

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 09 May 2013
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

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

1. Apologies

Sue Jones and Alan Sencicle.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2013 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

- **Big Screen** – Received a letter from Paul Watkins informing us that if the screen was not removed by 2014 it becomes a planning issue and this will take care of the matter.
- **Amending Constitution** – JC has a draft but not yet looked at it.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman laid a society wreath at the Zeebrugge Raid commemorations on St Georges Day.

The "Atherton's at home" this year will be on Sunday 22 September.

A retirement presentation was made to Bill Naylor on Tuesday 7 May when he was attending the planning committee meeting. He was given two bottles of malt whisky, which he will enjoy.

Bill Naylor had suggested Beverley Hall should join the executive committee and he had spoken to her about it, but had not in fact nominated her. She was therefore surprised that she was not nominated at the AGM. Her background is in transport planning. The Chairman proposed that we co-opt her which was agreed. JC to email Beverley Hall to confirm she is willing to serve on the executive committee.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary is now Patricia Hooper-Sherratt and she confirmed the procedure for a new member to join the executive committee.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

The last month is the main month for receipt of subscription renewals and we received £1494.00.

The newsletter advertising brought in £293.00 last month.

Our annual subscription of £40.00 was paid out to The White Cliffs County Tourism Association.

Our AGM meeting finances had not been fully completed when the end of month figures were compiled, but have been now. The meeting turned in a profit of £29.83. The raffle took in £128.00 so after paying for prizes of £30.00 it made £98.00. Speaker's meal came to £21.17. Bookings for the summer outings are coming in at a steady rate.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have four new members: Mr C.J. Meredith, Mrs Janet Turner, Mr Kevin and Mrs Sheila Farrell. Last allocated number 1154, total members are 457.

8. Projects

- **Cowgate** – DDC are putting in hand clearance of pruning. With the new growth of grass we will be starting the mowing.
- **River Dour** – The Steering Group met on 24 April and agreed the Chairman as JC. It was also agreed the group to become involved in fundraising with the initial target to fund the litter clearance. It was also agreed to meet again in June to push matters

forward. Received £200 from Royal Society of St. George in addition to £100 from Temple Ewell PC.

- **Green Open Spaces Strategy** – Proposed and agreed that the sub group should produce a response. Ray Newsam to participate. **No. 1 Walk** – Due to chase up Denise Roffey of Ken Rights of Way Service.
- **Godwyne Road/Connaught Park right of way** – The creation of a right of way is not likely to be a problem, but the width has to be settled.
- **Tallis Plaque** – Dover College has agreed to put the plaque on the far right pillar at the entrance. The installation of the plaque requires listed planning consent.
- **HMS Sandhurst Plaque** – JC, SC and DL to go to Fire Station on Sunday 12 May for unveiling.
- **Dover Big Local Trust** – The big Conversation Day is 25 May at the Town Hall. Banners organised by Castle Street Society to be largely funded by Big Local Trust. Banners will publicise Big Local and major tourist attractions. A presentation on matched funding emphasised the potential. Sylvie Parsons had given a presentation on Brighter Dover planting with an application for £2000. The matter was deferred. There needs to be a vision with defined rules on how we are going to use the £20000 and a small group will meet to draft rules for next meeting to consider.

9. Refurbishment

Zero Tolerance – JC to draft a reply to Roger Walton's email on Zero Tolerance for committee members.

Litter on A roads – The Highways Agency charge DDC £1500 a time to clear litter from the verges on A roads. This is the cost of setting up cones and safety signage. The cost implications mean DDC cannot afford to clear verges often enough. It may be a case for lobbying MP for action

Satellite Dishes – Sylvie Parsons has complained to DDC about dishes in Norman Street, which is a conservation area. Pat Sherratt to be involved with any approach to DDC.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

No progress to report on the refurbishment due to lack of DDC staff resources.

The numbers of visitors taking the guided tours has not recovered from the long winter. They are publicised on the Visit Kent website. They will also be publicised at the Kent History Conference in the Town Hall.

DL has written a Town Hall History booklet but is not available today but will be on Saturday at the Conference. The cost of 1000 copies is £1600, which is £1.60 a copy and suggests we sell at £4.00 for direct sales and £5.00 at retail outlets. This was agreed.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The outing to the Red House in Bexleyheath is in profit. The July trip to Quebec House and Chartwell House is not yet in profit. Deposits are being paid for the trip in September to St Catherine's Dock and Silvertown Music Hall. Speakers have now been booked from October until next March.

12. Planning

- **DTIZ** – no revised plan for "Multiplex Cinema" or "adjustment to hotel".
- **Buckland Hospital** – Some amendments submitted by applicant. Mainly regarding roof lines/height in respect of natural light to neighbouring properties. Also the analysis of the current parking volumes is far from satisfactory. It has only been undertaken at 09.30 hrs, 13.30 hrs and 17.30 hrs on Saturday 20 April and Wednesday 24 April. These times do not reflect when there is major use of parking. It should be an hourly record for one week. The Hospital Working Group to look at in more detail and respond to DCC.
- **Castle Rise Fence** – All the interested parties have been interviewed. There are 42 days to appeal.
- **DHB and Seafont** – Nothing further to report since the last meeting.

- **DCC – Land Sites.** Awaiting further final report from DDC following the consultation period. The Dover Society made comments.
- **Dover District Green Infrastructure Plan** – No further information. Possible Plan update at some future date.
- **ABC Cinema, Castle Street** – Weatherspoons have responded on a “confidential” basis to our original letters. In hand with DDC Regeneration Officer who is Tim Ingleton.
- **Consultation re Open Space Policy and Standards** – New Consultation on “Parks and Open Space Strategy”. Comments to DDC by 25 July. Any comments to be sent to PS in order to draft response to DDC. A discussion took place regarding Connaught Park and the Big Local “Skate Park “ project.
- **Western Heights** – Some minor amendments but no mention of a Funding Package for Historic Trust. Chairman has responded from The Dover Society Working Group.
- **River Dour Cycle Route** – The major concern about the poor design are well founded. It is highly probable that accidents with pedestrians may occur. Ideal to monitor. This could be a policing issue with PCSO taking action with offending cyclists. PS to take up with police on his next “Ward Police Walkabout” and at the same time raise the problem of cars parking on pavements. As previously promised by the police, a polite notice would be produced for placing on windscreens of offending vehicles.
- **Section 215 Stage One (Town Centre/Castle Street etc)** – Update walkabout within next two weeks. .
- **Section 215 Stage Two (Folkestone Road)** – Update walkabout possibly mid-late June.
- **Section 215** - Help to members. No new requests. Regarding the wall in Castle Avenue has been resolved.
- **Update on police (following request at Executive)** – PS reported incidents in order to have a crime number. Please do likewise and pass on details to PS. Only with the “Reported” incidents will there be any chance of increased policing. No further information.
- **English Heritage at Risk** - No further action at present.
- **ARWP Dover Priory Station** – Still waiting for DDC, Jim McEwan, to establish date with KCC representative to do a site visit.

DTC Planning Committee

Held on the morning of 7 May. Minutes will be on DTC Website. One very interesting item is possible production of a “Strategic/Neighbourhood Plan” in respect of the Bench Street/Market Square area of Dover. This must be “community” driven and agreed at meeting would involve as many organisations and residents as possible and The Dover Society would be included.

Correspondence

As requested at “Executive” meeting took up with DDC Planning of the “Red Paint” on former Royal Victoria Hospital. Thank to TS for an excellent article in the Dover Express about this.

AOB

BW informed meeting that the applicant for DOV/12/00818 has made an appeal. This is an application for a property on Connaught Hill using the back garden of a Castle Avenue property.

13. Press Secretary’s Report

Finding it difficult to get items into the local press.

14. Editor’s Report

The deadline for next newsletter, to be issued in July, is Wednesday 15 May.

15. Publications

Town Hall booklet.

16. Any other business

Agreed to print 500 leaflets for the Heritage Open Days in September.

TS gave a talk at the Albany House residents about The Dover Society.

Planning has been authorised to knock down Cowgate Hill houses with plans to rebuild.

Prospect House is still derelict.

MM – statistics on the website. Concerned there may be too many and is there a need to remove information from the website. General opinion is to leave it on.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 13 June, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover.