

The Dover Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 September 2012 at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chair), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Di French, Glyn Hale, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Susan Jones, Mike McFarnell, William Naylor, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton.

1. Apologies

Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Mick Weston.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as correct

3. Matters Arising

The CGI submission was sent off.

The Society's submission on the DHB privatisation scheme was off to the Secretary of State for Transport.

Views on DDC draft Heritage strategy were submitted.

In AOB, Di French was asking for support in persuading the Health Centre to tidy up the grounds around the building. A letter was sent with little response. However, weed killer has been sprayed, which has not improved the outlook.

Brigadier Mike Atherton made the presentation to Jack Woolford at his Nursing home.

Pat Sherratt is to pursue EH and DDC over Western Heights neglect.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman of DHB, Roger Mountford, asked for a meeting to explain what the word "distrust" meant, which appeared several times in the Society's submission. It was explained that it is highly felt view of the people of Dover (whether justified or not). We discussed our concerns over privatisation and in return he went on to talk about the pressures they have with the ferry companies and the need to reduce costs.

A big clean up of Dover has been organised on Saturday 15 September, starting in Pencester Gardens.

Sylvia Parsons has requested funding from the Society to buy winter plants for the town centre. She has obtained £250 and funding from DTC of 7 holly trees and is asking for a further £250. It was agreed to give encouragement to continue to improve the environment so it was decided that the Society would give £125 pm yjr understanding that the Hoteliers will also give £125. If this were not sufficient Sylvie could ask or more.

DTC has requested volunteers to help with the cataloguing of many photographs and documents. It was agreed to put it to the Society's members at the next meeting.

5. Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

The report covers two months since the last meeting in July.

Money received:

Subscriptions received £141.00 for this financial year, plus £20.00 for next year.

The Town Hall fund received £243.38 for Town Hall tours.

Received £593.97 from HMRC for repayment of gift aid and tax on Reckitt Benckiser shares.

A member of the Society, who wishes to remain anonymous, has made a donation £250.00 to the projects fund. Jeremy Cope has sent a letter of thanks.

Money paid out:

Under awards and presentations, £120.00 for presentation to Jack Woolford. This money was collected from Members and completely balanced the expenditure.

Heritage Open Day, £95.99 paid from the publication fund to pay for leaflets advertising the event.

Mike McFarnell was paid £102.94 for our website costs. A further £70.00 paid, as agreed by the committee, to Mr Chris Tutthill who is helping Mike to set up our new website.

The July newsletter, £695.00 paid to Adam Printers, with an additional £60.94 for postage of the sending the newsletter to members out of the area. Printing and stationery costs £105.94. This is mainly for sending out to member's information on the Western Heights future proposed developments.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Two members have died, Roger Marples and Ian Tomlinson. We have two new members, Mr Chris Mowles and Mrs Gisela Mowles of South Road, Dover. Last number allocated 1134, new members 2, Total number of members 445.

8. Projects

- **Cowgate.** Mowing sessions during September and October.
- **River Dour.** Meeting in mid October. Jeremy will stop being part of River working party next year. He needs one or two members from the Society to join and a request to be made at next Society meeting.
- **No. 1 walk.** The grant application was not successful. Looking at a way to walk the path without funding. May have to go to DTC for money to progress.
- **Heritage Open Days.** Held on 8/9 September was a success. The total figures not yet known, but 50 visitors to DTC and 37 to St Radigunds Abbey.
- **25th Anniversary of Dover Society.** Text and illustrations virtually ready. Agreed that it will be an additional newsletter with no advertisers. Suggested we look for sponsor who also may have a significant anniversary. Jeremy to approach London Fancy Box.

9. Refurbishment

- **Section 215.** Progress continues. About 50% of recipients of letters have either taken action or have informed DDC when action will be taken. There are 70 on the list and a second warning letter to be sent to those who have not responded. Society has been asked by DDC to look at other properties, in particular 64 properties in Folkestone Road, where photographs have already been taken. Listed building near Priory Station is the Air Raid Warden post and the area around it needs to be kept tidy outside.
- Connaught Park. DDC are committed to repairing the pond.
- Priory article. Maureen Morris has done a good job.
- Articles to be written about Western Heights and Farthingloe
- Zero Tolerance – DDC action plan awaited
- Pathways. Difficult to get a reply from KCC. The trees are a flood control.
- Connaught Road footpath dispute. Ongoing
- Support requested for better quality carnival. Agreed the day of carnivals has now past. There is no money for voluntary groups who collect aluminium cans. Suggest they are taken to scrap metal merchants in Coombe Valley. It was felt that members' views should be taken into account in the reorganisation of hospitals etc? Need for a Society spokesman to be put to members to next Society meeting.

10 Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The guided tours have taken over £1000.00 from 700 visitors. During July and August the greeters at the port informed cruise passengers about the guided tours of the Town Hall. This was not a success. Although passengers came to the Town Hall they did not want to pay for a guided tour. It is the 1st anniversary of the History room and now that the Tourist Information office has left the Town Hall we now want to open the prison cells to the public.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The coach is full for the trip to Goldsmiths Hall in October. Christmas Lunch, 50 places booked so far. Now planning outings for next year. Derek has booked speakers up to April 2013. Need for a speaker secretary to be put to next meeting.

12. Planning

There is no meeting next week. We are looking to replace Roger Marples for Dover, Pauline Berisford for River and Temple Ewell and we need someone for Whitfield.

Applications.

The outside seating at 4 Bench Street on the pavement. Need to look at the policy for using the pavement for seating. Second application by Dominos at 40 Pencester Road, but want their scooters parked on the pavement. Holland and Barrett applied to put up new signage. It does not fulfill the guidelines laid down by DCC for a conservation area. Pat will speak against it under the 3-minute rule. Alcohol problems and parking of vehicles on pavements - response from Sgt. Baker stating they are targeting alcohol problems in the town. Apparently it is not illegal to park on the pavement except in London but it is illegal to drive on the pavement! The police intend to put educational letters on offending cars and if no action taken, the police will use enforcement.

13. Press Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

The new deadline for next Newsletter is now 17 September.

15. Publications

There was nothing to report

16. Any Other Business

Dover Life magazine – article required by 10 October for Dover Society. Action – Derek.

Mike requested £50.00 for advert for Dover Film Festival programme. Agreed.

Mike will be selling Dover Tattoo merchandise at the Society's meeting in October.

There were 505 visitors to St Mary's Church when it was recently opened to visitors (combination of Heritage Open Day and Church Cycling fundraiser).

Dover Castle will be closed during the week from October to March but visitors can apply to go on pre-booked tours.

The seating, bollards and litter bins in the town centre have been painted blue.

The story of the complainant from Maison Dieu Road whose planning application was refused and subsequent appeal dismissed, receiving £10000 compensation from DTC is not correct.

No compensation has been paid.