

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

Present: Derek Leach (Chair), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper –Sherratt, Susan Jones, Alan Lee, Mike McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

Ray Newsam, the chairman of the River Dour Steering Group, updated the committee. The Environment Agency has awarded all catchments **partnerships** £11800 each. **The amount for the SE partnership** will be divided between, SE Rivers Trust, Kentish Stour Countryside, White Cliffs Countryside Partnership and The Dover Society.

There was a site meeting on 4 October. They walked the length of the River Dour **from Kearsney** to Morrison's Supermarket. Received formal approval for EU Water Framework, Upper Dour and from Kearsney to the Docks. The main feature of the River Dour is its unique species of brown trout. Intend to provide funding advice, undertake training for the River Warden Scheme, help Crabble Mill, and provide literature for the website.

A summary of the Kentish Stour catchment is on the Environment Agency website, www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

1. Apologies

Glyn Hale,

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

AL informed the committee that two volunteers have been found for research into enquiries. They are Jean Marsh and Judy Betts.

4. Chairman's Report

The TV screen in the Market Square has been removed. Congratulations to everyone who lobbied to have it removed.

No response yet from Charlie Elphick MP as to when he can attend one of our meetings. Dover Heritage Volunteers Business Plan, ideas for a base. Suggestion for showing film of Dover before going on guided tour.

MW has checked with The Dover Society insurers and confirmed we are covered for public liability provided the guides undertaking the tours are Society members.

TS laid a Society wreath at the DTC Remembrance Day parade. DL laid a Society wreath at Western Docks at the tomb of the unknown warrior.

Members of the Port and Community Forum have been invited to meet the Ports Minister during his visit on 25 November.

5. Secretary's Report

The next meeting is on Thursday 5 December and the hall has been booked.

6. Treasurer's Report

The figures had been circulated by email to committee members prior to the meeting. During the last month we received £40 in subscriptions and £11.66 for Newsletter advertising. The publication fund received £16 from the sale of Town Hall booklets. The Town Hall Fund received £34 from Town Hall tours and a £30 dividend from Reckitt Benckiser.

The Society's October meeting has joined the completed functions list and is in deficit by £33.20. The raffle grossed £99 and after taking out the £30 worth of tokens for prizes it netted £69. Speakers' meals cost £44.90.

During last month the Society was authorised by Dover Big Local to pay out from the money we are holding on their behalf of £263.85.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have no new members this month. Last allocated number 1167, total members are 459.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – poor weather conditions stopped work but may continue on Saturday.
- Plaques – Tallis plaque has been installed by John Hill for free and would like this be publicised. It now needs an opening ceremony and JC to contact Bursar.
- Connaught Rd – Godwyne path. Right of way, input of situation, letter to Graham Wanstall.
- Path on Upper Road. Received note from Dave Mounter, KCC Highways about the overgrown vegetation along Upper Road, Guston. He stated he is working with DDC to get the section of vegetation/trees on the right hand side heading east, up the hill, for approximately for 100 meters from the A2 flyover cut back to the crash barrier. A date has not yet been set for the work but expect it to be completed within the next 6 weeks.

9. Refurbishment

Sub-committee for refurbishment of Dover

- Big Local.

Executive Meeting

- a) CDW getting about with widespread contacts in Dover. Has produced an excellent basis for plan.
- b) DBL seen as an umbrella organisation to bring about coordinated action
- c) Format for meetings changing and it works for younger folk
- d) Award of Boosting Local Economy – basically advice on how to get things moving.
- e) DCA course on getting match funding and is worthwhile making enquires.

Open Meeting

- a) Ross Miller introduced as Chairman
 - b) Horticultural Sue and Salome – Eden trip – film. The Botanist would help to start a horticultural project in Dover, starting with groups in schools.
 - c) Dover Music Festival, moving along.
 - d) Aim to produce plan for locals to give reactions and then refine. One suggestion was a pop in phone booth to get youngsters inputting.
 - e) TV town project starting.
- Toilets
 1. Seafront ones out to tender again
 2. Mid town to be closed Sundays in winter
 - SP has produced ideas for improving look of town and will pass to Kingston University.
 - Brighter Dover - – SP has resigned. What can The Dover Society do to take on at least part of the work? There is a team in place but it needs to be led.
 - PB gave an update on litter wardens – still early days
 - Alan raised blocked drains. A campaign in the making
 - Cigarette ends from M&S staff JC to write after consulting with MW.
 - Alan on his train timetables and now including station parking

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The guided tours will finish at the end of November and open again in February 2014.

The ceiling in the courtroom has been repaired and is now in use again.

DL is discussing **activities for school groups** with a Key Stage 2 teacher and **exploring** sources of funding.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The Mayor has not yet responded to DL's invitation to attend the Christmas Feast so DL to make contact by phone. At the present time about 70 members have booked for the Christmas Feast.

12. Planning

PS has circulated the Planning Committee minutes in advance. A discussion followed. Castle Avenue - It was agreed that the committee to take forward the idea to get Castle Avenue made a Conservation Area as the trees and walls need to be protected. The trees need to have a TPO put on them and the historic walls to be listed if possible. DDC cannot put a TPO on the trees because they are on the highway and this comes under KCC. The next meeting is on Tuesday 3 December at 17.30 at Castle Lea.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Informed that Robin Dodridge of DHB is retiring.

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

AS has been communicating with SE Railways. He repeated the information sent out to the committee member by emails on 14 and 15 November.

AL informed the meeting of the Dover Neighbourhood Forum meeting "You Decide Event" on 16 November in the Town Hall.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 5 December, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover.