

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 12 June 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, Sylvie Peters, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies

Alan Sencicle

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2014 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

It was agreed at the last meeting that the Society's website would be updated on a monthly basis. The question was raised as to who would do this. Mike McFarnell confirmed he would be doing it.

4. Chairman's Report

There was a presentation to Charlene Mineau on Friday 6 June to thank her for the time she has been with us and for the work she has done for the Society, Dover Greeters and others during her 6 month sponsorship.

The Alan Shirley petition regarding the progress of the DTIZ project, DDC have agreed to hold a Special Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee on Monday 23 June 2014 at 6 pm at the Discovery Centre, Dover.

PCF – invited to two separate workshops to discuss how the Community Director should be appointed and the how to deal with the Community Fund.

Heritage Trail - the HLF pre-application was sent and a favourable reply has been received. It is worth applying although only about 50% are successful. A 2nd application can be made and this is often more successful. TS reminded the committee that we do have a letter from Vera Lynn endorsing this project and this may give more weight to the application. Christine Waterman and DL will be drafting the full application.

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 May are:

- £564.00 for subscriptions for the financial year 2014/15
- £6.00 for the year 2015/16
- £23.00 in donations
- £11.00 from newsletter advertising

Mr Chris Hobbs-East, gave a talk in Herne on "Dover and Civic Life". He requested a donation for a local charity. He received £35 and donated it to The Dover Society. This money has been placed into the Town Hall fund.

The monies paid out are:

- £30.00 was paid out for a wreath purchased for the Zeebrugge service.

During last month the Society was authorised to pay out £984.23 by Dover Big Local, from the money we are holding on their behalf. Dover Big Local was awarded a further £20,000 making the total amount of funds we are now holding to £22,297.00.

No movement took place in the River Dour Partnership fund so the amount we hold for them is still £904.39.

JC added that as our requirements have increased he is talking to Neil Beverton, Accountant, about the cheapest possible method if we have to submit a full set of accounts.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have two new members this month. They are:

Mr Bill Fawcus, retired from DHB, introduced by AS.

Mr Francis Field, form Brighton.

Last allocated number 1194, total members are 475.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – the grass has grown over the last week or so but it is looking good.
- River Dour – due to see Ray Newsam to organise meetings. Hopefully Ray can attend the next executive committee meeting to make a full report.
- Plaques – I need another contact to get on with locating a site. The name of Woolly Perry was suggested as the managing agent of the old rag mill.

9. Refurbishment

- John Cotton – tourism. Emailing Martina White and Denise Smith to see if ideas can be part of DBL local economy funding and plan. John C to copy PS into his emails. Another idea John C has is for bikes, similar to the bike scheme in London, to be sited on Admiralty Pier and various stations around Dover. It was agreed that we do need a more coherent approach and needs to be brought together so each project is communicated to each other. A marketing strategy is required so all these tourist attractions and facilities can be found in one place.
- SP and planting at Dover Priory Station. SP has copied JC into her emails and letters regarding this project. SP gave an update. She requires £3500 for the project. She has received a donation of £250 and B&Q will donate £100 worth of goods. She gave details of the work to be carried out and the type of planting to be done on the station. It was agreed that a formal agreement is required with Network Rail regarding the maintenance of the planting before committing to spending this amount of money. BH will help SP with this. It was agreed in principle that the Society will support this project **financially** but to be discussed again when an agreement has been secured.
- Conservation –Maureen Morris **to research history** of Castle Hill House. **DL pointed out that Lorraine Sencicle had recently published Mercury articles on its history.**
- Highways and Pathways:
 - Upper Road - KCC to extinguish. Work on the existing pathways. Funding from "Up on the Downs"
 - JC to send reminder to Dept. of Transport regarding parking at Dover Priory Station.
 - JC to write to MP Charlie Elphick about the duelling of the A2.
- Jenny and Joan to see CI Barlow but there has been little or no input from members. Another reminder to be in the next newsletter.
- Big Local:
 - Fund preparation going ahead
 - Open meetings – some really good people committed to help others such as Porchlight, Gateway
- Litter:
 - Reminder to Roger Walton about inviting a litter warden to talk to the committee
 - Article in the newspaper on fines.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The guided tours – the numbers have been increasing.

History Society of Sevenoaks saw our advert in the Kent History Journal and a group of 15 came to Dover and opted to go to the Town Hall, The Roman Painted House and the Museum. **Another two large groups are visiting the Town Hall during June.**

A meeting re the future of the Town Hall was held this morning to consider the **bids** of 3 consultants. Each consultant was scored and a report will go to DDC Cabinet on 7 July when a decision will be made. **The likely cost is £30k (funded mainly by DDC and DTC) and the**

committee confirmed that the Society could contribute £1k from the Town Hall Fund. It was also likely that a separate Conservation Statement costing around £20k would be commissioned (required for any HLF application) and again the Society could contribute £1k toward the cost.

Quite separately DDC has been awarded £90K of government resources under the Doing (Heritage) Differently scheme to promote tourism. Both DDC and DHB heritage assets would be put into one trust, possibly including the Town Hall. The Dover Society would be consulted about proposals at some stage.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The next trip in September is to The Grange in Ramsgate, the Shell Grotto and then onto the Walpole Bay Hotel for a cream tea. The date is 16 September and will cost £21 per person. The second coach trip to Ypres is going ahead on 3 July even though it is not full. Christmas Feast, there are a few changes to the menus following feedback from members. A flyer will be available in July with menu choices and the names of the entertainers from National Youth Choir.

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 newsletter will be going to the printers next week

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

DL – reminder about the annual invite from the Athertons for lunch. The agreed date is 27 July and at the next meeting we will confirm numbers attending. Propose we move the venue for our meetings. Biggin Hall is now available. JC to investigate regarding cost.

Publicity leaflets. Can we make ours more informative and two sided. AL to take on task. It has been noticed that the Society has lost 3 Vice Presidents. We have 5 at the moment do we need to increase the numbers? It was agreed that a Vice President should be a member and have contributed to the Society. To be considered again at a later date.

SC – the Plaques Trail leaflet is looking amateurish and needs to be in a different format and updated. It needs to look more professional and we need to be prepared to pay for this.

DL is meeting the head of Dover Grammar School and Art Teacher and will put forward the idea of asking the students to design a leaflet.

John C is not happy with the proposals set out by DHB regarding the A20. The proposed development of the Western Docks will generate more traffic and he would like to see the A20 to be expanded to 3 lanes. DHB must have made a feasible study regarding extra traffic. However a crawler lane going up Shakespeare hill would make more sense. This is not likely to happen (dualling of the A2 is both DHB and Society's priority). It was agreed that John C should write on a personal level to MP.

MMcF – website. Still trying to bring both websites together. The old one still has 110 pages and 592 files but the hits have gone down. The new site is more popular. BH and MMcF to discuss and to come back with a recommendation.

Dover Tattoo – cannot apply for funding for an existing event so the name has been changed to Dover Fringe Festival and an application for funding is being made.

JC – Jack Woolford has just celebrated his 97th birthday.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 10 July 2014, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms,