

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 5 December 2013
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

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

1. Apologies

Susan Jones, Jean Marsh, Mike Weston.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

The "You Decide Event" was a success **for the River Dour grant application.**

4. Chairman's Report

4.1 Charlie Elphicke has responded to our request and will be attending our Executive meeting on Thursday 13 March 2014.

4.2 **Members of the Port and Community Forum** met the Ports Minister last Monday, 24 November. It was a confidential meeting so Chairman could not disclose what the Minister said. The meeting was an hour long and the participants were divided into two groups. The Minister in turn listened to the views of each group. The main points given **by Society reps** were they welcomed the marked change in the DHB's involvement with the community. **We were anxious to see regulations amended to allow DHB to make a financial contribution to the community.** DHB Board members **and employees** have expertise to offer the town. **A combination of the Peoples Port model and DHB may be the best solution for the town.** The meeting was invited to send any other views or suggestions to the Minister. JC is drafting a response **to include an independent audit of the Port's performance and our wish for the Board's historic assets to be available to the public and a tourist attraction**

4.3 Second Port and Community Forum – DHB reported improvement works in excess of £35 million, an apprentice scheme and bursary scheme **for port related degree studies.** **A marine college was another possibility.** Chairman had given a presentation **about a possible Heritage Trail taking in both town and DHB attractions,** designed for tourists to join it and leave at **any point.** The preferred way for the trail to be marked is in the pavement rather than by signposts. A brochure could be on sale in the museum with **a route map and** the various opening times of places along the trail. We need a **theme** for the trail and "Bluebird" has been suggested. **The forum endorsed the idea and a project group was formed.** **Another possible project is a Port Heritage Centre paintings, Royal Charter etc.** ideally in a DHB building. The forum had agreed that its chairman should not be from the DHB or be a politician. DL's name has been put forward by TS. A discussion followed to see if there **would be** a conflict of interest but the consensus was that DL would be totally impartial and TS would represent The Dover Society's views.

4.4 There has been an expression of interest from John Cotton to join The Dover Society Executive committee. A discussion followed and JC proposed he should join and AL seconded it. **It was agreed unanimously.**

5. Secretary's Report

The details of the Society have been updated on the KCC website. The DDC website now needs to be looked at.

6. Treasurer's Report

The report was given by AS for MW. The figures had been circulated by email to committee members prior to the meeting.

Monies received this month are £18 for subscriptions and a £2 donation. The publication fund received £16 from the sale of Town Hall booklets. Doug Welby sent a cheque for £389.07 for the sale of 197 "Dover's Hidden Fortress" booklets over the past year.

A payment of £695 was made to Adams Printers for the November Newsletter. Postage of £58.52 for posting the “out of area” newsletters is offset against the newsletter costs. Printing, postage and stationery costs amounted to £81.64. The Town Hall tours brought in £24 to the Town Hall fund. From the Projects fund £326.70 was paid to Leander Architectural for the Thomas Tallis plaque to be placed at Dover College. A further £23.96 was paid out for purchasing strimmer line and oil for the strimmers used at Cowgate. The Society’s November meeting has joined the completed functions list with a deficit of £6.75. The raffle grossed £100 and after taking out the £30 worth of token for t prizes it netted £70. The speaker’s meal cost £22.95. During the month the society was authorised by Dover Big Local to pay out from the money we are holding on their behalf £394.74. We are now holding £17,901.41 of Dover Big Local funds.

7. Membership Secretary’s Report

We have four new members this month. Mr Barry and Mrs Victoria Clark from Guston. Ms Martina White, of Charlton Green and Mrs Phyllis Wood of The Gateway. Last allocated number 1171, total members are 461.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – made good progress.
- Tallis Plaques – awaiting response from Bursar for unveiling the plaque. Will send reminder email and to point out about passing on ownership of the plaque. There was a discussion about adding this plaque to leaflet but this will need a change of presentation. The next plaque **will be** the Tram Accident of 1917. JC to action.
- Path on Upper Road – not yet checked with KCC Highways

9. Refurbishment

- There is no December meeting
- Jenny **Olpin is** in contact with DI Barlow
- River Dour – Ray Newsam continues his work. River Fest to be part of Dover Music Festival. **DL suggested that the Society should support the Music Festival in some way – JC would make enquiries.**
- Big Local
 - Beach Opening
 - Vision and Plan underway
 - Meeting on 11 December at the Discovery Café.
 - Boosting Local Economy – getting underway
 - Music Festival – acting as supporter and funding.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The guided tours have now finished for two months.

Meeting to take place to discuss activities for Key Stage 2 school groups and exploring sources of funding.

11. Social Secretary’s Report

The Christmas Feast is due to take place on Saturday 7 December. Expecting approximately 100 people. There is a welcome drink and each person will be given on token to obtain for one drink. All other drinks will need to be purchased. We have 8 raffle prizes but need to purchase more. The entertainment is by Maddie **and the Melodymakers**. There are three of them.

DL gave suggestions for speakers for consideration for next year.

12. Planning

PS had circulated the Planning Committee minutes in advance. A discussion then followed. AS gave an update on the latest communication with SE Railways and their offers. This has also been circulated to members by email.

13. Press Secretary’s Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

The deadline for the next newsletter is 15 January 2014.

15. Publications

The sale of the Town Hall booklets has netted £500 towards the cost of paying off the £1600 the books cost to print.

16. Any other business

AS stated he is not available for the next meeting but would organise the meal.

The statistics for The Dover Society website were 19000 for old and 14000 for the new site last year. There have been over 10000 for the new site this year.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 9 January 2014, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover.