

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 9 April 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, Mike McFarnell, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies Glyn Hale, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

Presentation to President. The Athertons have bought a tree and had it planted and presented a receipt. A photograph of the tree has been requested so that it can be shown at the AGM on Monday 20 April. Maurice Atherton has suggested Richard Sturt as President.

AGM – Merril Lilley would like to return to the committee. PHS will be standing down as Secretary and BH has agreed to take on this position.

Library consultation. BH taking into account the Lorraine Sencicle draft constructed a formal response by the Society and Chairman sent on 31 March.
Port Consultative Forum (PCF)

Traffic congestion was discussed and a temporary solution comes in to affect from today. Sue Jones (Chair of WCCCTA) gave a presentation on Tourism and a good discussion followed and agreed there is a need for a full time Dover town officer to promote tourism. Possible ways forward will be discussed at the next PCF. Rebecca Smith, Dover Express newspaper group, has offered to cooperate in any campaign to promote tourism and events in Dover.

The Magna Carta, the Faversham version of 1300, is coming to Dover in September. It will be on display in the Town Hall from 10th to 19th September, except Sunday 13th, from 10.00am to 04.00 pm. There is no charge for admission. A rota of volunteers is needed.

Heritage Trail Group has submitted drafted application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for advice before submitting formal application.

DL, JC and PS attended meeting on 30 March held by DDC to get interested parties together to discuss the development of Dover's Town Centre. DL gave details of the meeting and the brief given out, with a desire to meet four times a year.

Revamping of the Plaque Trail leaflet has not progressed, as there is not suitable artwork for the printers to use. We need a full frontal photograph of each plaque or use fewer photographs and rely on the text. A discussion followed and it was agreed a photograph of every plaque is needed.

An invite has been received from The Land Trust to DL to meet to discuss ideas for Fort Burgoyne, Dover. No date has been set.

The Zeebrugge ceremony is on 23 April and as usual the bus to St James will leave at 10.20 am. and will end at the Town Hall with the ringing of the Zeebrugge Bell at midday. The Chairman will lay a wreath on behalf of The Dover Society.

Jack Woolford died on 2 April. The funeral will be held on Saturday 18 April at Barham Crematorium at 11.20am afterwards at St Mary's Parish Centre. DL may speak for the Society at the funeral, to be confirmed. **SC will arrange flowers if appropriate.**

The owner of Castle Hill House would like to organise an International French Language Film Festival. It would be an annual event and is willing to **organise and find** £200,000 cost. Agreed the Society would support this.

5. Secretary's Report

SC read out a thank you letter received from Cynthia Terry.

6. Treasurer's Report

The financial report for this month was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The monies received in March are:

- £1,266 for subscriptions for this financial year
- £158.00 for advertising in newsletter

We paid out

- £60.42 for postage costs, by buying in stamps before the increase in postal charges
- £695.00 paid to Adams Printers for the printing of March Newsletter
- £68.50 for postage of newsletter "out of area".
- £251.89 for insurance

Our insurance for this year was paid at £251.89, which was the same as last year.

At the end of March the Projects Fund was credited £150.00 from a cheque that was not presented for payment and is over 2 years old.

As agreed at the last meeting £75.00 was donated to The Friends of Crabble Corn Mill and we have received a thank you letter from Mrs Jill Taylor.

£1000 was paid to DDC from the Town Hall Fund as the commitment given at a previous Committee meeting to donate this sum towards the survey being undertaken into the future uses of the Town Hall.

Money received in the Town Hall fund last month totalled £816.24. Dover Town Council paid a grant of £435.00 towards the education project for schools. Money taken in the form of donations and the Film Festival raised £296.24 and Town Hall tour money came to £85.00.

The March meeting was in surplus by £11.16.

During last month the Society was authorised to pay out £3,538.41 by Dover Big Local, from the money we are holding on their behalf. We are now holding £82,796.77 of Dover Big Local funds at the end of March. This has now changed, as a substantial amount has been returned to Local Trust in preparation for changes to another Local Trusted Organisation.

No money was paid out from the River Dour Partnership. However a cheque for £35.00, which has not been presented for over a year, has been paid back into their account. We are now holding £1,144.59 in their account.

I have received from The White Cliffs Country Tourism Alliance a renewal request for £40.00, the same as last year. Agreement was received from the committee to pay this.

Our Caf account paid out quarterly interest of £11.39 at the end of March.

Membership Secretary's Report

There are 7 new members this month. They are:

Mr RF and Mrs DE Stone of St Margaret's Bay
Mr R Costa and Ms Ingrid Betancourt of Folkestone Road

Mr James Simmonds of Heathfield Avenue
Mrs Jenny Reynolds of Monastery Avenue
Mrs Barbara Hansom of Kingsdown.

Last allocated number 1229, total members are 489.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – good progress made with 3 and half persons mowing.
- River Dour
visited Lorne Road Mill Pond with Simon Crowley. Need to fix a meeting with Allison Burton and Ray Newsam to discuss a way forward. There is no access to it and technical expertise is needed.
Deborah Gasking's Hi Vis Vests subject to Mercury photo shoot.
- Upper Road – steps now in place and emailed to make clear need for signposting, steps over barrier, swamped part of path and need to clear overhanging vegetation along Upper Road. Positive response today from PROWS who agreed to a working party.
- Dover Big Local
Moving to end The Dover Society treasurer role.
With appointment of EKVAS getting the funding request forms sorted.
Want to push forward tourism.
Support for Aquaponics and Dover Music Festival.
- Wellington plaque – discussion followed. It was agreed this was not a priority for blue plaque. However, it was agreed for an interpretation panel to be sited at the new Buckland Hospital.

9. Refurbishment

- The next meeting will be on Monday 13 March
- AS has resigned from the committee
- DDC meeting:
Crossing the A20 there is a need for more than one crossing
Sally Bengé said they hope to carry out further tests at 5 ways
The minutes of the meeting to be circulated when received.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

Consultants on future management and use progress meeting was held but can not give any further information until the draft report is made available. Should have firm ideas on 24 April. Guided Tours – a grant from DDC Councillor of £435 has been given for the School Education package. Two group tour have booked for May and will make a day of it by visiting other venues in the town.

McF collected £296 for the Town Hall fund at the Dover Film Festival. The Dover Tattoo has now ceased and £480.00 and 50 flags left over, costing 50p each, making £500 will be donated to the Town Hall fund.

11. Social Secretary's Report

PHS has requested that members be emailed about the Portsmouth trip, as we need more numbers.

BH confirmed the Christmas Feast would be on Sunday this year and not the traditional Saturday. It will start later for members who attend church. There have not been any adverse comments to the move.

12. Planning

PS circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March prior to the meeting. PS went through the various items

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report.

14A. When to put meeting speakers reports on the web site

A discussion followed and it was agreed to give a taster on the website of forth coming speakers and publish the content after it has appeared in the newsletter.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

DL – Heritage Open Days, invited various participants to take part on 12/13 September. Will print the leaflets at a cost of approx £100.00. Agreed

McF – DTC have printed the leaflets for the VE Day event on Marine Parade and should now be available at the Town Hall. The presence of a military band has not been confirmed.

Agreed that The Society should explore possibility of an interpretation panel on the site of the former Buckland Hospital/workhouse.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 14 May**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.