

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

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

The Chairman welcomed Charlie Elphicke, Member of Parliament for Deal and Dover, to the meeting.

He gave an account of the issues he has been involved in since becoming an MP in 2010. The main issues were to stop the proposed privatisation of the ferry port of Dover, a hospital for Dover and its location, the progress of the DTIZ project and parking at Dover Priory railway station. He then invited questions from members of the committee for discussion. It concluded by the Chairman thanking him for coming and meeting the committee.

1. Apologies

Apologies from, Susan Jones, Beverley Hall, and Pat Sherratt

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2014 were accepted as correct

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Charlene Mineau, who is being sponsored by the Society, has given a report on what she has been doing so far during her time here.

Written to DDC about the clock at Pencester Gardens and been informed it is on a work list. Also written to DDC about a new cemetery and lack of burial space in the future, but have not received a reply.

The Thomas Tallis plaque was unveiled at a ceremony last Friday 7th March by the Headmaster of Dover College and was attended by members of the committee and the college.

The Zeebrugge ceremony on 23 April will start at 10.25 meeting at the Maison Dieu car park and end at the Town Hall with the ringing of the Zeebrugge Bell at midday. The Chairman will be laying a wreath on behalf of the Society.

Invited to attend the Western Heights master plan stakeholders meeting.

There was a site meeting with KCC at the Air Wardens Post at Priory station. It is untidy, the shrubs need attending to and litter removed. It will not be opened, as part of Dover Heritage days as the building is empty and there is nothing to see. However it could possibly be part of the Heritage Trail. It needs an Interpretation Panel, costing about £1000 plus installation costs. The Heritage Trail needs **about** another 5 new Interpretation panels and others need to be replaced.

The Heritage Trail project has now identified all sites on the trail. The route has been agreed, the text for booklet **is being drafted**, apps for mobile phones **are envisaged**, the inserts in the pavements **are being explored**, and the costs of the scheme **estimated**. A pre-application will now be submitted to the Lottery Fund. If accepted a full application will be submitted and hopefully **the trail** will be ready by next Easter 2015. An outline of the trail was given, starting at Admiralty Pier and ending at the Town Hall. The cost is under £100,000. With Lottery Fund we do not have to match funding.

Port & Community Forum – **Chairman proposed** an item **for the next P&C Forum** agenda on behalf of The Dover Society. The item was read out and there were no objections. The text was:

'To PCF Secretariat

Agenda item for 7 May PCF Meeting

The Dover Society urges the PCF to write to the Shipping Minister asking him to assist with the need to ensure the continuing success of the Port of Dover and the urgent need to revive the economy and well being of the local community. In particular we would urge him to put in place appropriate financial means to enable Port developments to meet the challenges of the future; to allow the Port to make a financial contribution to improving the life and economy of Dover (possibly via a Port Community Trust) by extending the Port's current powers; and to provide a guarantee that the Port will not be privatised. The Dover Society believes that the recent formation of the Port and Community Forum, bringing together for the first time all the players striving separately to improve the town, its economy and the life of the people – the local authorities, organisations, voluntary groups and the town's largest employer – is already beginning to demonstrate that by working together much more could be achieved. The granting of the requests outlined above would greatly facilitate this process and enable the Port and community to face the future with more confidence.'

The Chairman had received a request from AS to discuss the outcome of a complaint made by Lorraine Sencicle against the Town Clerk of DTC to the Information Commission Office. He asked if any one else had cause to complain and if there was anything else The Dover Society should do. After discussion it was agreed that The Society was not involved but will keep the situation under review. If the Society has any dealings with the Town Clerk and there are grounds for complaint we would take it up.

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 February are:

- £58.00 for subscriptions for the coming financial year.
- £57.00 from newsletter advertising
- £17.00 for the sale of Town Hall booklets to the publication fund.
- £15.00 for Town Hall tours to the Town Hall fund.

The monies paid out are:

- £150.00 to St Paul's church for the use of room for our meetings.
- £37.00 to Royal British Legion for two wreaths purchased annually for various remembrance services.

The Wine and Wisdom evening was a great success and brought in more people participating than we have ever had before. Thanks to this our surplus for the evening was £400.75. As is our usual practice where we donate half the profits to Clive Taylor's nominated charity, which is The Crabble Corn Mill Trust. I propose to the committee that £200.00 be sent to Clive for this Trust. This was seconded by AS.

During last month the Society was authorised by Dover Big Local to pay out from the money we are holding on their behalf, £7,298.65. We are now holding £7,824.01 of Dover Big Local funds.

The River Dour Steering Group was awarded a donation by River Parish Council of £250.00. We are now holding £2,995.00 of this group's funds.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have four new members this month. They are:

1. Mr David and Mrs Pauline Carter from River.
2. Ms Clair Hawkins, a prospective Labour candidate.
3. Mr Ken Vincent from Elms Vale.

Last allocated number 1183, total members are 471.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – we are up to date with only one problem sorting out the removal of a needle.
- Upper Road – Denise Roffey is to ask her boss if he would come to a meeting. Roger King to join MW and I.
- Plaque – the Tallis plaque has been unveiled. Notes have been received from TS regarding the Tram accident of 1917 and will now start work on this.
- River Dour – meeting held on 18 February of the Catchment group. EA stated there has been no flooding during the high water levels. Crabble Mill was opening sluices to manage flood risk. EA to check this. WCCP to draw up plans for River Dour to meet EA standards. Presentation approach of voluntary input for getting things done. WCCP to be give tools for cleaning up the river.

9. Refurbishment

- Thanks to minute taker Pam Brivio for all her work. Jenny is doing our minutes this time but JC may help.
- Big Local
 - i. Profile being lodged with Big Local.
 - ii. Plan being got underway with five groups and governance group. Suggested Sylvie Parsons and Ray Newsam to Alan with Green Spaces.
 - iii. Volunteer meeting held last night.
- Matters of concern with town centre and to talk to Planners if there is anything we can do to support the improvements on:
 - i. High Street Strategy
 - ii. Greening of development sites and
 - iii. Pushing for improvements to the Funky Monkey site
- MW to ask CE about roadside litter
- Litter enforcement officer to come and talk to our Committee and any other committee members interested.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The Town Hall tours started again in February.

MMcF placed buckets for donations at the Dover Film Festival and the amount received was £286.01.

Strategy for the Town Hall regarding the future use and management of the Town Hall, consultants **have been** contacted **and** have to reply by 11 April and submit a report by **end of** June.

11. Social Secretary's Report

Ypres trip, 39 have been listed and money received. We can take 49 and it may be over subscribed. A second coach may be considered.

12. Planning

PS had circulated the Planning Committee minutes in advance. A discussion then followed. TS queried Dolphin Lane on the DTIZ plan and wanted to know if it would be preserved, as it is one on the oldest lanes in Dover. PS to make enquires.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report.

15. Publications

A book written by a Mr Lockyer on the history of Dover, would like to put in a thank you to The Dover Society. Are there any objections to this? Committee agreed there were none.

16. Any other business

The AGM is due and agreed there is nothing more to arrange.

MMcF – Film Festival **has been asked to** consider showing in the Silver Screen, a purpose built cinema. No action at the moment but needs time for consideration.

AS – rail fares of £10.00 London to Dover comes to an end on Sunday.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 10 April 2014, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms, Dover.8