

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 November 2014
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

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

1. Apologies Patricia Hooper-Sherratt

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2014 amended. Paragraph 4, line 7, after
"School", insert "for Girls".

3. Matters Arising

DL has contacted Jon Iveson re design of plaque leaflet but has not yet received a reply.

3a. New President

A discussion followed giving various options. It was agreed the person should have been recognised for their contribution to the Dover Society, to Dover or a person of some standing. A letter will be put in the March Newsletter requesting members to put forward names who fit one of the three categories. The Executive Committee would then select a new President from the names put forward.

4. Chairman's Report

MMcF has requested The Dover Society to put in an advert in the Film Festival programme at a cost of £30. Approved.

At our last meeting the Bishop of Dover made a remark that he would like a Dover Society representative on the Board of Trustees of the port Community Fund. It was agreed to contact the Bishop about his suggestion, and to say that the Society is willing to provide a trustee if invited.

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 October are:

- £6.00 for subscriptions for this financial year
- £8.00 from the sale of Town Hall books to the publication fund
- £27.00 from Town Hall tours to the Town Hall fund.
- £30.00 from Reckitt Benckiser dividend to Town Hall fund

We paid out

- £70.00 in advance for the hire of St Paul's Church hall from April to September.
- £250.00 donation from a member who regularly donates and wishes to remain anonymous.

Our October meeting almost broke even thanks to a very successful raffle, which netted £97.00 after payment for tokens for prizes.

At the end of October 69 people had paid for the Christmas Lunch.

During last month the Society was authorised to pay out £1,597.89 by Dover Big Local, from the money we are holding on their behalf. We are now holding £24,442.72 of Dover Big Local funds.

Nothing was paid out from the money we hold on behalf of the River Dour Partnership so therefore the amount held remains at £405.81.

Membership Secretary's Report

We have 6 new members this month.

They are:

Mr Robert Little from Whitfield,

Ms Kim Jones, Harold Street, Dover,
Mr Peter and Mrs Keiren Coe, Hardwicke Road Dover
Ms Bonny Cummins, Brighton
Mr Brian Flood, Shepherdswell, Trustee and Vice Chairman of the Dover Transport Museum.

Last allocated number 1212, total members are 477.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – only 3 attended last Thursday but hope for more this Saturday.
- River Plaque – the plaque has been ordered and an illustration of the plaque was past around the committee members.
- Es Flogen Plaque – Jon Iveson has been asked to look at our wording and to suggest alternative if appropriate. Also trying to get DDC, DTC and DHB together to agree ownership. The cost is about £500. The Society to make a contribution towards to cost as it is part of the Heritage Trail. Suggested amount £250.

9. Refurbishment

- Well done to everyone who contacted Morrisons about their trolleys. They have now reinstated the locks on them after losing about 100.
- Big Local
 - Monitoring course on St Edmunds Chapel, Biggin Hall and Town Hall looks very good and about to start.
 - Hopefully the funding confirmation will be coming through by Monday at the latest.
 - The last meeting was well supported.
 - Another Local Trusted Organiser (LTO)
- John Cotton explained why he would prefer a Dover Guide booklet rather than a three-folded A4 leaflet. A discussion followed. It was agreed to update the leaflet and to look into other organisations booklets to prevent duplication. John Cotton to take the lead.
- Need to coordinate walks – DBL Wi-fi.
- MMcF and Bid Levy – tourism is not a requirement by DDC. Business through the Bid Levy can vote for the District Council to collect 1% rates for tourism. Canterbury and many areas have already or are in the process of having the Bid Levy. Dover does not have an effective Chamber of Commerce. There is no organisation to push the Bid Levy although most people think tourism is a vital economic necessity for Dover. A discussion followed. The members of the committee were encouraged to look at what Chichester has achieved. Links www.chichesterbid.co.uk, www.canterburycp.co.uk or Google Bid Levy and many more towns are displayed.
- There is a shortage of Coach parking places in the town.
- Conservation areas and way ahead – work on articles to publicise historical sites.
- Litter – there are still 3 DDC officers employed.
- Pathways – AS and MMcF and J Cope will have a go at the Upper Road vegetation.
- Speeding traffic – letter to be redrafted. The objective is to look at the one-way system, improve pedestrian crossings in certain areas and the noise of traffic. Consider sending to KCC, Highways Agency and local MP. BH agreed to look at draft letter.
- Meeting with DCI Barlow and the areas 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. The matters raised are already being looked into.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The consultants on the future of the Town Hall have started work. As part of their fact-finding mission they have met all interested parties separately. They were informed what the Society did, the role it played in the town and its interest in the Town Hall.

An end of season meeting has been held with the guides. It was suggested that the entrance to the Town Hall was not very welcoming. The two sets of doors are off putting. Propose to

obtain a pop up notice of welcome costing about £60 from the Town Hall fund. Agreed to proceed. Request to be made again to DDC for a handrail for a flight of 4 steps. Also suggested a fundraising dinner for the Town Hall. This was discussed but not agreed. The publicity leaflets are being redesigned and it has been already agreed for a reprint for next year.

In addition to the regular Wednesday tours the guides would like to target again the port of call cruise ships on other days. Need to check the short term availability of the Town Hall on other days and to have the cooperation of Visit Kent at the cruise terminal to issue flyers.

11. Social Secretary's Report

PS – A trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Spinnaker Tower on Saturday 16th May 2015 has been arranged. There is a choice of 5 visiting attractions and time spent in Portsmouth is 5 hours.

BH – confirmed she has 83 bookings for the Christmas Feast with another 6 to book. Now have 12 prizes donated for the raffle.

St Mary's Parish Hall has been booked for 2016 AGM and Society meetings.

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.

DDC want to charge usual parking fees on DTIZ site. In other towns 30 minutes free is allowed for shopping and this suggestion to be made to DDC.

Western Heights Draft Master Plan. PS, MW and J Cope gave an outline of the meeting they had attended. The Citadel is still in public ownership and the Society needs to apply for it to be put on the Community Register to give the local community first refusal if ever sold.

Agreed. Action: PS to take forward.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

J Cope. Emailed a paper "Outline suggestion for a garden route to link Dover waterfront to Dover Town centre" to committee members. Discussion followed and generally all in favour. However, whilst helpful it did not address the main problem of seafront access.

TS. There is a book launch at Dover Discovery Centre next Wednesday indicating a Society event, which it is not.

SP. The area around the station can be maintained by Network Rail and requested £250 from her fund be used for new plantation when the matter arises. Agreed.

AS. Details of Tram Crash will be on Lorraine Sencicle website tomorrow.

Neil Wiggins would like support for his project for procession to mark the end of WW1. Will be supported by the Society.

MMcF. Is organising an event to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day, a guided walk and money raised to be donated to Royal British Legion.

AL. The Officer's Mess site , Connaught Barracks, Pre Planning event will be in Discovery Centre tomorrow and Saturday.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 4 December 2014**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.