

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 15 May 2015
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman) Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, John Cotton, Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee Merrill Lilley, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Mike Weston.

The Chairman welcomed back Merrill Lilley to the committee.

1. Apologies Pat Sherratt, Mike McFarnell and Terry Sutton.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Item 9, Refurbishment, DDC meeting, amend A20 to A256.

3. Matters Arising

AS was disappointed that his proposal for a plaque for the Duke of Wellington to be considered was not met with any enthusiasm. DL stated it was discussed at some length and it was decided not to pursue it. It has been noted that DHB are considering a plaque for Wellington and it was agreed that DL to make an approach to Tim Waggot.

4. Chairman's Report

A letter of thanks from the retiring President, Maurice Atherton, was read out. Two names are being considered for President but it was decided to leave this for the time being.

KCC has decided that the Trust Model is best for the Libraries, Registration and Archives Services and will be going ahead with the proposal to transfer the services to a charitable trust. DL read out the response received from KCC to the Society's points raised about the Library services.

At The recent PCF meeting, there was support for DBL's proposal to fund a 6 month research project to find out what is needed regarding tourism to inform a job specification for a Dover Tourism Officer. The work could start in 2 months time, the research will take 6 months and Dover Tourism Officer could be set up next year subject to funding..

Bluebird Heritage Trail draft submission to the HLF for £70K started over a year ago. The HLF advisor had recommended more work on our submission. The bronze pavement needs approval from KCC/HA. A further draft submission will be put again to the HFL advisor before submitting a formal application to the HLF.

A wreath was laid as usual for St George's day.

Attended Jack Woolford's funeral and spoke at the wake after the funeral.

Heritage Open Days is on Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th September. The Magna Carta will be on display in the Town Hall in from 10th to 19th September. The Town Hall will be open additionally for HODS on Thursday, Friday, 10th, 11th, with guided tours free of charge. Magna Carta can be seen the following week without the guided tours.

Harbour Board Annual Consultative Meeting: Street Market display of local communities at Cruise Terminal 1 on 18 May with a tribute to Operation Dynamo.

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 April are:

- £494.00 for subscriptions for this financial year
- £6.00 for subscriptions for next financial year 2016/2017
- £35.00 in donations
- £28.00 was received against the £40.00 spent purchasing retirement gift for Maurice Atherton on his retirement as our President
- £294.00 from newsletter advertising.
- £24.00 from the sale of Town Hall Books put into the publication fund.
- £2.00 from the sale of Society badge.
- £5.25 from the sale of Newsletter binder.

We paid out

- £40.00 for annual subscription to The White Cliffs Country Tourism Alliance as agreed at last meeting.
- £250.00 was paid to DDC for repairs to the Market Square topiary boat frame as agreed at last meeting. This was the £250.00 left in the project fund donated to Sylvia Parsons for brightening up Dover.
- £30.00 was paid to St Mary's PCC for the hire of room for these meetings in April, May and June.

The money received into the Town Hall fund last month totalled £586.40. The Town Hall tours brought in £86.00, £500.40 came from the donation of funds left over in the Tattoo fund on £480.00 plus £20.40 from the sale of Union Flags at our AGM meeting, these flags again came as a donation from the Tattoo fund.

The AGM meeting was in surplus by £11.03, the raffle netted £89.00.

Dover Big Local - as stated at our last committee meeting a substantial amount of the money we have been holding has been returned to Local Trust in preparation for Dover Big Local's change to another commercial Local Trusted Organisation.

During last month the Society was authorised by Dover Big Local to pay out from the money we have been holding on their behalf £72,346.25. £70,164.26 of this money being returned to Local Trust. We are now holding £10,600.52 on behalf of Dover Big Local funds.

We also paid out £830.06 to the River Dour Partnership. We are now holding £314.53 in their account held by us.

Membership Secretary's Report

There are 6 new members this month. They are:

Mr Roderick and Mrs Lorna Maclure of St Alphege Road, Dover
 Mrs Jane Goodacre of Pavilion Meadow, River
 Mrs Nicky Goodacre of Lascelles Road, Dover
 Mr Kenneth and Mrs Lorraine Biles of Whitfield.

Last allocated number 1235, total members are 491.

Lorraine Sencicle had decided not to renew her subscription. This was regretted and the Chairman would write to thank her for her contribution to the Society.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – good progress but we need more volunteers not necessary from the society. Will contact Dover Volunteer Bureau and WCCTA to see if anyone is interested.
- River Dour – we need a new chairman as Ray Newsam has resigned.
- Upper Road – we have cleared the roadside and visited the boggy bit, but it had dried out. The remainder of the path needs clearing of vegetation and have emailed PROWS to try and find out if they are taking any action on the right of way. The next step is lobbying for signs but needs to be done in conjunction with the Blue Bird trail etc.
- Workhouse plaque – no progress to date
- Big Local:
 - Funding is now being provided to the Music Festival and Aquaponics

- We will fund the assessment and plan for Dover's tourism. Martina White is getting the job description out to try and get the project underway within the next two months. This is being done with wide support from members of PCF.
- Porchlight funding provided for scheme to help those as a loss via football
- We are due to publicise our funding application details on line and via press

9. Refurbishment

- A letter of thanks has been sent to Alan Sencicle for his time on the committee.
- Sylvie Parsons described her work at St Edmund's Chapel and the recruiting of volunteers to help so it can be opened more times than just a Wednesday.
- Sylvie Parsons described the problems of the Market Square planting and the topiary damage. She has also given up on the Railway Station because of the failure of South Eastern to provide support.
- We discussed rough sleepers in the middle of town. Jenny to take this up with DI Barlow.
- From Sally Benger, Kent Highways: "The issue of the Five Way Junction was raised again at the Joint Transportation Board with an outstanding action for KCC to look at the implications that could arise from a 20 mph limit being introduced with funding from the Combined Members Grant. The recent speed survey demonstrated that the existing traffic speed were lowest at school drop off and pick up times due to heavier congestion but still not low enough for the a 20 mph speed limit and as such would require further traffic calming measures to reduce speeds. Conventional traffic calming simple in not an option on dual lane primary A road, particularly on the lead to the right angled bend which needs to accommodate the wide turning movements of lorries and buses.

The crossing adjacent to the school has already been converted and footpath locally widened utilising spare LSTF funding, allowing the remaining footpath and carriageway alterations to be constructed using the S106 funds. The carriageway width at the sharp corner of Barton Road/Frith Road will be reduced to encourage drivers to reduce speed and there will be a build at the junction Barton Road/Old Charlton Road to reduce entry speeds into Old Charlton Road.

Your suggestion on interactive school crossing signs have already been considered by our traffic section who are uncomfortable with the idea of flashing signs on the approach to a pedestrian crossing, which could divert driver attention from the changing lights/pedestrians and stopped or slowing vehicles.

Big Local a LTO has been appointed.

The solution to this problem is still being explored by KCC Highways and I will ensure that you are kept up to date with any emerging plans.

I look forward to the wider Dover transport issues moving forward with engagement of key stakeholders and hope to have a progress update in place by our next meeting."

BH gave her thoughts on the reply and it was decided to keep pushing forward the points raised.

- I have yet to forward email on new traffic system but will do so tomorrow along with all DLB contacts.
- Alan's report on blocked drains forwarded and I have yet to hear response.
- There is no meeting this month of May. A discussion on tourism.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

Consultants' study – we are between progress meetings.

The Guided Tours numbers have been disappointing. A group of 22 from Biddenden have booked a tour and will make a day of it by going to the Museum, the Painted House and view the Bronze Age Boat. Another group from Paddock Wood have booked a similar package.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The trip to Portsmouth is on Saturday 16 May. The numbers booked for the Eastbourne trip are low.

12. Planning

PS circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May prior to the meeting. A discussion followed about the Soup Kitchen planning application. **Whilst supporting the work,** it was agreed it cannot be supported unless a temporary time limit was imposed. PS and BH to draft response and send to DL and JC before sending it off.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report.

15. Publications

The deadline for next Newsletter is Wednesday 20 May.

16. Any other business

AS was disappointed that the idea of a plaque for the Duke of Wellington was not supported by the committee and short discussion followed.

ML asked if a short article was going to be put in the Newsletter about the out going President? Action - AL to talk to TS.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 11 June**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.