

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

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

**1. Apologies**

Sue Jones, Mike McFarnell, and resignation from Di French.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2013 were accepted as correct.

**3. Matters Arising**

- **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Newsletter** – was printed on time to go out with the March Newsletter. **The Chairman was congratulated.**
- **Booking speakers** – the suggested names given by Joan Liggett have been contacted and are not willing to do this. DL will continue to book the speakers.
- **Big Local Trust** – Carl Adams has agreed to attend our **April** meeting.
- **Bushey Ruff** - the Temple Ewell parish clerk has put this on their agenda this month.

**4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had nothing to report.

**5. Secretary's Report**

The Secretary is resigning but confirmed the existing arrangements for using the room for our meetings remain the same.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

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

The subscriptions received last month were £42.00.

We received a donation of £50.00 from a grateful lady who found a grave she had been searching for in Cowgate Cemetery. This was possible due to the good work done by Jeremy Cope and other volunteers. She requested the donation be put to good use towards the work being done in the Cemetery. It has been put in the Cowgate Projects Fund.

Paid out £12.00 for postage. As agreed at the last meeting, £140.00 was sent to St Paul's Church for the use of the room used for our meetings during the last financial year.

The Wine and Wisdom evening joined the completed functions list. The evening was a success and brought in a profit of £149.11. The custom is, as in previous years, is to split the profits with Clive Taylor, who donates it to a charity of his choice. The committee agreed to £80.00 being sent.

The quotation for our annual insurance is £251.91, which exactly the same as last year. This includes Trustees Liability and a public liability of £5 million. The committee agreed to the renewal.

**7. Membership Secretary's Report**

We have five new members: Mr David and Mrs Anne Courtney from River, Mr Kenneth Simmons, Lowther Road, Dover, Mr Robert Sales, St Margaret's at Cliff and Mrs Jennifer Kennedy from Devon, the lady who found the grave she was searching for at Cowgate. We have lost two married couples. Last allocated number 1144, total members are 448.

Jeremy and Sheila Cope would like to host a tea party in their garden for past and present members of the committee to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Dover Society in June or July. They were thanked for this and agreed to leave the date up to them to decide.

**8. Projects**

- **Cowgate** – just minor cleaning work to do on top of the vaults. The mower has now been serviced. We have a large pile of pruning and we are now waiting for DDC to take it away.

- **River Dour** – Pam Taylor is to become the Society representative for this project. **Agreed that JC and Pam** continue as joint representatives. DTC has given £1000 to the White Cliffs countryside project for volunteer clearance of litter **in 2013/14**. DTC feel the River Dour Steering Group should be a separate registered charity and apply for funds. There is a lot of work involved in doing this and the opinion **was** this group should be a sub group within The Dover Society, holding any funds in a separate bank account. The steering group needs to be more dynamic with younger participants.
- **No. 1 Walk** – Still no response from the Payback team. Sent information and suggested **a** meeting, but to date no response received.
- **Plaques** – No response from Stephen Turner **Daucey** for an update on the Charlton House Plaque. **Agreed** we start on another plaque for Thomas Tallis.
- **Godwin Road/Connaught Park right of way** – likely to have a meeting next Thursday with KCC. Need to show photographs of path created by walkers, as the official pathway is not being used **much**. The created path uses the best place to cross the road.

## 9. Refurbishment

The Refurbishment meeting has been postponed until 25<sup>th</sup> March due to snow.

**Zero Tolerance** – Roger Walton not contacted yet. Waiting until next Refurbishment meeting. The notices are around the town but there appears to be no improvement.

**Brighter Dover** – the funding is being put to good use.

## 10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The visitor numbers continue to increase **slowly**. The post cards of the stained **glass** windows are selling. The history book text plus 50 illustrations should be with the printers within the next 2 weeks. The Executive strategy meeting has still not been arranged by DDC about the sustainable future of the Town Hall. Suggested **we** write and ask Richard Pollard bring his successor to a meeting.

## 11. Social Secretary's Report

There are 6 places left for the trip to Red House in May. **The July trip** to Quebec House and Chartwell House is going well. We have received our first booking, paid in full for the trip in September to St Catherine's Dock and Silvertown Music Hall.

## 12. Planning

- **DTIZ** – no further activity to report.
- **Buckland Hospital** – The "Hospital Working Group" have finalised the Dover Society response. The planning committee was invited to make comments on the first draft. The only feedback received was from Beverley on the 5 March. She suggested various changes to strengthen the narrative to get the key points across to a targeted audience. This was discussed between Beverly and DL, the chair of the society. The draft was accepted and **had been** submitted by the Dover Society.

To summarise:

The Dover Society feels obliged, in the absence of any alternative, to welcome modern **accommodation etc** but is far from happy at the failure to deliver facilities that could have been delivered in 2008. The Society could only support the application if the following were conditional:

1. Increase parking spaces, no less than current 204 and not the proposed 165
2. Retain surplus land for future facilities, in particular care beds.
3. Road access must be substantially improved. Road widening etc.
4. The Town Centre Health Clinic remains available to the community.

We are not opposing but we are not approving either. The Hospital is in the wrong place and they want to sell off surplus land. DTC have opposed it. It was agreed that PS should speak, if possible at the Planning Committee stage.

- **Castle Rise Fence** – Has been reinstated as agreed at the last meeting. It is not clear who owns the land now that Affinity Water has taken over Veolia Water.
- **DHB and Seafront** – No further activity since last meeting. The Planning Application DOC/13/00113 for “Dover School for all Nations” is an initial concern regarding the recreational area for 45 students with an age range of 4 to 18. The property is 1-3 Waterloo Crescent requesting a 3-year temporary planning application.
- **DCC – Land Sites**. Awaiting details following submissions.
- **Dover District Green Infrastructure Plan** – No further information.
- **ABC Cinema, Castle Street** – A further letter has been sent to the Chief Executive of Weatherspoons. Again there has been no response. DDC have also contacted Weatherspoons as a prior warning to Section 215.
- **Consultation re Open Space Policy and Standards** – No further information
- **Western Heights** – No further information on CGI application. There may be details of a “restoration” package with English Heritage.
- **River Dour Cycle Route** – The work has commenced.
- **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 but DDC is seeking an early update. A walk is being arranged and will be linked in with ARWP.
- **Update on police (following request at Executive)** – No further information.
- **English Heritage at Risk** - Noted.
- **ARWP Dover Priory Station** – Still waiting for a date from KCC.

#### **DTC Planning Committee**

The 11 March minutes will be on the DTC website.

#### **Correspondence**

Since the February meeting The Dover Society has not made any comments to DDC Planning in respect of any planning applications. However there will be a submission re DOV/13/00056 (Hospital) and DOV/13/00113 (School 1-3 Waterloo Crescent).

#### **13. Press Secretary’s Report**

The Dover Express continues to contact us for information.

#### **14. Editor’s Report**

The red Dover Society binders are now out of stock. We ordered 100 in August 2003 and we have covered our costs. The cost of ordering 50 more are £4.02 each, but unfortunately the suppliers have lost the Dover Society block. As this is our property this is not very satisfactory. Agreed we will only place an order providing they find the missing block, or if cannot be found they will replace it at their expense.

#### **15. Publications**

Nothing to report.

#### **16. Any other business**

**AGM** – There are two vacancies on the executive committee. It was suggested that Beverley Hall be nominated for one but was perhaps too soon for a new member. Patricia Hooper-Sherratt agreed to be nominated for the Secretary’s vacancy. The deadline for nominations is 14 days before the AGM meeting, which is 31 March for the meeting on 15 April.

**Big Local Trust Lottery Funding** – A website has to be set up by a local trusted organisation. It has to be a reputable organisation for holding funds. There is a fee for doing this. There is a £1000 for the launch, £20,000 for setting up the organisation, and £1 million over 10 years. Some organisations have been mentioned but The Dover Society would be one of the most suitable organisations to administer the funds. The organising committee has to be made up to a maximum of 15 persons of which 8 must be locals. If we were approached, it was agreed, we would enter into discussion to consider it.

**White Cliffs Tours Alliance** – AS attended meeting. The inequality of the rail fares between London and Dover and from London to other major towns elsewhere in the country was discussed.

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 11 April 2013, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover.