

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 March 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, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies Mike McFamell, Terry Sutton.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2016 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

PS will remain as chairman of the Planning Committee for the time being until another person takes over the role.

MMcF will be showing the Battle of the Somme film on a Monday afternoon in September. To be advertised in the next newsletter.

4. Chairman's Report

DTC held their annual meeting on 3 March **re** DTC objecting to the Harbour Revision Order but the Marine Management Organisation had already approved it on 29 February. Details of the meeting were given by DL and AS.

The Port Annual Consultative meeting to held on 23 May **will be similar to last** year's meeting **where** there was no opportunity to ask questions **publicly**. We have been invited to have a stall, **but there was no enthusiasm**.

Contacted by Tim Waggott to **consider** a workshop (provisionally 14 April) with PCF and the Port Users Group to have a brainstorming session about any implications for the Port **and town if Britain votes to leave the EU**.

The Zeebrugge ceremony is on 23 April and as usual the bus to St James will leave at 10.20 from Maison Dieu car park. The service will be at 11.00 and will end at the Town Hall with the ringing of the Zeebrugge Bell at midday. The Chairman will lay a wreath on behalf of The Dover Society.

A demonstration of the far right and anti fascists is **rumoured** on the same day. The Zeebrugge Memorial ceremony is held every year and is a Civic Ceremony, which should take precedence over the demonstration. DL to contact Police to point this out as it is a good reason to stop the demonstration.

The Heritage Open Days will be on 10th and 11th September and as agreed will arrange for leaflets to be printed. The Town Hall on the Saturday is not open due to a wedding but will enquire if it can be open on the Sunday and at what cost. If it is a reasonable amount it was agreed to pay the cost of staff required.

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. There is an amendment to the figures; the Town Hall fund should read £8989.10.

The monies received in February are:

- £48.00 subscriptions for the next financial year

The Wine and Wisdom evening made a profit of £85.83. As is the custom we send a donation to Clive Taylor's charity, The Crabble Corn Mill Trust. We usually send £70.00, what do the committee members suggest we send this year. After a short discussion it was agreed to send £70.00.

Nothing was paid out from the River Dour Partnership but the fund received a refund from KCC due to double accounting of £410.76. Dover Town Council gave a grant of £1,900.00 to the Partnership. The amount now held in the account is £2542.54.

We are holding the funds for the Bluebird Trail on behalf of the various parties involved in this project. During February no movement occurred in this fund so we still held £29,490.00 of the Bluebird Trail funds at the end of February. Since then Dover Harbour Board have sent a contribution of £5000 to the fund and will appear at the end of March's accounts.

Membership Secretary's Report

We have 3 new members this month.

They are:

Mr M Coulter from Sole Street, near Cobham

Mr and Mrs J Rawlins from Hougham, introduced by MW.

Last allocated number 1257, total members are 483.

Merrill Lilley is leaving Dover but will be attending the next society meeting. A card was passed around for members to sign and will be given to her by DL.

8. Projects

- **Bluebird Trail** – The part time Community Engagement Officer has been appointed and a website contract offered this week. The bronze pavement markers to be delivered this week,
- **Coastal Community** – a meeting to be held on 23 March, as per Kevin Charles “ a good opportunity to think about any projects which need feasibility works, condition surveys, etc”.
- **DBL update** –reported positively on PCF meeting
 1. JC intends to stand down from the Committee although remaining strongly supportive.
 2. The tourism project is in full swing
 3. The Hub is becoming popular and there are full activities for children during the Easter school holidays from 29 March to 6 April.
- **Cowgate**
 1. On top of things
 2. Michael Jukes has got us another strimmer
 3. Depending on how things go may look to extend our area of activity
- **River Dour**
 1. Dour Catchment Area meeting held in Dover. Only one person from other parts of the area attended.
 2. Our funding bids to DTC and Up on the Downs on hold. Purpose was to finance upgrading environment between Police Station and Age Concern. EA have concerns about works increasing flooding risks.
 3. Wandle Trust want to use funding to assess the way forward for a fish pass at Halfords Weir but this will mean going back to each funder and DBL.

9. Refurbishment

- No meeting until 14 March.
- Our concerns about dangers of modernisation of lighting to lampposts in Castle Street and Pencester Gardens. Allison Burton advises we contact KCC with our ideas. No plans to replace these lamp posts as far as she is aware.
- The three missing bollards in Castle Street have now been replaced.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/Guided Tours

The guided tours are quiet on a Wednesday but we do have 3 group bookings later in the summer plus other coach parties arranged by PS.

Town Hall refurbishment – DL gave a brief outline of the Consultants' recommendations agreed by DDC. The next step is to prepare for a major Heritage Lottery Fund grant to be done in two rounds, the first by 1 December for what we want to do, and then for the finer detail to take another year or so. If we get the money there is a 10% match funding requirement. DTC and The Dover Society are partners with DDC the applicant. We have £9K in the Town Hall fund and propose to give £5K toward match funding and keep £4k for other items not included. After a short discussion this was agreed.

Our speaker for the meeting on 21 March has lost her voice and cannot attend but Phil Eyden will now attend. Suggested a special meeting on the Town Hall project, in the Town Hall if possible in May. Discussion followed and agreed for special meeting, with no second speaker. **Action: DL to arrange**

It was also suggested that one slot be kept vacant with a TBA in the winter just in case something highly topical crops up at short notice. Agreed it should be in January so that it can be advertised in the November newsletter. The slot could be used for a brainstorming session.

11. Social Secretary's Report

BH – There has been good feedback from members about the Wine and Wisdom evening, with 2 less tables it was more comfortable. A thank you to all the volunteers, and the items purchased for this event can be used again next year.

PHS – Two trips have been booked, one on the 28th May to Weald and Downland Open Air Museum and the other to Hampton Court Flower Show on 10 July. The coach for first trip is half full, but only 2 booked for second.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning meeting held on 1st March were circulated to members of the committee before the meeting. PS went through each item and a discussion followed.

Action: PS to contact CPRE, of which The Dover Society is a member, regarding demolition of Westmount and the wildlife in the area.

PS will continue as Chair of Planning until a replacement is found. If no replacement he will step down. Attached is a copy of his email to DL.

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

SC – Merrill Lilley has a complete set of Newsletters for anyone who wants them. AS has first refusal.

AL – A Tourism meeting to be held at Dover Castle on Tuesday 15 March at 10.00 to 13.00.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 14 April 2016**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.