

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

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Mike McFarnell, Patrick 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 8 October 2015 was accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report.

TS sent out to committee members a report about The Castle Street Society. It is about to fold and a discussion followed about the advantages and disadvantages of this Society **taking over the activities of that society**. It was agreed to let it run its course and the executive of The Dover Society decided not to take this on.

An email was received from Keith Parfitt about the **Old St James Tidy Ruin**. The site is unstable and it was suggested that DDC be approached. Not known if on the "At Risk Register", PS to find out and to take forward with the new Conservation Officer.

Contact received from The Deal Society and The Sandwich Society for the three societies to discuss mutual problems and approaches. Suggested the three chairmen to have a one off informal meeting.

We have been successful in our HLF application, on behalf of the PCF, for the Heritage Trail. The amount involved is £59k plus £5k from DDC. **HLF need to know who will pay highways charges**. The charges by Highways England and Kent Highways are not known although Kent Highways have waived their charge **and HE are hoping to minimize or waive their charges**. The Dover Society is already **committed to fund if necessary maintenance costs** from year 6 to 10. Approval was sought to formally accept the offer from HLF without knowing what the entire expenditure may be **in order not to delay the project even further**. Agreed to formally accept offer from HLF.

The design of the pavement markers is being done by DDC, the **text and illustrations for the guide booklet** have been completed, there will be a website and an app. DDC **had** agreed to conduct the open recruitment of the Community Engagement Officer, **but this could take 3 months delaying the project**. DDC also suggested that a person from DDC be seconded from their Community and Engagement team, but **HLF may insist upon** open recruitment.

Meeting with the Coastal Community Team and the three areas of Dover, Deal and Sandwich to put forward an economic plan to obtain a share of the £90million to improve communities. Plan to be submitted by end of January 2016. This afternoon the Town Centre group and the Coastal Communities group met Mike Allen who gave a presentation on how to improve and promote tourist destinations.

PHS informed the committee of her meeting with the Group Travel Organisers and suggested they came to Dover. They were under the impression that there was only the castle to visit.

PS **arranged** a tour of the town and they were surprised at the amount of history, architecture and monuments there were in the town **and are considering bringing all their organizers..**

DDC – Tim Ingleton gave an update on the parking strategy. The consultant's reports have been done and identified the District's future decisions. The District Leisure review to be known by end of January 2016, the Dover Leisure Centre, which DDC owned will **almost certainly** need to be demolished and rebuilt in Dover.

Transport study review – consultants report end of January 2016.

TAP due to end in January but is likely to continue. York Street **may become** single carriageway with Bus Station on other carriageway. £40k feasibility study by KCC.

DDC and DHB **agree** the underpass to be made more attractive. **Others are suggesting a bridge**. Other improvements needed, Bench Street (key access to seafront), Riverside walk, Biggin Street area, the shop fronts and hoardings and the Crypt site to be looked at. JC

needs to know who is doing what and why and coordination with DDC core strategies. Tim Ingleton to send out strategy summary by email.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

The monies received in October are:

- ☐ £6.00 for subscriptions for this financial year
- ☐ £100.00 for advertising revenue in the newsletter
- ☐ £10.50 for the sale of two newsletter binders.

We paid out

- ☐ £100.00 for updating our website as agreed at September's meeting

The publication fund was credited £16.00 from the sale of Town Hall booklets.

The Town Hall fund received £282.00 from Town Hall tours and a further £38.77 from dividends from Reckitt Benckiser and Indivior.

The October meeting made a small loss of £13.37.

Nothing was paid out from the River Dour Partnership and £148.69 is still held in their account with us. However, going through invoices sent to Ray Newsam by KCC it appears that KCC have been double accounting. In his River Dour Partnership account with KCC there is a credit of £410.76, which we are trying to get refunded.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are four new members this month. They are Mr Ian and Mrs Anne Gisby, of St Radigunds Road, Mr Chris Blackburn and Ms Janet Sanders of Whitfield. Last allocated number 1242, total members are 467.

8. Projects

- ☐ **Dover Town Centre Group and Coastal Community.**
 - i. There is a need for clarification of relationship to DTCG and CC. See report issued before meeting and circulated to committee.
 - ii) If Dover is to make the best of things there is a need to have a policy and strategy
 - iii) Funders are DBL (actual) and potential CC and CLLD. The latter two need matched funding and both could fit one with another. CLLD is DBL related.
 - iv) DHB and DHB charity are another funding potential.
 - v) With government cuts to local authorities this is likely to be the pattern for the future.
- ☐ **DTCG and CC – meeting held today**
- ☐ **DBL update**
 - i) Our concerns on the above mirror DB
 - ii) Starting to get our act together with effective support from Red Zebra.
 - iii) Hub being put in place in Charlton Centre
 - iv) Looking to appoint someone to come up with tourism strategy for Dover
- ☐ **Cowgate**
 - i) Progressing well but we are now very much weather dependant. We also now have two apprentices.
 - ii) A batch of over 20 needles found.
- ☐ **River Dour**
 - i) Looking to have a meeting late November
 - ii) SERT have put in a fish pass at Minnis Lane but the locals have put a barrier across the river.
 - iii) Cracks found in the dam by Morrison's Supermarket putting back the installation of a fish pass.
 - iv) Put forward a £500k one for River to Coastal Community project.
- ☐ **Pathways.** Berliot/Langdon Cliffs awaiting signage. Illegal motor cycling at Lydden Spout ongoing.

☐ **Plaques**

- i) Letter of thanks to Ivor Spencer for repair to Granville Street plaque.
- ii) Lindemann – Jon Iveson has looked at plaque and perspex cover not as bad as first thought but there is concern now for memorial and is being investigated.
- iii) Koettlitz plaque, the College to be asked to permit plaque.
- iv) Buckland Hospital, drafts to be prepared. Decided to concentrate on the Workhouse history for panel or panels.

9. Refurbishment

- ☐ Street lighting for town centre. Reply received from Alison Burton and DTC are responsible for design. Email read out to committee. MW suggested taking photograph of Walmer and Deal lights for comparison. Dover lights are painted blue but new ones are blue on top and the rest left silver, or unpainted. Need to know about Castle Street replacements and design being considered.
- ☐ Litter, DDC stats etc. Now have a DDC contact and will get back to him.
- ☐ Jenny Olpin and John Cotton gave a report of meeting with DCI Barlow and the issues raised will be heard at Monday's meeting. There are the noise issue, Pencester Gardens and parking on roads that causes an obstruction. With limited resources no action will be taken unless it is something serious. The crime rate in Dover is minimal compared with other towns in the area.
- ☐ Concern of drinking on the seafront. To be investigated further to obtain facts before considering writing to Tim Waggot.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

This year there have been 332 paid tours of which 158 came from 5 groups via advert in **Kent History Journal**. (In addition during Magna Carta Exhibition/Heritage Open Days 250 visited). The consultants' report on the future of the Town Hall report has now been released and can be found on DDC website. [http://moderngov.dover.gov.uk/documents/s15087/Dover Town Hall Appendix20.1pdf](http://moderngov.dover.gov.uk/documents/s15087/Dover_Town_Hall_Appendix20.1pdf)

A brief outline of report was given with recommendations.

11. Social Secretary's Report

There have been 50 confirmed bookings for the Christmas Feast, with a further 9 provisional bookings. There will be a further push at next meeting on Monday. The deadline for paying Town Hall and giving menu choices is 7 December. DL to invite the Mayor of Dover as is customary for this event. A question was asked if the committee **agreed** in principle to obtaining feedback about the Christmas Feast. There were no objections and ideas will be put forward at next meeting.

The Quiz Master has been booked for Wine and Wisdom and all meetings for 2016 have been confirmed.

12. Planning

PS had circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November prior to the meeting. PS briefly went through each item of the report.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

Newsletter is ready to be circulated.

15. Publications

Now holding 500 books of Dover's Hidden Fortress and need an outlet. The Museum will take them as and when needed.

16. Any other business

MW – There is a (**Dover Society**) monument to **Clifford Jarrett** beyond the vacated part of the Prince of Wales pier and is concerned as what will happen to it. Confirmed every item will be dealt with and a suitable site for it will be found.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 3 December**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.