

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 8 May 2014
at St Paul's Parish room, Dover

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

Ray Newsam gave an update on the River Dour Partnership. Leaflets have been produced and were circulated to the members of the committee. Funding is now coming through. An action plan for the river is being formed. The vision is for a green water park. Funding is due for next year but after that we will have to be self-funding. The Old Flour Mill has been bought but the new owner is not interested in the millpond and the sale price is £30K preferably to a community group to look after it. A map of the area was shown and the question is where is funding coming from and which group is best to look after it. This chalk river is unique for brown trout and it is hoped to have an Angling Club up and running within 2 years bringing in income to maintain the river.

1. Apologies

John Cotton and Alan Lee.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2014 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

BH and McF had not met to look at the content on the society's Facebook page. BH had looked at the content and there was nothing that the committee would object to since the information and links are taken from the society's web site but very few people are looking at it. It to be updated on a regular basis. It was agreed that the facebook page should not contain anything that is not already on the website and would be updated on a monthly basis.

4. Chairman's Report

AGM – the February decision by the committee not to support Alan Shirley's petition by the Dover Society was challenged under AOB. There were about 80 people present at this open meeting After discussion a vote had resulted in 22 in favour of supporting the petition, 16 against and 38 abstained.

A discussion followed and it was agreed that DL should write to DDC and a copy to Alan Shirley, giving the reason for the Society's Executive decision made in February and why the committee's view has now changed. The Society now supports the petition in principle for a public meeting.

Western Docks consultation workshop was attended by 100. There was a round table discussion and the key points reported were restoring pride in Dover, creating new jobs, maritime training and the division of the town and seafront by the A20. The presentation by DHB non-director Bob Lane on regeneration was very good and the main point was not the money that is put into the scheme but a combination of the people, the buildings and delivery.

PCF – discussion re the W Docks workshop was concerned about the quality of the buildings and what is visible from Western Heights. Expect the waterfront buildings to be of high quality minimising the impact of other buildings. The quality of the jobs, access to Union Street, timetable and road works discussed.

Tim Waggott explained the DHB 14-month consultancy contract in the Far East for developing 3 Ferry Ports in Taiwan.

Richard Christian is behind the scenes at DHB involved in the community, such as Young Enterprise, talking to Primary schools about jobs etc.

Eastern Docks – demolishing entrance and No.1 control buildings giving a 220 freight vehicles buffer zone.

Minister's announcement and W. Docks proposals – A draft letter with early views of the developments to DHB and the Minister was discussed and amendments suggested.

Heritage Trail group meeting. Progress so far is an agreed list of sites, provisional route, draft text for guide book, number and costing of bronze markings in the pavements, the website, **smartphone app** and refurbishing existing panels and new panels. The estimated cost is £80K to 90K keeping it under the £100K mark because of the complex procedure to the Lottery Fund for over 100k. The next step is to put in a pre-application letter to the Heritage Lottery Fund. A reply is expected within 10 days to inform us if it will be potentially acceptable or not. If accepted a full application will be made and a response made within 10 weeks. Advice is available and if the **application is approved** 50% of the money is put upfront and the rest as and when needed basis. There is a value for money element so the guidebooks cannot be too expensive, £5 each **is the aim with free** leaflets. Dover Society as the applicant on behalf of the PCF will be accountable to HLF and responsible for proper control of finance. If not used or fail to spend on the project the Society is liable for the refund of the money. The risk is very small but there is need to be aware of this potential liability. A discussion followed and PS proposed that the Society should be responsible for the project, seconded by BH. A vote was taken and all were in favour, with no abstentions.

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 April are:

- £462.00 for subscriptions for the financial year 2014/15
- £10.00 for the year 2015/16
- £4.00 donation
- £209.00 from newsletter advertising
- £20.70 from the sale of newsletter binders
- £4.00 from the sale of Society's badges

The monies paid out are:

- £90.00 was paid out for the annual overhaul of the trimmers used at Cowgate.
- £40.00 for our annual subscription to the White Cliffs Countryside Tourism Association.

At the AGM evening the completed functions list was £17.44 in surplus. The raffle made a net profit of £120.00. A thank you go to all those involved.

During last month the Society was authorised to pay out £1960.10 by Dover Big Local, from the money we are holding on their behalf. The amount of funds we are now holding for them is £3281.23.

The River Dour Partnership also authorised the Society to pay out £1011.96 from their funds we are holding, leaving a balance of £904.39.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have four new members this month. They are:

Mr Peter and Mrs Anne Castle of Barton Road, Dover
Mrs Marie Harcourt-Ronaldson of Coombe Valley Road, Dover and
Mrs Josephine Bygrave of River.

Last allocated number 1192, total members are 478.

8. Projects

- River Dour – Ray Newsam gave an update, he is a very good Chairman and is positive in his drive to get things done
- Cowgate – we are up to date but the weather may be against us this weekend.

- Upper Road – another reminder made to Denise Roffey of KCC again to arrange meeting. Awaiting a reply.

9. Refurbishment

- Cleanliness including litter – spoken to Roger Walton about setting up a meeting with DDC Litter Enforcement Officer, no firm date.
- JC is interested in following up his Tourist idea.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The guided tours continue.

A meeting re the future of the Town Hall is being held tomorrow, Friday 9 May, and will be considering three replies received from consultants invited to carry out a study and make recommendations.

11. Social Secretary's Report

There is a lot of interest in a second coach trip to Ypres but not yet booked until a coach is filled.

Menus for the Christmas Feast are being considered and looking for possible entertainment.

12. Planning

PS had circulated the Planning Committee minutes in advance. A short discussion followed.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

The deadline for reports for the next newsletter is 14 May.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

Heritage Open Days – contacts have been made to the various owners and registered with English Heritage. Approval required to get 500 leaflets printed at a cost of about £98.

Approval given.

PS – reminder of the Plant Sale by the National Trust at the White Cliffs visitors centre this weekend, Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 May.

AS – attended Rail Summit meeting and found it interesting. It covered the Eurostar new routes to South of France and Amsterdam

SP – wanted to confirm any monies raised for planting using the Society's **name** will be used for that purpose. Agreed this project should come under the Refurbishment Committee and any monies raised will be ring fenced for the purpose of planting.

DL has written to KCC on behalf of the Society regarding **underwriting funding** for the Dover Tattoo.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 12 June 2014, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms,