

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 11 February 2016
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

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

1. Apologies Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

To clarify The Gateway mentioned in section 5, Secretary's report, this is the residential home on Folkestone Road, Dover and not the Gateway flats on the seafront. The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2016 were accepted as correct

3. Matters Arising

DL - Pat Sherratt had resigned from the Planning Committee. This is **very** regrettable **and it was agreed** we send a sincere letter of thanks to Pat for his **excellent** work as Planning Committee Chairman.

The issues that triggered PS resignation are the Prince of Wales Pier planning application and DL's part in it. The Planning Committee considered the Marina Curve Application and objected to the **lack of** cosmetic dressing as it was given to believe at the presentations of the Western Docks **scheme** in July 2015 that it would **be** cosmetically dressed. PS as chair of the Planning Committee sent in an objection on behalf of the Society.

At the PCF meeting a presentation and explanations about the whole scheme was given. DHB would be **financing** the infrastructure and marina. If no investors came forward DHB would **also operate** the marina. The cosmetic dressing proposed **apparently** compared **favourably** with other **marinas**. **However**, Dover is a tidal port and the **sheet piling** (with a **cosmetic topping**) may not be visually attractive **particularly at low tide**. DHB considered the view from the seafront etc once the new **East Pier** was built (Stage 2) plus pontoons and craft in the marina would be acceptable with sheet piling hardly **visible**. Consequently JC and DL thought we should at least reconsider our **objection** in the light of the new information from member and former DHB Service General Manager, John Gerrard, as well as the comments made by AS. It was to be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting but would be too late as the closing date was Monday 8 February. **Therefore** DL and JC took the initiative and sent email to **Planning Committee and Executive members**. However, the planning application was approved **by DDC very promptly** on Tuesday 9 February.

The reason why it went out and why PS was not consulted in advance was given and **DL** had apologised to PS. **DL said that if the committee felt he had shown** bias towards DHB and unsupportive of the Society **he would resign** as Chairman.

A discussion followed. **Agreed** we continue with representation through PCF and continue pushing for quality as much as we can. Regarding the chairman's proposal to step down, DL suggested he left the room for discussion. TS proposed no action to be taken; SC seconded the proposal, and Chairman remains.

A copy of PS resignation letter is attached. In his email he requested the following be recorded in the minutes. "Members of the Planning committee, I do wish to thank you all for your devoted time and activity with the many issues that, as a Committee, we have taken forward over the six years that I have been privileged to serve as Chair of the Committee".

AGM – no one proposes to stand down.

4. Chairman's Report

Anita Sedgwick, Castle Community Events has ideas for WW1 Local History day on a Saturday in October involving the Discovery Centre, the Museum and Cinema. Activities include Family History and DL has offered his WW1 talk.

It is the Battle of the Somme 100th Anniversary and a film was made of it in possession of the Imperial War Museum **with one showing** at Dover Castle in September. in the tunnels holding 40 persons. The viewing of this should be open to everyone and suggested a showing at the

Cinema. Jon Iveson confirmed if held in the afternoon the only cost would be for the projectionist **about £20**. MMcF agreed to action it.

5. Secretary's Report

Jon Iveson did take on the referral to meet residents of the The Gateway home.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

The monies received in January are:

- £10.00 subscriptions for the next financial year
- £1.19 was set against the Newsletter for postage of and "out of area" newsletter.
- £200 for Newsletter advertising revenue
- £2.00 for sale of one Society badge

We paid out:

- £25.00 from the Town Hall fund for an advertisement in the Journal of Kent History.

The January meeting was in profit by £17.88. The raffle made £106.00.

Nothing was paid out from the River Dour Partnership but the fund received donation of £40.17 and £231.78 is held in their account with us. However, the refund of £410.76, which we have been seeking from KCC supplies since October, of an overpayment because of double accounting, has in the last week been paid back to The River Dour Partnership so at the present time £642.54 is being held in their account. This will show in next month's financial figures.

Membership Secretary's Report

We have 4 new members this month.

They are:

- Mrs Wendy Pollard from Deal,
- Mrs Hazel Wouldham from Whitfield
- Mr Ray Russell, Norman Street, Dover, with expertise in Building inspections, condition and surveys.
- Miss Claire White, Frith Road Dover.

Last allocated number 1254, total members are 480.

8. Projects

- **Bluebird Trail** – DL reported interviewing for the part time Community Engagement Officer this week. Been involved with the website specification, updates, costs and other concerns. The guide booklet is almost at the **final stage but subject to volunteer testing before printing.**.. Contacting the contractors for the pavement markers to see if the price quoted last year still stands. The inaugural walk planned **as part of the official White Cliffs Walking Festival in August** will not **be possible since insurance requirements mean** all their walks are lead by a guide, and the purpose of the trail is self guided. The trail will, however, **still be launched on 27 August and** be publicised along with their guided walks.
- **Costal Community** – the bid has been submitted and now the real work begins
- **DBL update** –reported positively on PCF meeting
 1. Traffic changes
 2. Western Docks
 3. Hub doing well with many contacts and participants
- **Cowgate** – going well, hoping to mow spring growth.
- **River Dour**
 1. Our part in Coastal Community bid, looking to fund and start feasibility study before funding arises in 2017.
 2. Funding in place for Morrisons Weir fish pass.
 3. Funding shortage £3K caused by crack in Weir being met by DTC, Up on the Downs, and application to DBL.
 4. EA looking to a possible spend of £3.5K on flood control improvements at Maison Dieu Car Park area and bank environment improvements.

9. Refurbishment

- AJ presentation on litter and dog fouling prevention
 1. They do try and educate public and at schools
 2. They will supply us with contact details to report problems, MMcF to put onto Website
 3. The message is to report problems
 4. Highways AS to report his common sense idea on cleansing major roads to avoid expensive closures.
- Street Lighting – waiting for a response from Alison Burton
- Jarrett Plaque – suggested location at the end of the new pier.
- Discussed the changes to traffic system on A20 through Dover, including interim measures during alterations.
- Jenny and Mike to pursue the signposting on Bleriot Walk to cliff face and Dover Castle.
- Jenny and John Cotton to discuss with CI Barlow.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The guided tours have commenced this week.

11. Social Secretary's Report

BH – 86 tickets sold for Monday's Wine and Wisdom, this equates to 14 tables. Volunteers responded to email to assist on the night

The Christmas Lunch has been booked.

PHS – Two trips have been booked, they one on the 28th May to Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. The other is on 10th July to Hampton Court Flower Show. The money for the Flower Show has to be paid in by 1st May, so prompt payment is due by 15 April, so if there are insufficient numbers we are in a position to cancel.

DL asked for speaker suggestions for next winter.

12. Planning

There was a meeting but due to circumstances as explained at the start of this meeting no minutes were written. MW went through each topic.

- DTIZ – no movement since last summer. Burlington House and the adjacent building have been demolished.
- Buckland Hospital – no feedback
- DHB – Seafront already covered in discussion
- DDC Infrastructure plan – nothing further to report
- ABC Cinema – nothing been heard, no planning yet for the site.
- S215 – not heard anything
- EH – no further updates
- Thames crossing east of Gravesend, now out for consultation.
- Dover Priory Station – parking, no progress
- Castle Avenue – number 57 in breach of planning but no enforcement taken by DDC and as far as they are concerned the matter is closed. Considering FOI to take it further. The stone walls cannot be listed. No response from Conservation Officer and we are being ignored.
- Kearsney Abbey project – an application is in to increase the number of parking spaces by taking part of the park and removal of trees. Hope to increase visitors by 50% and concern is they will take more of the park to accommodate more parking spaces.
- Whitfield – erection of 135 dwellings on south side of Singledge Lane. Locals in the area are putting objections forward.

A discussion followed about the future of the Planning Committee. It was agreed that MW, BH and AS would get together to discuss and inform the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

14. Editor's Report

The next newsletter will be out on time.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. Any other business

TS – Apologies for not being able to attend the next meeting.

MMcF – Attended a "Healthy High Street" meeting of the major retailers in the High Street, chaired by the Manager of Marks and Spencer. The main problems are drink, drugs, begging and shoplifting. It was encouraging to see the commitment of these retailers coming together.

BH – querying the rules for sub committees, confirmed as a sub committee, the committee decides.

AL – May be able to get hold of **one of** the original footballs kicked on 1st July 1916 by "Billie" Nevill's platoon.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10 March 2016**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.