

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 September 2015
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Jeremy Cope (Deputy Chair), Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Mike McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle. Patrick Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

Chris Valdus, from the Land Trust, gave a presentation about the future of Fort Burgoyne. He responded to questions from committee members and invited any ideas to be forwarded to him as to the use of the site. chrisvaldus@thelandtrust.org The chair thanked him for coming to the meeting.

1. Apologies: John Cotton, Derek Leach, Merril Lilley.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2015 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

At the last meeting it was agreed that MMcF should explore the costs of activating a Facebook and Twitter account. The setup cost is a one off payment of £100. A discussion followed about the concerns of having such accounts and the information put out in the name of the society. It was proposed by TS to have a year's trial with MMcF monitoring the accounts to bring to the notice of the committee of any problems. A vote was taken and 5 were in favour, 3 against and 4 abstained. Proposal accepted.

4. Chairman's Report

PCF. DL email on PCF and ACM meetings. Following discussion agreed that meetings should be open to the public and published in advance including the Port of Dover website. At PCF and ACM meetings it should be open to anyone to ask questions with replies given publicly before the whole of the meeting.

DL email on updating Bluebird Heritage Trail was discussed.

JC updated members on Port and Community September meeting. Attention was drawn to the KCF workshop for organisations/groups considering applying for a grant. To take place on Tuesday 29th September at 10am in Dover.

Western Docks – large number of objections to the closure of the Prince of Wales pier. AS to write to Tim Waggot in a personal capacity

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

The monies received in July and August:

- £48.00 for subscriptions for this financial year
- £16.00 for subscriptions for the next financial year
- £21.00 for advertising in the newsletter

We paid out

- £695.00 to Adams Printers for printing the July Newsletter
- £33.46 for postage of the Newsletter to 'out of area' subscribers.
- £40.00 annual subscription to CPRE.
- £25.00 paid to The Journal of Kent History for Town Hall advertisement.
- £83.25 paid to Whyte Studios for annual cost of management of our website.

A donation of £250.00 received from anonymous donor for the Projects fund.

The Town Hall fund received £43.05 from Town Hall tours.

The outing to Eastbourne was in surplus by £64.50.

We are no longer holding any money on behalf of Dover Big Local funds. The final balance of £0.52 has been handed over.

Nothing was paid out from the River Dour Partnership. Balance of this account £148.69.

Membership Secretary's Report

There are two new members this month. They are Mr David Frazer of Harrietsham and Mr Laurence Wellard of River. Last allocated number 1237, total members are 464.

8. Projects

- Cowgate – making good progress
- River Dour – ad hoc committee to meet shortly to push matters forward. Fish passes to be located near Morrison's Supermarket and at Minnis Lane.
- Pathways –
- Bleriot path in order but it needs signposts to better guide visitors. JC to ask Barbara Little to organise fundraising.
- Motorcyclists are using the coastal walk at Lydden Spout, a site of scientific interest (SSI) resulting in damage to the paths (China Gateway, the landowners). Awaiting result of DDC Planning Enforcement Officer's meeting with Gary Bootes, the North Downs Way Trail manager. Thanks to Kirk Alexander of WCCP for his help.

9. Refurbishment

- Alan Sencicle has been invited to involve himself on the committee and has accepted.
- Street lighting in conservation area. Awaiting guidelines from KCC Highways.
- Can planners consider, if appropriate, to seek listing of Matron's House at Buckland Hospital. Demolition threatened. PS to investigate.
- Plaques –
- Hospital history panels. East Kent Hospital Management responded positively. To take forward with DL and TS a series of panels of the story from the workhouse to the present day.
- The Lindemann Plaque. The acrylic cover appears to be discoloured. Jon Iveson is investigating.
- Koettlitz Plaque. A reminder has been sent to Charlton House but no response received.
- DDC panels. History panels – Jenny Olpin to seek details of refurbishment programme. Community panels – with DBL and Anita Lockett.
- Music Festival – Jim Pople will take this forward. There is a conflict of generations regarding the sound level. We need to offer positive alternatives if we are to achieve anything.
- Please report any concerns to Jenny Olpin or John Cotton in time for their October meeting with DCI Barlow.
- Fishing off Dover beach – not appropriate in bathing area. JC to take up with DHB.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The Magna Carta is now on display and this has increased the number of visitors.

11. Social Secretary's Report

- JC complimented PH-S and PS on the Oxford trip
- PH-S Now considering outings for next year. Ideas so far include Hampton Court Flower Show and an overnight trip.
- BH So far there have been 10 tickets sold for the Christmas Feast

12. Planning

PS had circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September prior to the meeting. PS went through each item.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

Newsletter deadline was last Wednesday and it should be distributed in November.

15. Publications

A letter has been received from Doug Welby about the Hidden Fortress books. He will not be distributing them any more as the various outlets no longer require them. Of the latest batch 240 have been sold leaving 550 in hand now returned to MW. A letter of thanks you to be sent to Doug Welby.

16. Any other business

AS – The new Library service is making it difficult to study and needs to be improved.

Examples need to be documented before the society can write to Library service.

AS mentioned that Portsmouth has a £30 visitor ticket to cover all attractions. Something for Dover?

MMcF – Attended the first AGM of the Dover Town Team and it is suggested that the society should become a member. The membership fee is £20.00. **Action:** to be discussed at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 8 October**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.