

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 July 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, Sylvie Peters, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies

Alan Sencicle, Jean Marsh

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2014 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

The lunch at the Atherton's is on the 27th July and 18 will be attending.

Publicity Leaflets, AL is looking at this.

Revamping Plaques Leaflet - DL attended an event at Dover Grammar School and met the Art Staff. They agreed to a project to be put to the lower sixth to design a leaflet during the school holidays.

BH and MMcF – project to reduce usage of the old domain website and force users to go to the new site. The old site will be kept to protect it, but will not be updated. It will be a blank screen with a link to the new site. The costs have been agreed. See Treasurer's report.

Change of **committee meeting** venue, MW has not yet contacted Biggin Hall but the RCPYC now has premises for meetings. MW to obtain costs and if acceptable the committee agreed for MW to book this venue for future meetings, **probably from October**.

A letter was received from South Eastern Railways confirming a minimum of 5 years support by staff to the maintenance of planting at Dover Priory Station. It was agreed at the last meeting the Society will pledge money towards this planting scheme providing this confirmation was received. The amount to be agreed at a later date. SP has revised the project costs and will inform the committee at the next meeting in September.

4. Chairman's Report

DDC has received initial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund **for** £3.1 million for the restoration of Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens.

SE Local Enterprise and the Department of Trade are looking at **viability of improving** links between the Town and the Seafront.

On Tuesday DL **will attend** a DHB Workshop **re Community Director**, proposed Community Fund and Western Dock revival. The chair reminded the committee of the original Society policy **for any Community Fund** and its objectives. A discussion followed but agreed there is a need for a full time person to **coordinate and** promote the town and tourism.

The process of selecting a DHB Community Director, the duties, personal specification, eligibility and timetable were agreed by a panel **comprising community representatives including DL and the dhb Nomination Committee**. The details of each category were given, also details of the sift and the interviewing panel.

A member of the Society has sent 3 letters to the Chairman. The first was for the Society to call for the resignation of the Town Mayor. A short discussion followed and it was agreed the Society does not get involved in political issues. He also feels there should be a Union Flag and mast at the Town's War Memorial. He wants to call a special meeting of the Society to discuss this and is requesting the rules regarding on how to go about this. A discussion followed and the Society's Constitution referred to. He would need to obtain 15 paid up members to agree to such a meeting and at least 25 paid up members need to attend. He could be invited to write an article in the next newsletter **about his enthusiasm for the flag flying** but it could not be political/**personal**.

The second letter was about the state of the River Dour. His concerns will be **passed** on to the River Dour Partnership.

The third letter was about the name of the new **health facility** and he is suggesting it should be named after the Queen or Prince George. It had been put out for public consultation by the

health authority, which the committee were not aware of. The Society does not have a view **but encouraged the member to suggest a naming** competition.
DL to respond to the three letters.

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 June are:

- £58.00 for subscriptions for the financial year 2014/15
- £21.00 from newsletter advertising
- £44.00 from the sale of Town Hall books to the publication fund
- £250.00 donation by George Hammonds for Sylvie Parsons Dover Priory Station planting. This money is in a sub section of the projects fund.
- £112.00 profit from the Ypres June trip, and the July trip is expected to be in profit.
- £38.50 from our shares to the Town Hall fund
- £280.12 from Town Hall tours, also to the Town Hall fund.

During last month the Society was authorised to pay out £1071.26 by Dover Big Local, from the money we are holding on their behalf. We are now holding £21,225.74 of Dover Big Local funds.

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

Membership renewal to CPRE. Last year we paid £36.00 and they are asking for the same again. Does the committee wish to renew the membership? The committee agreed.

Receipt of an invoice totalling £70.13 from Mike McFarnell for the website costs. This is made up of £50 for the website hosting from Chris Tutthill, £14.14 domain name renewal with Homestead and £5.99 for domain name renewal with Fasthosts. **MW asked whether** the committee **was** in agreement that the membership be renewed? The committee agreed.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have six new members this month. They are:

Mr John and Mrs Jean Duggan, Whitfield
Mrs Patricia Barber, Minerva Avenue, Dover
Mr Derek and Mrs Christine Donnelly, Pioneer Road, Dover
Mr Ian Keyser, Church, Whitfield.

Last allocated number 1200, total members are 478.

8. Projects

- River Dour
 - Mill pond in Lorne Road is ongoing and Big Local is interested.
 - A plan is being prepared by WCCP for the upkeep and maintenance.
 - DTC September meeting. Ray Newsam to update them on River Dour Partnership and explain the funding.
 - You decided grant now used and equipment with WCCP volunteers. A thank you to The Dover Society members who supported the bid.
 - Ray Newsam had a meeting with DDC; attending was Paul Watkins, Nigel Collor and Roger Walton. Discussed were plans for
 - Lorne Road pond,
 - the Buckland Bridge toilet block to be used as a visitor centre and toilet block,
 - the control of fishing and the prevention of illegal fishing
 - Kearnsney Park and Bushy Ruff funding award and support from the Group.

Next meeting is on 30 July with a management river walk round Buckland Paper Mill site at 11.00 am.

- Cowgate – it is going well and this is an easy time of the year. There are needles and we are waiting for DDC's input for tidying up and who to manage it.

- Plaques – Smith Woolly Perry have been contacted and would like a meeting to **discuss** a location and insurance. A meeting to be arranged.

9. Refurbishment

- John Cotton – tourism and DBL input. John C gave a brief outline of his discussion
- John Cotton correspondence with Charlie Elphick MP, on roads. He read out the reply received but is referring back for clarification.
- Sylvie Parsons – outlined her ideas for planting at the Dover Priory Station and for improving the Market Square area.
- Conservation – the old Labour Exchange. Maureen Morris has come to a halt as the records stop after 15 years.
- Litter – awaiting news on presentation and update from DDC.
- Upper Road – Denise Roffey is chasing up work in progress
- Jenny understands that CI Barlow wants to re-invigorate the neighbour hood watch scheme.
- Big Local:
 - Meetings do provide very interesting speakers on social matters
 - Due to get a grant from Unltd on local economy of £10K
 - Proceeding with plan with the intention to put to Local Trust at the end of August or early September
 - Training in “Grant winning on listed and ancient buildings”. A special course to take place for 3 people. DL or PS to attend. To be arranged.
- Roger Walkden would like to come back onto the Refurbishment Committee. This is for the Refurbishment Committee to discuss and agree.
- Next meeting in September but can be emailed in the interval.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The guided tours continue.

The DDC decision **re approving appointment of** consultants on the future of the Town Hall should be known by the end of this week.

11. Social Secretary's Report

PHS – The two Ypres trips were a success. It has been suggested a trip over 2 or 3 days to the same area would be good and the coach company is working out an itinerary. The committee gave a thank you to PHS for all her hard work in making these trips such a success. **Details were given of the September trip to Thanet area.**

BH – confirmed she has 4 bookings for the Christmas Feast.

12. Planning

PS circulated details of his comments made at the DDC Special Scrutiny Committee meeting on 23 June. He gave a brief outline of the meeting and a discussion followed.

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

PS urged members to view the Chichester District Council BID Levy website to see what is possible if the business community gets its act together.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

DL – commented on his mistake made in the last newsletter on page 34 **advertising HODS.** The **headline** referring to **Coronation display** should have **been deleted (from last year).**

TS – The **goosenack** crane on the **Wellington Dock** is being refurbished **(for the Heritage Trail).**

JC – Jack Woolford is well and looking forward to the Christmas Feast.

Sybil Standing is in hospital and will not be going back to **Laureston** Place.
A WW1 Samphire Hoe **event** poster to be emailed to all members.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 11 September 2014, at 7.30 pm at St Paul's Parish Rooms,