

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 9 October 2014
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

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

Ray Newsam gave an update on the River Dour Partnership. He gave details of his meetings with the EA, Buckland Development, Crabble Mill and DTC. He also gave details of the various funding initiatives he is hoping to secure.

1. Apologies Glyn Hale

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2014 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

The present President of the Society is standing down **and** we need to consider a replacement procedure and possible successor. This can be left until the next meeting.
Action: to be put on the next agenda.

4. Chairman's Report

Received a letter from DTC requesting the views of the Society on a flagpole at the town's War Memorial situated outside the DTC building. A discussion followed and it was agreed not to give a view on behalf of the Society, but to urgently email all our members to encourage them to give their personal views.

We have been invited to make up a table at the Mayor's Quiz Night on 31 October to support her charities. As no one was available it was decided to pay for a table to support the Mayor. Dover Grammar School has submitted three designs to replace the Plaque Trail leaflets. They were passed around and a discussion followed. There were good elements from all three but not one overall design was chosen. Action: DL to contact John Iveson for advice on design and to send a thank you letter to the Head Teacher, Art teacher and the three pupils.

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 September are:

- £32.00 for subscriptions for the financial year 2014/15
- £20.00 for future subscriptions
- £24.00 from the sale of Town Hall books to the publication fund
- £196.00 from Town Hall tours to the Town Hall fund.
- £100.00 donation from Mr D Coles to the Town Hall fund

We paid out

- £30.00 in advance for the hire of St Mary's Parish Centre for three committee meetings up to a including December.
- £500.00 returned to the White Cliffs Country Tourism because the Priory Station planting project was cancelled.

The Thanet trip made a loss of £26.00.

During last month the Society was authorised to pay out £995.20 by Dover Big Local, from the money we are holding on their behalf. We are now holding £26,040.61 of Dover Big Local funds.

The River Dour Partnership fund paid out £119.98 and £405.81 is held in their account.

The quarterly interest credited to Caf account is £10.74.
It was agreed to book the centre for a year and make a payment in advance.
The accounts are with the auditors and should be returned by the end of the month.

Membership Secretary's Report

We have one new member this month Miss C Pott of Castle Douglas, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland
Last allocated number 1206, total members are 471.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – making good progress.
- Plaques – agreed the wording of tram plaque and the design to be sent to freeholder to see.

9. Refurbishment

- Sylvie Parsons gave an update on the planters and flowerbeds in the town. DDC to apply fertilizer to rear of St Mary's and replace the lavender in the Market Square planters. She is seeking funding for watering facilities in the Market Square. It was also agreed she should write to Charlie Elphick MP, to lobby Network Rail to support the planting schemes and in particular the maintenance.
- Big Local – confirmed support for funding all training schemes. This will enable funding for St Edmunds Chapel. Courses will start in the new future.
- The Big Local plan has been submitted. The plan includes support for The Dover Society and its work on improving the fabric of the town.
- Tourism – Dover's tourism problems remain the same
- Conservation areas – problems with accessing Old Post Office in King Street and on the point of giving up project. It was agreed that if historian members of the Society were happy to write articles this would be excellent. It is important that we publicise our buildings and history. Cannon Street to be considered as a subject. AS reported success of LS web site.
- Litter – It is noted the lack of litter bins on the streets of Dover and agreed to see if there are any studies of effectiveness of litterbins to submit to DDC.
- Highways and Pathways – J Cope to draft a letter on the traffic situation and the potential to change to a two-way system around Dover was discussed. KCC to reinstate the pathway on the Bleriot/Langdon Cliffs route but is it not clear exactly where this will be and needs to be monitored. MMcF to monitor the Dover and Thanet rights of way situation.
- Anti Social Behaviour – the arranged meeting with CI Barlow was postponed and arranged for next week. Other matters discussed were the debris in the Market Square fountain, the speeding from 5 way traffic lights, the drinkers in the sea front shelters and incidents in Norman Street. These matters to be raised at CI Barlow's meeting.
- There is a problem with Morrison's Supermarket trolleys as they are being found in the river. J Cope to visit the store and speak to Manager.
- AS described the flood prevention scheme put forward by DHB. When the new yacht facilities are constructed this should protect the town. Tim Waggot has responded positively.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

No consultation or report yet from Consultants.
The guided tours continue. A meeting will be arranged with the guides next month.
The publicity leaflets were published 3 years ago and we are down to the last 100 but it is enough until the end of the season. It was agreed to a reprint for next year.

11. Social Secretary's Report

PHS – A trip to Portsmouth on 16 May has been arranged and the details will be in the next newsletter.

BH – confirmed she has 59 bookings for the Christmas Feast. Prizes are required and at least 6 have been donated. Need approximately 12.

The Chairman confirmed the Mayor would be attending.

12. Planning

PS circulated the minutes of the planning committee minutes prior to the meeting. He gave an update on the various items and a discussion followed.

Action: PS to write to the owners of Castle Street cinema regarding their plans for the site.

Action: J Cope and PS to meet Helen Goodwin (Kingston University) regarding project in this academic year.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

MMcF attended a meeting about the Fort Burgoyne development. He found it very useful and gave the relevant details to the committee.

J Cope – the 1944 **Landemann Shell** Monument gives the impression that this was the only shelling that happened in Dover. A suggestion to consider a plaque, stating the total number of shells, bombs and civilian casualties in Dover to be put on the monument. Agreed to look into the cost of **refurbishment and extra plaque** if acceptable.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 13 November 2014, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.