 was sent to the Royal British Legion in payment for two wreaths for Remembrance Day services in November. This is always sent early. A payment of £17.99 was made renewing parts on our lapel microphone and a further £29.98 buying in a projector stand as agreed at our last meeting. A payment of £44.78 from our projects fund for servicing of strimmers. The AGM accounts are completed and they show a surplus of £55.00 due to an excellent raffle that brought in a sum of £131.00.

The outing to Sissinghurst is also showing a profit. This concludes the financial statement for April 2012.

£80.00 has been collected to date for Jack Woolford's future presentation.

### **7. Membership Secretary's Report**

The last number allocated is 1131. We have 14 new members bringing the total to 472. The new members are: Mrs G Blythe Mr Derek Vincent Miss Denise Lee, the editor's daughter, writing for the newsletter. Mr Charles Nelson Mrs Julie Dean, teacher /local history Ms Lara Pimblett, event planning Ms Joanna Jones, Dover Arts Development Ltd. Ms Clare Smith, involved with Watermark Mrs Kate Marsh Mr Simon Mills Mr Christopher and Mrs Sylvia Parsons. He is a builder and specialises in building conservation, Mr Michael Scanlon, Accountancy, booking, admin. Miss Sharon Mackintosh. There are still a number of subscriptions not yet paid.

## **8. Projects**

**Cowgate:** This project is ongoing.

**River Dour:** There is a sewage leak in the river so there has been no clearance past Morrison's supermarket.

**River Dour Steering Group:** River walk by Buckland Paper mill. A letter has been sent to the developer to make them aware of interest. There is very little funding from the Environment Agency. No progress with Crabble Mill Pond silt. Two tons of litter was removed from Wellington Dock and further dredging is planned. Re the drought

Veolia may be required to pump water into the Dour and signs of dead fish or algae should be reported. The Chairman of Temple Ewell Parish Council had objected to an article in the Newsletter stating that Temple Ewell had decided not to contribute to the cost of clearing litter from the Dour.

**Town Hall refurbishment:** No progress in appointing a consultant due to pressure of work at DDC. The guided tours continue but the publicity leaflets are out of date and new version delayed by DDC.

**Heritage open day scheme:** We will participate again this year with 10 properties. Agreed purchase from the Publication Fund of 500 leaflets.

**Special Edition of the Newsletter for the 25 year anniversary of the Society:** It will be about 19000 words long (32 pages) plus more pages for some illustrations from old newsletters. As this is an extra addition the Chairman asked do we allow our normal adverts to be put in free or ask for an extra fee or omit adverts to minimise cost? AL, JC and TS to comment on text, content and layout.

## **9. Refurbishment Committee Report**

A meeting was held on 14 May to submit an application for funding for a safe path linking the Castle, Bleriot site and Langdon Cliffs. Help will be required in clearing the road and path of litter. Signage will also be required.

The cost of repairing Connaught Pond is £20K to £80K. DDC to put in application to Heritage Lottery Fund.

DTC, DDC and DHB are cooperating to reopen East Cliff toilets on the seafront.

## **10. Social Secretary's Report**

The response to the survey sent out about the Christmas Feast was disappointing. To date only 13 members responded. It was agreed to have a lunch time meal at the College on 15 December 2012. The meal will be cold. The entertainment is to be decided. Steve Yarrow trio was suggested. The cost is not yet known. Speakers have been secured for October and November meetings.

## **11. Planning and Local Government**

PS had circulated a report of various planning issues prior to the meeting. PS attended a DDC planning committee earlier and informed us that planning permission had been given for the DTIZ project. The retail outlets will be built first then the residential. The Maison Dieu Lodge Hostel application refused by DDC has gone to appeal. We shall maintain need for 24 hour support. Pennyfarthing Guest House application for change of use: this would appear to be another attempt to provide a hostel under the guise of a single residential dwelling. Western Heights planning application was expected on Friday 11 May.

AS read a press cutting from 2010 in which the Society had objected to the possible inclusion of the Western Heights in list of sites for possible future development and asked what had changed to make the Society change its policy. The Chairman stated that whilst everybody would much prefer the Western Heights to be protected, conserved and promoted without the need for any financial support from developers, this may be the only way that the Heights have any chance of long term survival in a reasonable state. Therefore, the Society is now prepared to give serious consideration to any reasonable proposal and then decide whether the benefits for the Ancient Monument would be sufficient to outweigh any drawbacks

### **12. Press Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report.

### **13. Editor's report**

The deadline for July's newsletter is 15 May and Alan awaits reports.

### **14. Any Other Business**

Tattoo fun day. We have a large gazebo and display board for the Dover Society and Friends of the Castle to share from 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday 2 June. AL will supply material for display.

AS complained about off street cleaning. He was informed of a law that compels private land owners (and, in problems he quoted, of DDC as landowner) to clear the litter.

Jack Woolford presentation: it was agreed that we should stick to the kindle idea.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 14 June 2012, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Room.