

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 14 January 2016
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, Alan Sencicle, Patrick Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies: Jean Marsh

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2015 was accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

Action required for "Dover's Hidden Fortress" publications. The Dover Museum is willing to sell them with a 35% discount. Mayfield books handle the National Trust merchandise and gifts and they are willing to take them with a 50% discount and to discuss handling charge.

4. Chairman's Report.

Anita Sedgewick contacted us about the Fortress Dover Project and if the Society was interested in getting involved. DL, TS and MMcF to meet to discuss.

Attended the Town Centre meeting with TS and JC. There was an update on the DDC projects, Op Stack update and the Bluebird Trail.

TS wrote an article on the old streets in the DTIZ area and suggested some sort of acknowledgment of these streets in the development, such as a plaque or sign giving the street name.

5. Secretary's Report

BH has been contacted by Jane Farrell, the entertainer at the Christmas Feast, about the residents in The Gateway who have many stories to tell and if the Society was interested in collecting them. Short discussion followed and it was agreed that BH to contact Jon Iveson, after DL introduces BH to him. BH to respond to Jane Farrell thanking her for the suggestion

6. Treasurer's Report

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

The monies received in December are:

- £50.00 for subscriptions for this financial year
- £10.00 donation

We paid out

- £695.00 to Adam Printers for the production of the November Newsletter
- £59.78 for postage of newsletter out of the area.
- £42.70 for printing costs.
- £30.00 to Dover Film Festival Society for our advertisement in the film programme as agreed at last committee meeting.
- £30.00 paid to St Mary's PCC for the hire of room for our committee meetings, in January, February and March.

The overhaul and sundries for the Strimmers used at Cowgate came to £109.53 set against the Projects fund.

The Christmas Lunch made a profit of £27.00 and the raffle made £189.00.

Nothing was paid out from the River Dour Partnership but the fund received donations of £42.92. The amount now held in their account with us is now £191.61.

We now hold the funds for the "Bluebird Trail" on behalf of the various parties involved in this project. The first tranche of money £29,500.00, paid by Heritage Lottery, was put into our account at the beginning of December.

Our Caf account paid a quarterly interest of £14.45 at the end of December.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are two new members this month. They are Mr Michael and Mrs Jennifer Baker of Whitfield. Last allocated number 1250, total members are 475.

8. Projects

- **Bluebird Trail** – the KCC way markers sites and the DHB sites have been agreed. The information is now complete to obtain formal approval. Markers can then be ordered. The 2nd draft of the Guide booklet has been produced and is ready for proof reading. Received estimates for Website and Apps but are over the £24K budget. Linda Pearson agreed to look at the Website and Apps technical side and to prioritise what is required within budget and then approach the suppliers again with updated needs and budget.
The White Cliffs Walking Festival is keen to include the mass inaugural walk on its opening day, 25 August.
The PT Community Engagement Officer post has one applicant so far; the closing date for applications is 31 January and interviews to be held on 11 February.

- **Coastal Community.**

- i. Coastal Communities meeting attended by TS. The team is bidding for grants from the £90million from the Crown Estate Fund for the catchment area from Capel le Ferne to St Margarets. The projects are:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Roman Painted House | Maison Dieu |
| Bronze Age Boat Gallery | Connected Clusters |
| Dour project | Fort Burgoyne |
| Moats Bulwalk | Dover Transport Museum |
| Battle of Britain Memorial | Western Heights Project |
| Project Chisel | |

The key objectives are Tourism, Improved access and connectivity of assets and development skills. There is a team of 20 who will prioritise the projects and the bids need to be in by end of January.

- **DBL update**

- i. The Charlton Centre Hub is open.
- ii. The Tourism project has started.

- **Cowgate**

The Thursday working session was abandoned, the Saturday work should go ahead.

- **River Dour**

A meeting was held on 4 December and committee was elected. The funds held are now £191.69; a credit of £400 at KCC is being reclaimed. Three funding bids are being made to DTC, Up on the Downs and DBL, to help with repairs to the Morrison Weir and volunteers equipment. The water levels at the moment are high.

9. Refurbishment

- **Street Lighting** – will be drafting a letter to DTC regarding street lighting and the need for lighting to be a sympathetic match to its location, particularly in conservation areas.
- **Hospital Information Panels** – will be contacting League of Friends who, we understand, is to display old photographs of the hospital, but there does not seem to be any photographs of when it was the workhouse.
- **Paths** - Upper Road to Cliff path. Jenny Oldpin to confirm if it is the responsibility of parish councils to ensure public pathways is properly signposted.
- **Presentation** – AJ from DDC's anti litter and dog fouling enforcement team will come to next meeting. It has been agreed that we must be positive and constructive in our questions.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

Regarding the future of the Town Hall £39K from the Coastal Revival Fund is being used to pay for a complete technical building survey of the Town Hall.

11. Social Secretary's Report

Christmas Feast, not yet managed to get any feedback but did receive some anecdotal feedback. For this year Christmas Feast we will have to stay on a Sunday. The numbers were reduced this year and our options are to return to the College, consider the Marina Hotel

or stay with the Town Hall on a Sunday. A short discussion followed and it was agreed to stay with the Sunday and book it for 11 December. Also to give notice in the next Newsletter the Christmas Feast will be on a Sunday and to point out bonus of free parking.

We have 10 tables and 61 bookings for the Wine and Wisdom meeting in February and suggest it is mentioned again at the next Dover Society meeting. An email will be sent out to volunteers mapping out what needs to be done and the timings.

Outings being considered are **Petworth** House on 21 May and Hampton Court Flower Show on 10 July.

12. Planning

There was no meeting this month due to illness.

PS had circulated the Society's response to "Managing Freight through Kent".

The new planning application from DHB re DWDR plan, we are seeking clarification about sheet piling and no mention of **cosmetically dressing** the "Marina Curve".

CCG – attended meeting on 13 January, it had a large agenda and the meeting was very lengthy meeting lasting 4 hours. A brief detail of the meeting was given. Details of the meeting can be obtained on line

Castle Avenue – BH not receiving any response from Conservation Officer but will keep trying. Planning Dept. responded and confirmed a breach of planning but no action is being taken. Will continue to pursue this.

Muge House site, so sign of any housing being built on site even though planning **approval** was given 2 years ago. It is now overgrown and rubbish is being left on it. We do not want another abandoned site in Dover. Tim Ingleton confirmed there were active discussions about the site.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

Require reports for next Newsletter as soon as possible. .

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

DL – Noted that PS and PHS attended the Coach Operators Trade shows and do not want them to be out of pocket and suggest they should receive expenses. PS responded by thanking the Chairman but it was not necessary.

PS and PHS are attending trade show on Saturday and have produced a **handout** headed "Hidden Treasures of Dover", of various historic places, points of interest and voluntary organizations, which they will take with them.

PS – Brought to attention the lack of communication by Network Rail and South Eastern Railways about the collapse of the sea wall at Dover. A short discussion followed.

AS – Attended meeting of PCF at Western Docks. It was appalling because of the venue and noise, so much so that it was difficult to hear anything. He gave a brief outline of the meeting about how Tim Waggot did not like the **rumours** in the town that the Marina will not be built. There is no planning application in place and they are relying on commercial investors to fund this part of the project. A discussion then followed. Action, with Chairman's approval, to raise this matter at next PCF meeting.

MMcF – it is the Queen's 90th birthday this year and asked if anything was happening to commemorate this event. There is the Cinque Ports meeting in Dover and the Mayor will be the **Speaker**. Suggested getting together footage of the Queen in Dover, make a short film and show it at the Cinema. It was felt that this did not come under the remit of the Society. Suggested to contact DTC to see if anything is planned.

AL – reminded committee that the AGM is due and any resolutions to be mentioned in the next Newsletter, such if anyone is standing down.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 11 February 2016**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.