

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 8 November 2012
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chair), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Di French, Glyn Hale, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Susan Jones, Jean Marsh, William Naylor, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

1. Apologies and resignation

Apologies from Mike McFarnell and Yvonne Miller (minutes taken by Barbara Stapleton)

2. Minutes of last meeting

Item 12, under **Western Heights** - "English Heritage and DDC have revised plans". This should read "Plans from EH and DDC are awaited". The date of the next meeting was incorrectly shown as the 9th November. With these amendments, the minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

- **Brighter Dover** – DL sent information to Sylvie Parsons, who thanked him and said that the Brighter Dover group would remain independent for the time being.
- **Di French** – DL contacted DF and she is happy to continue as a member of the committee.
- **London Fancy Box** – Email was sent by JC and has resulted in a letter to Christopher Lawson re sponsorship of 25th Anniversary Newsletter.
- **Hippodrome Plaque** – JC has suggested to Lorraine Sencicle that she should contact John Iveson about this.
- **Banners** – DL has spoken to suppliers re costs and gave details. SJ offered to speak to a local supplier for an inclusive price.

4. Chairman's Report

- DL noted that DHB has donated £200,000 towards the White Cliffs purchase, despite the claimed limitations of being a Trust Port.
- He attended the Western Docks Remembrance Service and laid the Society's wreath at the Dover Society plaque to the Unknown Warrior. There was a brief discussion about the re-use of poppy wreaths that are still in good condition. Next year, the re-roofing of the Marine Station may not be completed in time, so it was suggested that the Dover Society lays its wreath either at the Duke of York's substitute ceremony.
- There have been no takers for the roles advertised particularly that of Speaker Organiser. DF offered to look at what was involved and see if she could fill this role.
- Charlie Elphicke's article in the Dover Express/Dover Mercury regarding the recent Dover Hospital decision did not acknowledge the work of Lorraine Sencicle in this campaign. AS has written to the papers mentioning this and asked if the Society would also consider writing to the paper about this omission. While the committee acknowledged that Lorraine had done a magnificent job on the Hospital campaign, the Society was non-political and could not be involved. However, if committee members felt strongly they should write to the papers as individuals.
- There followed a wider discussion about engaging in discussions with local authorities on regeneration matters. AS raised the issue of high rail costs from Dover, and the lack of special deals and advanced rail fares. He gave a number of examples. DL suggested that the Society could write to support AS on this issue, but he felt this was unnecessary..

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary had nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

Figures have been circulated by email to committee members prior to the meeting. The Town Hall Fund received £151.22 from tours and a further £14.00 from a dividend on shares held in that fund. A donation of £50.00 was made to the Dover Film festival in return for an entry on their festival programme. Under miscellaneous, £18.50 was received from the

Dover Royal Navy & Royal Marine Club for the purchase of one of the Poppy Remembrance wreaths held by the Society and which was replaced at a cost of £17.00.

The October indoor meeting made a £7.03 deficit. The raffle takings came to £99.00. The outing to London turned in a profit of £221.00, thanks to PHS being able to fill the coach.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

SC reported that there was one new member Mrs L Dimech of the Gateway. Last membership number issued was 1135, while the actual total of members is now 445.

Postage increased for the last newsletter as some for St Margaret's were sent by post. AS offered to distribute newsletters there in future. SC thanked him for his help.

JC reported that Jack Woolford was well and has upgraded to an iPad, as the Kindle was too small to use, but is enjoying the Society gifts.

8. Projects

- **Cowgate** – Rain has affected the clearing progress.
- **River Dour** – Meeting held on 17 October, some EA work has been cancelled, as the Agency is concentrating on flood control. Crabble Pond silting is still a battle without EA support. JC reported that DTC will not be funding White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (WCCP) work in future and he has been asked to write to interested parties to help prepare a business case for resources. JC clarified: DDC will continue to fund WCCP, but the litter clearance on the river is the responsibility of the individual property owners, unless there were flood issues.
- **No 1 walk path** – Kent Path will be asked to improve the pathway, and the working group, led by JC, will request a style kit over the barrier and appropriate signage. A group of volunteers will be needed to maintain the route. AS asked if the recent purchase by the NT would help encourage the signposting of the path. JC will add this to his correspondence.
- **Charlton House Plaque** – No progress to report.
- **Castle Street** – JC gave details of the recent Section 215 work with Jim McEwan. The Castle Street Society is looking at reforming with constitution etc and JC asked if the Dover Society should consider joining this as an associate member. This was discussed, and it was agreed partnership and co-operation rather than membership was the best way forward.
- **TV dishes on buildings in East Cliff** – This is a key area for visitors arriving in Dover and it was suggested that Section 215 may be an option. PS gave an update on Section 215. Emphasis is currently on the Folkestone Road but the East Cliff area could be the next area for consideration.

9. Refurbishment

JC presented his report. The next meeting will be on 12 November. He has emailed Lorraine about the Hippodrome plaque (see above). The Society has been asked if it would make a donation to the recent work on planting outside St Edmund's chapel. This was refused.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

DL gave a brief update.

11. Social Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report. PHS reminded everyone that raffle prizes are still required for the Christmas Feast.

12. Planning

The minutes from the recent Planning meeting were circulated to committee members prior to this meeting.

ABC Cinema - Concern was expressed about the plans and the state of the old cinema.

DDC now want to serve Section 215 letters and PS will be looking at these properties with Jim McEwan.

Folkestone Road – this is an area which requires greater effort and PS hopes that the joint work of DDC and the Society continues next year. SJ reported that DDC appears to be very committed to this project. PS is also talking to KCC about the ARP Warden Post.

13. Press Secretary's Report.

There have been a number of articles in the local press.

14. Editor's Report.

There was nothing to report. Committee thanked AL on the recent newsletter.

15. Publications

There was nothing to report.

16. Any other business

TS reported that work on the DTC archives is going well. Some of the pictures that he can't identify are being featured in the local paper. This has been very successful.

PS reported on his recent contact with Kent Police. When antisocial behaviour is reported, incidents are logged under 101. This gives a log number and PS asked all members to report any incident to the Police, copying him with the information and the log number. Kent Police are allocating resources on a demand basis so the higher the demand, the greater the resources.

SJ has prepared an advertising poster for the Society and offered a draft for comment.

AS reported that there were 18 people at the last pre-meeting dinner and will be circulating the menu for the next one.

JC reported on a recent letter to DDC from Graham Wanstall under the Freedom of Information Act. He has requested information and copies of correspondence between DDC and the Society regarding Connaught Park. JC will reply.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 6 December 2012, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover. Note: this is the first Thursday of December. SL and DF offered their apologies for this meeting.