

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 11 June 2015
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman) Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Mike McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies John Cotton, Merrill Lilley.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2015 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

Heritage Trail, the final draft to our **HLF** advisor came back with **a very positive response and** a few minor suggestions, which we have taken note of and made the appropriate changes. There is a meeting with the Heritage Trail Executive on 1 July **hopefully to approve the latest draft and then submit formally.** The HLF will fund the project itself but not the ongoing maintenance of the trail. We have to satisfy HLF we can maintain it for 5 years. We have approached DDC and DTC for £1000 per year for 5 years maintenance. DDC replied by email confirming they would. DTC **needed** a full grant application **which** will need to go before a full council committee for approval **on 24 June. Application includes a** Part Time Engagement Officer **costing** £10K. The Dover Society would be the employer and we looked at using an agency for recruiting and all aspects of employment but this was too expensive. The DHB have been approached to take on the responsibility. We will be purchasing 30 pavement markers and we are checking our public liability insurance. KCC Highways, under Sec 50 licences, state that The Dover Society would be liable for any incidents associated with the pavement markers. **As previously agreed by the Society, it is the formal HLF applicant on behalf of the Port and Community Forum and will** be responsible for spending the grant if successful. **The meeting agreed to proceed.**

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 May are:

- £460.00 for subscriptions for this financial year
- £10.00 for subscriptions for next financial year 2016/2017
- £24.00 in donations
- £3.30 was received against the £40.00 spent purchasing retirement gift for Maurice Atherton on his retirement as our President, which brings the donation up to £31.30. TS will make up the shortfall of £8.70.
- £175.00 from the sale of Town Hall Books put into the publication fund.
- £5.25 from the sale of Newsletter binder.

We paid out

- £30.00 for the wreath laid at Zeebrugge memorial service

We received £100.00 from McF sponsored 70th anniversary VE Day walk. A cheque was sent to The Royal British Legion for this amount.

The money received into the Town Hall fund last month totalled £69.00 from Town Hall Tours.

The outing to Portsmouth was in profit by £5.60.

During last month the Society was authorised by Dover Big Local to pay out from the remaining money we have been holding on their behalf, £10,600.00. We are now holding £0.52 on behalf of Dover Big Local funds. A letter has been sent to Dover Big Local asking that it be put in their minutes that the Dover Society will have to be professionally audited accounts for the last year 2014/15 and for this year 2015/16 as money spent or received by Dover Big Local in our accounts went over the threshold whereby we as a charity have to have an outside independent audit done. Consequently Dover Big Local will be billed for these two audits when they are done.

We also paid out £165.84 to the River Dour Partnership. We are now holding £148.69 in their account held by us.

Membership Secretary's Report

There are no new members this month. Last allocated number 1235, total members are 490.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – we need more volunteers and they should be members but we can make honorary members for this purpose. There were unwarranted remarks made on Facebook about Cowgate implying it was untidy and overgrown. It was agreed to update the website with the dates when work will be carried and a call for volunteers. Also McF and JC to make a positive response. We are keeping on top of the work during the summer. Need to contact Darren Solley about removing a large pile of pruning.
- Bleriot/Castle/Cliffs walk – KCC cut twice a year from the foot of the steps to cliff edge. There is a need to cut the Upper Road verge. It was agreed to talk to EH and NT towards a walk around the Castle with a branch to Langdon Cliffs.
- Buckland Hospital information panel not had time yet to talk to them.
- River Dour – committee meeting held with Melanie Wrigley on Monday to chart a way forward.
- Big Local:
 - Funding is now being provided to the Music Festival and Aquaponics
 - Getting funding applications and system finalised
 - Looking at a community hub short term and long term
 - Dover Tourism Officer – hopefully advert to be placed shortly.

9. Refurbishment

- Improvements to town – need for Planners to take the lead and for Refurbishment to fill in the gaps. A short discussion followed and it was agreed that this was already happening. This also applies to Conservation and Listed Buildings.
- Traffic **and transport** in the town – a meeting to be held on 23 June and DS and DBL to attend. DL and JC to represent the society and it was suggested the BH also be invited to attend. It has been noted that the Alkam Valley Road has now become very busy since the A20 experiment started.
- Meeting with the Police – JO and John C met with CI Barlow and discussed the problems with lorries coming through the town to avoid the queue on the A20. Any lorries doing this are sent back. Rough sleepers in the town are becoming a problem but as they are on private property the Police cannot do anything about it. The Soup Kitchen also attracts them. Police Officers will be tackling drinking and anti social behaviour in Dover during the summer. Lost property is no longer the responsibility of the Police. CCTV – if DDC are not interested then neither are the Police. Speeding at 5 ways, no concerns have arisen. The Police are aware of cycling in the town.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

Nothing to report

11. Social Secretary's Report

The trip to Oxford on 5 September will be in the next Newsletter. The Eastbourne trip is still going ahead and the numbers booked are growing.

Christmas Feast will be on a Sunday 13 December at 12.30pm for 1.00 pm and the cost has risen to £24 for the meal and entertainment. If 100 people come there will be shortfall of £26 but the raffle **should offset** any loss.

12. Planning

PS circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June prior to the meeting. A discussion followed about the Bench Street Car Park and the fact that DDC have taken on comments made by the **Society** and made it a decent car park with trees. TS to write an article pointing out the involvement of the Society. PS to draft response re conservation areas.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

One of our proofreaders is ill which may hold up the issue. TS volunteered to proof read articles. Hopefully we will meet the deadline to ready for the printers by the end of the month.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

AS confirmed that everyone received email regarding the advance fares that are now available on SE Railways.

McF – WCCTA meeting on 16 June and AL will be representing the society.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 9 July**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.