

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 14 February 2013
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

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

1. Apologies

No apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2013 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

- **London Fancy Box** – No further action required regarding the cost to produce the special 25th Anniversary Newsletter edition.
- **Gun Turret, Admiralty Pier** – a specialist consultant appointed **by DHB and request for possible sources of funding.**
- **25th Anniversary Newsletter** – **DL was worried by time taken by Adams since** it is required by end of February to go out with the March Newsletter. AL to contact Adams Printers regarding deadline.
- **Western Heights planning application** – letter has been sent.
- **Booking speakers** – Joan Liggett has agreed to do this **if necessary but has suggested other possible names.**

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary had nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

The figures have been circulated by email to committee members prior to the meeting.

The subscriptions received last month were £18.00.

A donation of £20.00 has been given to be used for postage of the Newsletter.

Our annual subscription of £10.00 was paid to Kent Federation of Amenities for the year 2012/2013.

Paid out £15.28 from the Projects Fund for the strimmer line.

Graphic Images was paid £142.80 for the banners, shown at last month's meeting. They were also paid £424.80 from the Town Hall fund for the postcards depicting scenes within the Town Hall, and will be on sale during the Town Hall tours.

The January indoor meeting joins the Financially Completed Functions list. The attendance was low due to the poor weather and it lost £88.20. We did not have a raffle because of the low attendance and the receipts for the tea and coffee was £5.50, which covered the cost of the wine of £3.70. There was a heating problem at St Mary's Hall and we had to use the small hall. St Mary's PCC has credited us with £30.00 out of the £60 we have paid for our next hiring, which is the Wine and Wisdom evening. We also had to pay £60.00 for our two speakers, one of whom brought their partner for the pre meeting meal at Il Rustico.

As we are approaching the end of the financial year if anyone has any claims for the expenses etc. please submit them by our next meeting with the relevant supporting receipts so they can be paid before the end of the financial year.

It is also time for "donating" a sum of money to St Paul's for the use of this room during the past year. **It was agreed that we should pay £140 again.** This was agreed.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have one new member: Mrs Valerie Le Vaillant, The Strand, Walmer. She is an architect and town planner. We have lost one member, George Matthews. Last allocated number 1139, total members remain at 447.

New members have made comments that they do not find the Society's meetings friendly or welcoming and they are left on their own and no one talks to them. It **was** agreed **that** the committee members **should** to make an effort to talk to new members and for TS take up his role again for meeting and greeting. **Members who are Kent Greeters could also help.**

8. Projects

- **Cowgate** – we have finished strimming but there is still some clearing up to do. The equipment is being serviced.
- **River Dour** – £100.00 has been received from Temple Ewell Parish Council. DTC are supporting the White Cliffs clear up of rubbish **for one year**. Joint local approach required to ensure the river is safeguarded.
- **No. 1 Walk** – No response from the Payback team. KCC Highways will not get involved, as there is risk involved **since** the road is only suitable for cars and not pedestrians. **JC to send** a letter to point out the signs show paths to walk but then the walker is left stranded **on reaching the road**.
- **Plaques** – Charlton House Plaque, no progress.
- **Godwin Road/Connaught Park** **right of way** – **JC** to contact KCC allocated officer.

9. Refurbishment

Old Post Office – agreed at last meeting to send a letter of thanks to Sandilands Dental Surgery for renovating the building. Still to be written.

Zero Tolerance – to contact Roger Walton as DDC now on plan B and we want to voice our concerns about getting the plan started.

Big Local Trust Lottery Funding – the first meeting held by Carl Adams was a basic introduction as to how projects would be run, how finances are raised and the support available. The next meeting is on Saturday 16 February and will be attended by Terry Sutton and Di French to obtain further information. It was agreed to invite Carl Adams to the **April** meeting.

Christmas Lights – will be continuing but **DTC** looking for a partner.

Brighter Dover – It was agreed to circulate a board for signatures **giving support** at next Monday's meeting. Sylvie has an idea for the area between the Discovery Centre and the Painted House - to put up a non-permanent structure based on the Cloth of Gold meeting in 1520 in France. Idea noted by committee.

Pencester Gardens – to contact Roger Walton about signs making it clear about drinking alcohol in the area.

Dover Archives – Congratulations to Terry Sutton and Jean Marsh on completing the cataloguing of the **DTC** archives.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The visitor numbers are beginning to increase **after the Dec/Jan lull**. The post cards of the stained windows are now on sale. The history book and guide text **plus 50 illustrations is virtually** completed and **DL** hopes it will be printed by May in readiness for the Kent History Society meeting. Still no Executive strategy meeting arranged by DDC about the sustainable future of the Town Hall.

11. Social Secretary's Report

For the Wine and Wisdom evening we have twelve tables booked.

The numbers for the May trip are going well. In July we go to Quebec House and Chartwell House.

On Thursday 12 September a trip is booked to St Catherine's Dock and Silvertown Music Hall followed by afternoon tea. The cost is £40.00 so on this occasion, **PHS** will be asking for a 25% non refundable deposit to be paid by 7 June to ensure we do not incur a loss. Agreed.

12. Planning

- **DTIZ** – The Holiday Inn Express hotel group is now taking on the hotel project replacing Travelodge. Transfer of planning with minor alterations has been submitted.
- **Buckland Hospital** – A planning application has been submitted to DDC and waiting for validation. It may be on the planning list within the next week or so. We need to seek media attention to retain surplus land for any future facilities.
- **Castle Rise Fence** – It was agreed at the last meeting to remove this from the agenda but it has now been put back on.
- **DCC – Land Sites.** The Dover Society response was discussed. It is important to ensure that not all surplus land at Buckland Hospital is released for development.
- **Dover District Green Infrastructure Plan** – No further information.
- **ABC Cinema, Castle Street** – There has been no response from Weatherspoons. DDC have contacted Weatherspoons agent for the latest position. It was agreed for PS to write a repeat letter to the Chief Executive of Wetherspoons.
- **Consultation re Open Space Policy and Standards** – No further information
- **Western Heights** – The Dover Society submitted a letter as agreed at the last meeting. The concern regarding S106, £5 million heritage funding, has also been emphasised by DTC. It has been mentioned that “match” and “seed” funding could generate a total of £25 million. EH (London) are keen to have such funding in order to restore buildings of historical importance as on the EH at Risk register. Previous rejection has been made by EH local SE Region organisation.
- **River Dour Cycle Route** – The work that should have commenced in mid January has not started. There may be a Safety Audit. As the project is dependent on grant funding within current fiscal year there is doubt if this will be delivered.
- **Section 215 Stage One (Town Centre/Castle Street etc)** – No inspections during the winter months.
- **Section 215 Stage Two (Folkestone Road)** – No further inspection until April.
- **Update on police (following request at Executive)** – Only one incident report by MW about parking.
- **English Heritage at Risk** - No further item.
- **ARWP Dover Priory Station** – No date suggested by KCC.

DTC Planning Committee

Minutes of Committee Meeting on 7 January are on DTC website. Noted the support of The Dover Society regarding Section 106 for the Western Heights application.

Correspondence

Since the January meeting The Dover Society made comments to DDC Planning in respect of one planning application and comments about Land Sites.

Other Items

Mike Dawson is retiring in March and Nadeem Aziz will take over his role..

Bushy Ruff House – The Dover Society is prepared to offer support and advice to Temple Ewell Parish Council if it wishes to pursue S215 action , DL to contact the parish clerk.

Whitfield – affordable homes provision has been withdrawn. S106 – more infrastructure for less housing.

13. Press Secretary's Report

The Dover Express continues to contact us for information.

14. Editor's Report

Adams Printers will be contacted to ensure 25th Anniversary Newsletter is printed on time for our deadline.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

AGM – Bill Naylor will be standing down from the Executive so there is now one vacancy for Secretary. The deadline for nominations is 14 days before the AGM meeting, which is 31 March for the meeting on 15 April.

White Cliffs Tours – AS attended meeting. EH want to clear trees and shrubs from the cliffs. There is a need for a clean up on the private land below Mote's Bulwark. This could be included when considering S215 from East Cliff to Woolcomber Street.

Blocked drains – does not appear to be an improvement. Agreed to keep on contacting Nigel Collor.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 14 March 2013, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover.