

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 12th February, 2015
At St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Jeremy Cope (Chair) Sheila Cope, John Cotton, Beverley Hall, Dr. Glyn Hale, Jean Marsh, Mike McFarnell, Alan Sencicle, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Pat Sherratt, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies: Derek Leach, Alan Lee, Terry Sutton, Yvonne Miller (Minute Secretary)

2. Minutes of the last meeting:

An amendment to the minutes of 8th January, item 8 should be DDC not DTC

3. Matters Arising:

4. Chairman's Report:

1. As Vice Chairman, Jeremy asked if all committee members wished to seek re-election at the AGM all agreed to stand.
2. It was noted that the Chairman of DDC planted an Oak Tree at Connaught, with, a few people present representing The Royal British Legion, The Dover Town Council and The Dover Society.

4. Chairman's Report: Apologies given

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 January are:

- In addition to 50 Reckitt Benckiser shares we now have 50 Indivior shares, as a result of the much-anticipated spinoff of its pharmaceuticals division.
- £30.00 for subscriptions, £10.00 for this financial year and £20.00 for the next financial year.
- £4.00 for two Society Badges

Monies paid out:

- £30.00 for room hire up to the end of this financial year.
- £126.00 paid from the projects fund for the servicing of the three strimmers used at Cowgate.

The January Meeting ran at a £69.32p loss. The raffle grossed £86.00 which after paying for prizes netted £56.00 Meals for speakers cost £67.85 hire of the hall was £60.00

Last month the Society was authorized by Dover Big Local to pay out from the money we are holding on their behalf, £11,747.71p. We are now holding £87,246.65p

Nothing paid from the money we hold on behalf of the River Dour partnership, £1,393.82p is held in their account with us.

Membership Secretary's Report:

We have three new members who are:

Mrs. Suzanne Green from Sholden
Miss Barbara Little, Charlton Avenue
Mrs. Felicity Christine, from Blackheath, Surrey.

Last allocated number: 1222, total members remain the same 485 (although we gained 3 new members, we sadly lost 3 members)

8. Projects: Last weeks visit to Cowgate Cemetery was cancelled due to bad weather. They are pleased with the new strimmer (a replacement). Thanks to Terry Sutton for article in the Dover Express asking for volunteers, unfortunately no positive result. A meeting has been held with Nadeem Aziz and Roger Walton of DDC requesting some help to clear needles left there by drug takers, with need for training and equipment.

The River Dour was inspected on Wednesday by South East Rivers Trust, WCCP and Ray Newsam to seek ways of improving the river. EA document used as a basis. Ray is now getting delivery of the equipment provided by the award scheme. Agreed JC to email members to seek volunteers to help with cleaning artifacts at Crabble Corn Mill.

JC circulated the Dover Big Local report held by Kingston University students on 27th January to all Exec members of the DS. A really good meeting with thanks to Pat Sherratt for his presentation on Society's work. An update is included in Planning Committee report.

JC has circulated Highways response to our on a way forward for Dover. BH to draft response. Major roads (A2 and A20) form part of Planning report below.

9. Refurbishment:

It has been suggested that we could try and secure Heritage Status for Dover (a Civiv Trust concept). DL, JC and PS to take forward.

Dover Big Local are appointing a new LTO which will replace the Dover Society. Thanks are due to Mike Weston for his work in supporting DBL

- J Cotton suggested a need for a photo gallery and artists of Dover.
- Sylvia Parsons is looking for a grant and help to plant shrubs in the flower bed behind St. Mary's Church.
- Why do we have the roads swept prior to refuse collection, when it is needed after?
- The flooding in Bridge Street, due to blocked or broken drains, a letter to be drafted by AS and finalized by Jenny Olpin for transmission to KCC Highways.
- Steps will be reinstated on Upper Road within four weeks weather permitting.
- John C reported on Meeting between Jenny Olpin, himself and DCI Barlow, re: anti social behavior, DCI Barlow said it had been quite quiet over the Christmas period this year. He is pushing DDC to have the street lights put back (although KCC have already started doing this) A discussion was held regarding lorries with the problems Dover suffers.

10. Town Hall: Nothing to report

11. Social Secretary:

Beverley reported for the Wine and Wisdom, she has 98 people (16) tables booked, and another table waiting if there is a cancellation.

The Town Hall are unable to let us have a Saturday for our Christmas Feast in December, but, have offered us a Sunday. It was agreed we would accept the offer of Sunday 13th December lunchtime.

12. Planning:

P.S circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February prior to the meeting.

Particular matters included action for meetings with Minister of Transport, rubbish on verges, should this be the responsibility of Highways Agency. All interested political parties fighting to improve A2/A20 access, and, eliminate congestion including improve cameras in junctions and a strong enforcement policy.

13. Press Secretary's Report:

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report:

Nothing to report

15. Publications:

Nothing to report

16. Any Other Business:

- KCC are looking for Charitable Status to run Kent library, archive and registration services. It was noted that archive documents have been lost due to the fact it is run by volunteers, who have not received proper training, and, do not have the experience. Dr. Glyn Hale said he had offered his services, on a voluntary basis, to help with the archive department. He has the qualifications, and, expertise yet he was turned down. GH referred to the need for proper logging and, cross-referencing. If the library goes to a charitable status, any archives may well be removed to Maidstone with very restrictive access for local people.
AS spoke of Lorraine Sencicle's concerns echoing those of GH BH suggested it was important to propose positive solutions.
Members are asked to pass comments on Alan/Lorraine's document, together with any other observations they may have, to the Chairman to finalise the society's response.
- Connaught Park: J. C congratulated DDC for the restoration of the pond, but, made a request for lilies to be planted and fish returned.
- Walkers are Welcome: P. S outlined this scheme would benefit the economy and tourism of Dover. First step securing 1,000 support signatures – circulated support forms.
- AS raised concerns with regard to the No. 68 bus in the Clarendon area, which has problems driving through due to cars parked on both sides, not leaving enough space for larger vehicles. Agreed not to comment now in case the Bus Company stopped drivers from providing this useful service.
- AS reminded us of the 200th anniversary this year re: The Battle of Waterloo, and, perhaps we should commemorate The Duke of Wellington with a Blue Plaque.
- The Dover Film Festival dates are: Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March 3.00 pm & 7.30 pm at the Maison Dieu, Dover Town Hall

The meeting closed at 09.35

Date of next meeting:

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