

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 February 2014
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

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

1. Apologies and welcome

Apologies from Glyn Hale, Susan Jones and Alan Sencicle. Susan Jones will not be seeking re-election at the next AGM.

Charlene Mineau was welcomed to the meeting. She is currently on a sponsored four-month placement by the Society until June and is being overseen by Mike McFarrell. She is involved in the Dover Film Festival; Town Hall guided tours, the Big Local and River Dour project. She is currently scanning the Eddy Clapson negatives. This will be a long-term project, which could take up to 8 years to complete. Any volunteers are welcome to learn how to scan these negatives, as the skill will be needed by the Society for years to come.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2014 were accepted as correct

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

DL and TS attended a Port Community Forum (PCF) meeting. Surprise announcement by the Dover Harbour Board (DHB) about the new vision for the Western Docks. The cargo will be unloaded and distributed at the Western Docks and **may** create 600 extra jobs. This is welcome news and will boost the economy to the town.

There is to be an outdoor gym on the **former** toilet site opposite the Sea Sports centre. AS gave a presentation on SE Railways and **lack of** advanced fares. DHB are supporting this.

JC gave a presentation on Big Local. The Smart project **will** make use of the Clock Tower and old Lifeboat Station for art and photographic exhibitions.

An email was received from Mike Webb about a petition being circulated in the town to ask Dover District Council (DDC) to explain 12 years of inaction and the costs of the DTIZ project at a public meeting. It has **1300** signatures but the petition needs 1600 signatures before DDC has to respond. **DL** asked **whether** the Society **should** become involved **publicly** and email all our members to make them aware of this petition. A discussion followed and it was agreed the Society should not support the petition publicly. We will inform our members at the next meeting on Monday 17 February and give the Society's view, but stress that individual members are free to sign the petition if they wish to do so.

Graham Wanstal requests help for two projects to mark the 100th anniversary of WW1. They are the **repair** of the clock at Pencester Gardens and the bus shelter at Whitfield, located at Tesco's Supermarket. In principle we would support the clock project but need to find out who is responsible for it. It is probably DDC. We also need to know who is responsible for the bus shelter. DL to write to DDC for information on both projects.

Martin Webster **had** emailed DL and TS about possible sites for a new cemetery for Dover. It was discussed about 2 years ago but not heard anything since. A FOI from DDC and a search revealed there is no policy or plans for a new cemetery. DL to write to DDC for information about the present situation and future plans for burials in the town.

The Tallis plaque has been erected at Dover College. A date to mark this may **be during the** week after half term but has not yet been confirmed. When it is the committee members will be informed. Agreed to ask the Head of the college to unveil the plaque.

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 monies received in January are:

- £48.00 for subscriptions, £28.00 for the current year and £20.00 for the next financial year.
- A donation of £39.90 upon the winding up of the Brighter Dover campaign from the funds left in the account.
- £19.00 from newsletter advertising

The monies paid out are:

- £29.31 for copying
- £11.50 for postage

The Society's January meeting has joined the completed functions list and is in profit of £12.69. The raffle grossed £92.00, after taking out the prize tokens of £30.00, left a net receipt of £62.00.

During the last month the Society was authorised by Dover Big Local to pay out from the money we are holding on their behalf of £320.00. We are now holding £15,122.66 of Big Local funds.

The River Dour Steering Group was awarded a grant of £2,330.00 from Kent County Council. We are now holding funds of £2,745.00 for this group.

As we are approaching the end of the financial year if anyone has any claims for expenses etc. please submit them by our next meeting at the latest with the relevant supporting receipts so they can be paid before the end of the financial year.

As in previous years St. Paul's Church will not give us a definite charge for this room. In lieu of a charge they ask for a donation. Last year we donated £140.00 and I propose we donate the same again this year unless the committee disagrees. Following a short discussion the committee agreed to donate £150.00.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have six two new members this month. They are:

1. Mrs Carol Faraone from River, she is writing for the Newsletter
2. Mrs Davina Harber from Aycliffe, - Social Events
3. Miss Kate Taylor from Lydden
4. Ms Julia Stavrietsky and
5. Mr Louis Melville, both from Castle Hill House, introduce by AS, and into social events, projects and photography.
6. Mr John Richards from Salisbury Road, Dover. ,

Last allocated number 1179, total members are 468.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – we are up to date and are hoping to have our work party from East Cliff to Langdon this Saturday.
- Upper Road – following our meeting with KCC Highways MW and I propose using the existing old pathway immediately after the road bridge. It needs steps to make it safe. Highways approached Pathways who have informed us that they intend to deregister, as it is not safe to put in steps. I replied we will oppose on grounds of health and safety. We now need to start campaign, such as with Dover and Thanet Rights of Way and Ramblers.
- Plaque – River Tram Accident of 1917 not had the time yet to research this – ongoing. **TS agreed to supply details of incident.**

9. Refurbishment

- Our minute taker for the refurbishment sub-committee can longer do this. John Cotton has volunteered to give it a try.
- PCF update, also mentioned in Chairman's report
- Big Local
 - i. Profile presented at open meeting on 12 February 2014 now moving on to vision and plan

- ii. Funding Dover Music Festival
 - iii. Other ideas at meeting – Ray Newsam River Dour Group meeting next week. We are part of the Catchment Plan with funding for WCCP on preparing plan to meet Environment Agency (EA), environment standards. Aiming at fish passes at Morrisons and Halfords and work at Crabble Corn Mill. Love your river campaign. You decide money to fund equipment for clean up working parties. Working to form local angling, which will also care for river. Work to get river walk sorted
 - iv. Street Art – David Litte organising and has potential as will involve people of all ages. On 28th and 29th of June.
 - v. Smart Project – Youth engagement
 - vi. DADS for DADS. This is to get Dads involved in dancing and expressing themselves.
 - vii. Doug and Town TV. Fund to make a video of Dover using students and should be about 10 minutes long.
- Moats Bulwark neglected. Idea to use steps but need EH involvement. They are dangerous and further research needed.
 - AS reported on train fares and parking.
 - The NHS consultation on outpatients in the form of a booklet was distributed to members of the committee.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

Re the school package - the guides are willing to give it a go. A guide is visiting local primary schools to see if they will support it.

The Town Hall executive committee has sent out letters to consultants inviting proposals for a study on how to sustain the future of the Town Hall and to report back by June.

11. Social Secretary's Report

For the Wine and Wisdom evening 97/98 tickets sold, all 16 tables have been booked.

We already have a list of names for the Ypres visit.

It has been agreed that BH will take over the winter programme and PHS will continue with the summer programme.

The winter speakers are arranged up to Christmas.

12. Planning

PS had circulated the Planning Committee minutes in advance. A discussion then followed. A S215 warning letter has been issued to a residence in River.

Muge House will be replaced by housing for active older people aged over 50. There are to be 20 flats.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

The Newsletter should be printed next week.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

DL – the next AGM is due soon and Sue Jones does not want to be re-elected, do we replace on the committee? The committee agreed not to replace. Beverley Hall and John Cotton have not been formally elected onto the committee. BH was proposed by PS and seconded by TS. JC was proposed by TS and seconded by DL.

SC – posters are ready for the March meeting of the Society.

Date of next meeting

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

