

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 8 January 2015
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

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

The Chairman introduced **membersw** Denise and Liz, who are **also** Dover Greeters, to the meeting. They came to present the idea of the Dover Heritage Volunteer Scheme. The scheme is to bring together contacts and volunteers from other organisations in Dover. Instead of having individual training for each volunteer group we would share training courses for all volunteers and groups in the town. There could also be cooperation between the various volunteering organisations with the opportunity of working in each other's groups. There would also be an annual get together. They would like The Dover Society to act as the host organisation. After a short discussion this was agreed.

1. Apologies Alan Sencicle, Glyn Hale, Mike McFarnell. Sylvie Parsons has sent a letter of resignation from this committee **which was accepted with regret. She will remain on the Refurbishment Committee**

2. Minutes of the last meeting

An amendment was sent out on 15 December so the **amended** minutes of 4 December 2014 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

4. Chairman's Report

Community Fund Committee. Roger Knight has agreed to be on the Community Fund Committee. The committee comprises The Bishop of Dover, **Ronnie** Philpot, Jack Williams, Emma **Liddiard** and Roger Knight.

On 24 December **the Chairman and others** attended a commemoration at the plaque in Taswell Street of the first bomb dropped in this country in WW1.

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 December are:

- £18.00 for subscriptions for this financial year
- £30.00 donated to The Dover Film Festival, as agreed at last meeting.

We paid out

- £337.00 paid from the Projects Fund to Leander Architectural for the "Tram Crash" plaque.

The Christmas Lunch was in profit by £292.70. The raffle netted a profit of £227.20. A thank you goes out to everyone who ran and helped with the raffle.

During last month the Society was authorised to pay out £2,521.33 by Dover Big Local, from the money we are holding on their behalf. They were also given £78,881.26 plan funding from Local Trust, which we at the present time are holding. We are now holding £98,994.36 of Dover Big Local funds.

Nothing was paid out from the money we hold on behalf of the River Dour Partnership. They have received "You Decide GS Grant" from Dover District Council of £988.01. Therefore the amount held is now £1,393.82.

The Caf quarterly interest amounted to £10.69.

Membership Secretary's Report

We have 4 new members this month.

They are:

Mr Arthur and Mrs Audrey Wright, Monastery Avenue,

Mr Don and Mrs Evelyn Soppitt, Pavilion Meadow, River.

Last allocated number 1219, total members are 485.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – no activity due to poor weather conditions. **More volunteers are needed – an appeal could be included in the Chairman's annual report and in the Newsletter.**
- River Dour – a grant has been received and Ray Newsam has ideas on how to spend it such as an underwater camera. The Mill Pond in Lawn Road/London Road is up for sale for £30K. This is being looked into. DTC have the Deeds and further research is being made, such as potential liabilities and right of way. The old scrape yard at Buckland and adjacent land is an eyesore and needs action. The land housing the old toilet block at Buckland Bridge is owned by the DTC. We are interested in looking at these three sites.

9. Refurbishment

- Big Local
 - Funds have now been received as stated in the financial report.
 - An LTO to be appointed.
 - An open meeting on 27 January when the Kingston University planning students will give a presentation on their ideas of planning and development of Dover. PS will also present the planning scene in Dover.
- Sylvie will be away until May and Joan may also stand down from the committee and we need a volunteer.
- Conservation. Should the Society make inputs into the review of Dover's historical assets? Should our Society push the listed buildings etc as well as conservation areas? DBL interested particularly from tourism point of view. Short discussion followed. To be raised at next meeting with DDC.
- Litter – taking up the matter of lead enforcer talking to our committee to tell us how it works.
- Traffic in Dover - this committee will deal with traffic in the town that is not on the A2 or A20. The planning committee will deal with the trunk roads in and around the town. BH submitted a draft letter as agreed at the last meeting. It was circulated and approved. It will now be sent to the relevant parties.
- Jeremy C to write to DDC to comment on the work of one litter man at Pencester.
- G Wanstall of Castle Ward looked at every Christmas trees in the ward and gave a prize of £200 to be judged the best one.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The guided tours will recommence in February.

A discovery has been made in the basement of the Town Hall of a medieval arch, possibly the original entrance to the 1227 chapel.

11. Social Secretary's Report

BH – confirmed she has 8 tables booked for the Wine and Wisdom evening.

For this year's Christmas Lunch hoping to book the first Saturday in December.

PHS – there has been no response to the May trip to Portsmouth. To be mentioned at Monday's meeting. A further trip is being organised in July to Battle Abbey and Eastbourne.

12. Planning

PS circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January prior to the meeting. A discussion followed. Planning application for flagpole by Memorial to be heard on 19 January. It was agreed that PS to make official comment about the position of the flagpole. It should be on the grass area to the right of the Memorial, to avoid pathways and to prevent vandalism.

The Chairman suggested that the Society resumes its past practice of congratulating property owners who improve the appearance of their buildings. This was agreed.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

The deadline for next newsletter is now a week later 21 January 2015.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

DL – Presentation by DHB of £250K to the Port Community Fund, which took place in the Market Square.

Dove of Peace unveiled at the Marine Railway Station.

Leslie Stevenson of the White Cliff Walkers is planning walks from 27 August to 2 September to show the architecture of Dover and is looking for guidance and support from the Society.

Agreed it was a good idea and could possibly use it to trial the Heritage Trail.

AGM is due in April and the committee members need to consider by February's meeting if they wish to be re-elected, change responsibilities or step down.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 12 February**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.