

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 April 2014
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

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

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Chairman's Report

Western Heights – attended a meeting with JC and PS , which PS will report on.

Attended a meeting last to hear how the Shipping Minister's thoughts were developing on the way forward for the port. It was more than thinking; rather a clear framework for the future, starting now. Whilst he commended DHB, the DPPT and the formation of the Port and Community Forum and the Port Users Group for bridging the gap between port and town, more was needed to ensure an enduring meaningful relationship between the two to guarantee a thriving port and a thriving town.

There were 3 elements:

- more community involvement in the port
- commercial development and
- regeneration

He envisaged:

- 2 non-executive DHB directors elected by community (how to achieve this would be a matter for the community and DHB to decide),
- up to date financial powers to allow joint ventures,
- ability to borrow against its assets and to enhance DHB's contribution to regeneration.

In order for DHB to play a significant role in regeneration he envisaged a DBH Regeneration Division, which could possibly become a subsidiary company or a trust to enable grants from heritage and other funds. All this would require a Harbour Revision Order to make it legal, but in the meantime it was hoped the DHB could create a community fund from its pre-tax profits. Dover would remain a Trust Port. So, the Dover Society's original preference when first faced with privatisation proposals in 2010 will be largely fulfilled; Retain trust Port status, extend DHB powers to enable the financing of future development and to make a financial contribution to the local community, too big an ask apparently was a guarantee of no future privatisation. Now that we have a framework, the community will have to work hard with DHB on the detail to ensure that this new model works effectively for both the port and the town.

Sylvie Parsons was enquiring about the Dover Society joining the Civic Society so an appeal could be raised against the DTIZ Hotel design. After a short discussion it was decided not to pursue this.

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 March are:

- £1260.00 for subscriptions for the financial year 2014/15
- £141.00 from newsletter advertising

The monies paid out are:

- £200.00 donation, as agreed at the last committee meeting, to the Crabble Corn Mill trust out of the profits from the Wine and Wisdom evening.
- £100.00 for purchasing postage stamps before the increase in the postage stamp price.
- £11.76 for posting newsletters "out of area".
- £251.89 for insurance for this year, covering us from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

The March indoor meeting was in profit by £26.01. The raffle made a net profit of £99.50 and a thank you to all involved.

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 £2582.68. The amount of funds we are now holding for the Dover Big Local is £5241.33.

Also during last month the Society was authorised by The River Dour Partnership, formally known as The River Dour Steering Group, to pay out £1078.65. We are currently holding £1916.35 of The River Dour Partnership funds.

The quarterly interest on Caf account came in as £10.22.

The financial statement for the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 were distributed to the committee members, which will be presented to the AGM next Monday 14 April. If there are any questions regarding this statement please contact MW who will answer them. If you are attending the AGM bring the statement with you.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have seven new members this month. They are:

Mr Brian and Mrs Celia Walters of Salisbury Road, Dover, who could help with social events and newsletter.

Mr Len and Mrs Frances Sykes of Priory Hill, who are returnees after seeing notice at last meeting.

Mrs Lorraine and Mr Hoe Toh of River, interested in social events and photography.

Mr Laurie Brooks, a Whitfield Parish Councillor, would write for the newsletter.

Last allocated number 1188, total members are 477.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – we are up to date and the problem with needles has been dealt with.
- Upper Road – a need to prompt Denise Roffey of KCC again to arrange meeting. Plaque for Tram accident of 1917 – still working on this, in particular the wording, which needs to be careful consideration.
- River Dour – a grant of £2500 will be used to buy tools for the volunteers. Litter working parties will start this month.
- Paper Mill – Ray Newsam attended a site visit. There are plans for a riverside walk and the developers need to be made aware there is already in existence a right of way along the river.

9. Refurbishment

- Conservation areas and listed building. Maureen Morris circulated photographs of the Old Post Office to members of the Refurbishment Sub Committee at the meeting held on Monday 7 April, and described her extensive research. She has a considerable amount of material. Richard Sandilands has been approached by MM and JC with a request to inspect the interior. The builders will shortly be vacating the building.
- Cleanliness including litter - trying to set up a meeting with DDC Litter Enforcement Officer and will invite Adeline Reidy to attend.
- Highways and Pathways – JC to chase up KCC pathways again.

- Joan Liggett had a meeting with DCI Barlow on Wednesday 2 April. The main topics discussed were:
 1. The progress and effect of the zero tolerance of druggies and drinkers
 2. From June Dover Police Station will revert back to a 24-hour operational station.
 3. There is to be a doubling of staff dealing with emergencies.
 Overall JL considered meeting to be a positive one and will be writing a report for the newsletter.

Vision for Dover – John Cotton presented his vision for Dover to the refurbishment committee and it was agreed he should give the presentation to the members of this committee. In summary he deplored the decline of Dover in recent decades and thought promotion of tourism would help revive the town offering,

- Walking tours
- Open top bus tours
- White Cliff tours
- Boat tours
- Bicycle tours

Apart from the above the council, shop owners, café and restaurant owners as well as the general public all have to present a clean and friendly atmosphere to the tourist, so that the word gets around that Dover is a place worth visiting not for a few hours but perhaps for a few days.

We have so much to offer people in fact 3500 years of history, probably more than any other town in the country.”

A discussion followed the presentation, which recognised the various conflicts of interest and what has been tried in the past, including some of the options mentioned and there is no easy answer. Agreed action is needed to drive it through one body to coordinate all attractions and activities such as Big Local and the Port and Community Forum.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

Strategy for the Town Hall regarding the future use and management of the Town Hall is awaiting date of next meeting regarding the replies from the consultants that have been contacted. Their replies should be received by 11 April and submit a report by end of June.

11. Social Secretary's Report

Ypres trip, one coach is now fully booked, and there are 17 applicants on the waiting list. A second coach cannot be booked for the same day but may be able to arrange the same trip on another day if more members wish to go in order to fill a second coach.

12. Planning

PS had circulated the Planning Committee minutes in advance. He apologised for an error regarding the note 2a on DTIZ. The content refers to a visit of the Port Minister, which should be note 2c DHB & Seafront, and not DTIZ. There was nothing further to report on DTIZ. An amended version of the report was sent to all committee members the following day by email. His report also included the Western Heights Masterplan meeting and updated the committee members.

TS queried Dolphin Lane on the DTIZ plan and this will be put on the agenda at the next meeting of DDC with the developers.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

The deadline for reports for the next newsletter is 14 May. There are sufficient articles for the newsletter.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

The funeral of Bruce Lilley is on Monday 14 April at 1.20 pm at Barham.

MW has been informed that The Dover Society was on Facebook and Twitter. McF confirmed this. Charlene Mineau has set up the accounts but BH was concerned about the information that was being put out and what was the objective for doing this. A discussion followed and it was agreed that BH would meet with Charlene and McF to discuss further. AS reported that the LS history website has had over 20,000 hits from 94 countries. JC raised the matter of coopting Sylvie Parsons on to the Executive committee. It is too late for the nomination at AGM but there is a vacancy. The proposal was made by JC and seconded by AL. A vote was taken with 8 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention. It was agreed she should start in May.

JC urged the need for a bus service to and from the seafront.

Date of next meeting

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