

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 6 December 2012
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

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

1. Apologies and resignation

Apologies from Mike Weston and Di French

2. Minutes of last meeting

In the Chairman's report, 2nd item should read, "the wreath should be at the Duke of York's substitute ceremony." With this amendment the minutes were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

- **London Fancy Box** – A contribution of £375, estimated to be half the costs, has been received. JC has sent a thank you letter.
- **Banners** – DL has found a website that does pop up banners costing £39.50 each. The artwork will cost £25.00. The draft designs of the banners were circulated for comment. It was suggested the society's website address be checked and add a ghost background colour to remove the stark white. Agreed to go ahead to purchase 2 banners.
- **Posters** – The draft design of the updated posters were circulated for comment. It was suggested to change the font and weekends to days. We can print off the posters as and when required. The posters would need to be laminated and AL offered to do this.
- **EKHUFT** – A response by the society was made to DDC about the Scoping Document for the new health facility. Copy of letter circulated to members on 3 December.
- **Connaught Park** – The reply received by JC about cycle path has been passed on to PS.

4. Chairman's Report

- Diane Smallwood, former Mayor of Dover, has died. The funeral service is at St Mary's Parish Church, Dover at 10.30 am, on Monday 17 December.
- DHB were contacted in May about opening the Admiralty gun turret. A reply has been received giving reasons why it seems impossible. The reasons are based on its poor condition, health and safety and access. It was agreed that the Chairman should pursue this further as it is a scheduled monument.

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.

- Monies received this month are:
Subscription, £6.00, Advertising revenue £38.00, Town Hall tours £22.00 which was added to Town Hall Fund.
- Monies paid out this month are:
Adams Printers for November Newsletter £695.00, Postage of newsletter out of the area £76.02, Postage stamps £6.00, Printing inserts in newsletter £8.42.
The renewal of a strimmer was £30.00, taken from the projects fund.

The November meeting made a loss of £33.40. The raffle made £96.00, tea and coffee receipts £11.79, the cost of meals for speakers £43.90.

The Marina Hotel was paid £1759.46 for our Christmas lunch function 4 weeks before the event.

In October we received a further 25 Reckitt Benckiser shares from the same donor who in 2008 gave us 25 shares in the same company. They still wish to remain anonymous. The donor again has requested that we do not sell the shares, but keep them for as a long-term investment, and use them; together with the dividends they make, for a long-term project. The first set of shares were used to set up the Town Hall fund. I suggest these further shares be added to this fund but this is for the committee to decide. The chairman has written a thank you letter to the donor on behalf of the society.

Every year we have to make a return to the Charity Commission with an update of the previous year's receipts and payments together with an update of the trustees. This has been done for our financial year ending 31 March 2012. In the declaration on page 11 we have certified "the information provided was correct" and "it had been or would be brought to the attention of all the trustees". A copy of the report was passed around the committee and all agreed that the information was correct.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have lost one member, Dorothy Smith. The number of members remain the same, last membership number issued was 1135, while the actual total of members is now 445.

8. Projects

- **Cowgate** – We have been given an old mower. No further work will be carried for this year and we will start again in January.
- **River Dour** – The River Dour Steering Group will act as facilitator for councils getting together in the hope of financing voluntary litter clearances. DDC and River Parish will participate but not heard from DTC and JC to contact Temple Ewell Parish Council. The group will be responsible for cleaning up the river.
- **No 1 walk path** – JC contacted Stephanie of Kent Highways who said she couldn't officially give permission to clear pathway, and as long as she is not informed, go ahead and do it. She will contact Colin Finch to provide hard core to get pathway started.
- **Plaques** - Charlton House Plaque no progress to report. A plaque for the tram accident has also been suggested. Agreed that we should compile a comprehensive list of possible plaques at next meeting.
- **Castle Street** – JC emailed the Castle Street Society to inform them the society would agree to a partnership and co-operation rather than membership.

9. Refurbishment

There is to be a zero tolerance on litter and dog fouling for six months in the district with more emphasis on the town centres. It needs a balanced approach but cigarette butts will probably be the main target. Waste storage is still a problem in Folkestone Road and the problem is endemic in this area. DDC do not have the resources to police the cleaning contract effectively but would welcome reports of any issues from the public. There is a problem with litter around the TV in the Market Square. There is another problem with the stickers handed out by EH at the Castle and SJ agreed to write to EH.

R Walkden has resigned from the sub committee. A thank you was given for his work on the committee.

Sylvie Parsons had given an update on her projects.

Acknowledgment from KCC about the ARP Warden's post received and agreed to meet the next time they are in the area.

The Barton path is too narrow for pedestrians and cyclists and not sure what will happen.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

DL gave a brief update. Requests are often made for post cards of the stained windows. We have been offered a special price for producing post cards at £59 per 1000. It was agreed to purchase 6000 at a cost of £360, which will come out of the Town Hall fund.

11. Social Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report.

12. Planning

- **S215** – on going action and report circulated to committee members.
- **DTIZ – Test drilling** has commenced on site.
- **ABC Cinema** – No further progress to report.
- **Western Heights** – Dialogue between developers, DCC and EH but no date for submission of plans.
- **Regeneration sites** – No development planned for Connaught Barracks and may be rented out to MOD.

Dover had a problem with one bedroom flats and HMO's. The London Boroughs may be looking at Dover for these types of properties.

DDC does not have a planning policy for traders using the pavement for trading and there is no satisfactory answer.

The Conservation Area document was used successfully by planning to reject a shop front signage submitted by Holland and Barrett. The company has now complied with it and their new signage agreed.

13. Press Secretary's Report.

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report.

The deadline for next newsletter is 16 January 2013. The special 25th anniversary newsletter and the March edition will go out together

15. Publications

There was nothing to report.

16. Any other business

DL has a spare copy of the Cinque Ports DVD for £10.

Mike McFarnell requires help with the website as he cannot manage it by himself. It was suggested that the society open a Face book account. SJ agreed to do this. There is a problem transferring details of the old website to the new. Suggested both sites be looked at to check accuracy of changeover (AL later offered to assist) and discuss any problems at the next meeting.

SJ showed a draft map of Dover to be produced by DTC for comments.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 13 January 2013, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover