

**The Dover Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 9 January 2014**  
**at St Paul's Parish room, Dover**

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

**1. Apologies and welcome**

Apologies from Susan Jones, Jean Marsh. John Cotton was welcomed to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2013 were accepted as correct

**3. Matters Arising**

Following the meeting with the Ports Minister on 24 November, a letter has been sent to the Minister.

Big Local, JC has received a response from Minister for a similar letter.

**4. Chairman's Report**

DL, JC and PC had their regular meeting with the DDC Directors (see later reports).

The Dover Heritage Trail project – **the newly-formed PCF Project Group will recommend that the logo will be a bluebird with bronze inserts in the pavement. Details of sites along the trail would be in a guide book with a separate leaflet route map. There will be interpretation panels by the main sites making use of the existing and augmenting as necessary. A smart phone application to download was also envisaged. Website publicity is also planned** John Iveson **was keen to make use of Philomena Kennedy's previously published** guided tour script and line drawings **suitably updated.**

**A very rough estimate of cost was at least £50k.** An application would be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and **possibly 10% would have to be found locally.** The setting up of another trust for the application is too time consuming. **Rather than set up a community trust at this stage, it was hoped** The Dover Society as a registered charity **would agree to be the applicant for the grant.**

The timescale is planning will be done during the summer, the Highways work can be done during the winter and hopefully **all** will be ready by Spring 2015. The idea is **to market the Bluebird** brand to encourage tourists to stay one or two nights in Dover. This **provisional plan** will go before the **Port and Community Forum** in February.

It was unanimously agreed that The Dover Society could be the grant applicant for this project.

**5. Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

The financial report for this month was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The publication fund received £100.50 from the sale of Town Hall booklets.

A donation of £30.00 was given to The Dover Film Festival Society as agreed with Mike McFarnell at the last meeting.

The Town Hall tours brought in £36.00 to the Town Hall fund.

The Society's Christmas Lunch has joined the completed functions list and is in profit of £255.50. The raffle grossed £251.50 and since no prizes were bought this is the net figure for the raffle. Many thanks going to Denise and her helpers for a magnificent effort.

During the month the Society was authorised to by Dover Big Local to pay out £2,458.75 from money we are holding on their behalf. We are currently holding £15,442.66 of Dover Big Local funds.

We are also holding money for The River Dour Steering Group, and they were awarded £150.00 from Dover Town Council. The Society was authorised by this group to pay out £35.00 and we are currently holding funds of £415.00 for them.

The Caf account provided the Society with a quarterly payment of £7.07.

## 7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have two new members this month, Claire Bond, Park Road, Dover and Jo Graeme, Crabble Avenue, Dover. Last allocated number 1173, total members are 463.

## 8. Projects

- Cowgate – we are on top of the work and there is time available for a working party to Upper Road.
- Tallis Plaques – another email sent to Bursar but still no response. JC to send letter to the Head Teacher.
- The next plaque will be the **River** Tram Accident of 1917. JC is researching for the exact location. Informed it was in the River PCC area (**by the entrance to the modern Mill Race development**).

## 9. Refurbishment

- Meeting with Roger Walton:
  - a) New anti-litter regime resulted in 78 notices being issued across the area. Mainly cigarette ends but it is safe to assume these people would leave litter. This is less than one a day and Dover does appear to be any cleaner. Need to monitored.
  - b) Anti-social behaviour was discussed. The new police approach to dispersal including where dispersal people drift to and support from top levels of Kent police. It is up to us to lobby MP for support.
  - c) Connaught Park work for pond and shelter completed, a job well done. We are looking at the future for the tennis courts, currently being used as football pitches.
  - d) Litter collection, there is a need to get the following up tidies right. They are to tidy up after litter collections but have been seen carrying this out before collections.
  - e) Discussed the problems of the verges on the A2 and A20. The local authority, DDC is responsible for keeping verges clear of litter and is very costly.
  - f) River Dour, there has been no work on the river as it is the closed season. Progress is slow with no results to report. The grant to meet EU standards of compliance. Ray Newsam is going to try to get anglers involved. He will update JC of progress.
  - g) Brighter Dover, there is a problem with finding needles in the planters and Sylvie Parsons does not want any of the volunteers to be injured. For this reason she has resigned and cleared the funds. A cheque for the surplus has been given back to the Society.
- Jenny Olpin reported on meeting with DCI Barlow and to write an article for the newsletter. Members can respond to her and she can bring up their concerns with the Police.
- Vision for Dover - can or should the Society become involved if M&S leave the centre of town. There are already shops that are shut and with high rates and rents the situation will worsen. The planning committee to look at this.
- Big Local
  - a) Boosting local business
  - b) Music Festival
    - Blues – half of any surplus to River Dour project
    - Dover – Big Local is funding and supporting this.
  - c) Profile and vision being drafted
- Pathways
  - a) Upper Road is now cleared. Pathway to cliff edge is not user friendly. Needs to be raised in parts so when it rains it does not become a quagmire.
- NHS consultation on outpatients in the form of a booklet should be available in most surgeries and outpatients departments. JC to notify members about this and encourage them to respond.

## 10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

A much needed meeting with Roger Walton is awaited about the future use of the Town Hall as the contract franchise is due to come up for renewal on 31 March 2015 Any major grant from the Heritage Lottery fund would require increased heritage and community involvement.

An idea emerging is for an 'umbrella' Dover heritage trust encompassing existing trusts and possible new trusts in order to maximise our ability to seek grants and promote our many heritage assets.

Attracting school groups for Town Hall based activities was originally envisaged as part of the Heritage Lottery fund application; however, with no progress on the Town Hall's future this could be brought forward but there are difficulties. It could be difficult to have groups on the same day as the tours. However to have the Town Hall for a separate morning would cost £100. This would be discussed at a meeting of guides shortly.

#### **11. Social Secretary's Report**

It was agreed that the next Christmas Feast should be booked in the Town Hall on Saturday 13 December 12 for 12.30.

The next trip will be on 21 June 2014 to Ypres in Belgium to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WW1. We will visit various WW1 cemeteries. It includes a 3 course evening meal and a guide who will be with the party all day. At end of the day we will go to Menin Gate for 8 pm. The cost is £46 per person with a limit of 49 persons.

#### **12. Planning**

PS had circulated the Planning Committee minutes in advance. A discussion then followed. Another report was circulated giving a report on the Section 215 initiative.

#### **13. Press Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report

#### **14. Editor's Report**

The deadline for reports for the next newsletter is Wednesday 15 January.

#### **15. Publications**

Nothing to report.

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

DL – there has been no applications for the DHB bursary by the closing date. The closing date has been extended.

DL May not be available for The Dover Society meeting on 20 January. JC agreed to open the meeting and introduce the speakers. If second speaker needs laptop and projector, Mike McFarnell will be on standby to arrange. DL would obtain pinboards for other speaker and deliver to PS for him to erect on the night.

TS – should the Society write to the CEO of M&S. The members could be emailed with their views about a possible food only store in the new premises. They can be asked to write to the company, as the potential of 500 letters would be give more weight than one single letter from the Society.

PHS – due to personal commitments the Social Secretary would like to put in the newsletter that she wants to retire from this post. She will carry on until somebody else is willing to take it on.

MMcF – The distribution of booklets for the Dover Music Festival is going well. Suggested a collection box at the exit towards the Town Hall Fund which was agreed.

AL – Are we claiming back the 5% for administrating the Big Local account? MW and JC responded by saying no since no additional expense incurred to date.

AS – is keeping members informed by email about SE Railways and the various responses received.

#### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 13 February 2014, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover.

