

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 14 April 2016
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover.

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

1.Apologies: Glyn Hale, Pat Sherratt.

The chairman informed the committee that PS has been very active in seeking Dover to be accredited as a "Walkers are Welcome Town". The Walkers are Welcome National Committee approved Dover's application from a provisional status to "Fully Accredited" which means that Dover is now a fully accredited Walkers are Welcome town.

2.Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2016 were accepted as correct.

3.Matters Arising

AL attended a Tourism meeting and there was a wide representation from various hoteliers, local organisations and other businesses, including some from France. A consultant will be putting a report together to bring all concerned together and spear heading Dover attractions to be open all year round.

4. Chairman's Report.

A letter was sent to DDC, Chief Constable of Police and MP for Dover about the demonstrations held and planned in Dover. The contents of the letter was read out to the committee.

The Heritage Open days, the Town Hall cannot be open on the Saturday but they have agreed to open on the Sunday free of charge.

Have agreed an extra special meeting for The Dover Society members, but it is open as usual to all, at the Town Hall on Monday 16 May at 7pm at the Town Hall. The meeting will give the consultants' proposals for the Refurbishment /Renovation of the Town Hall. To inform our members it was agreed to send emails to those who have an email address and post a notice to the other local members. TS to write about it the Dover Express, and also MMcF to put it on Website. If members arrive early at 7.00 pm they will have the opportunity to see parts of the Town Hall not normally seen by the general public.

Dover Arts and Development are holding a concert and exhibition on 20 May. It was agreed to give Jonna Jones 5 minutes at the AGM to promote this.

The Battle of the Somme film has been secured and will be shown at the Silver Screen Cinema on Monday 12 September. There will be two showings, one at 11.00am and the other at 2.30pm. As the cinema only holds 77 MMcF would like some idea of how many are likely to come in order to balance out attendances at each showing. We will have to pay the projectionist at about £10 a session, therefore £20 for the two showings. Agreed for MMcF to proceed.

TS - there is a planned march by the British Legions in the town on Friday 3 June to mark the beginning of the Battle of the Somme. To be announced at AGM and put in next newsletter.

DL, TS and JC attended meeting today at Cruise Terminal 2, with the PCF and Port User Group about the local implications of a possible exit from the EU. It was a very useful meeting.

5. Secretary's Report

There have been no nominations for the Executive Committee for the AGM.

I have a form to join the Kent Archaeological Society but not yet completed it. I am looking for photographs that represent us and seeking advice from MMcF.

The question was asked if we have any Corporate Members. It appears we do not have any.

Action: BH to look at constitution and report back.

6. Financial Report.

The financial report for the end of our financial year 2015/2016 was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting, also the Financial Statement which will be presented at our AGM next Monday.

The monies received in March are:

- £143.00 from Newsletter advertising
- £1336.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2016/2017
- £40.00 in donations
- £8.00 into the Publications fund from sales of the Town Hall book.
- £24.00 to Town Hall fund from Town Hall funds

We paid out:

- £695.00 to Adams Printers for the production of the March Newsletter
- £72.74 for postage for sending Newsletter to "out of area" members
- £70.13 end of year expenses for printing, postage and phone
- £78.13 from Projects fund for servicing, spares and repairs to Cowgate strimmers
- £37.00 to Royal British Legion for our annual two wreaths use for Remembrance Day.
- £70.00 was sent to The Crabble Corn Mill trust as agreed at last meeting.

Our insurance for this financial year has been paid. Although the basic insurance has not changed the costs went up almost 24%. Part of this was due to the Governments imposition of an increase in insurance tax in the last year but our brokers, Bluefin Insurance Services, put a non-negotiable charge of £50.00 onto our premium to pay for increased regulatory charges being imposed on them. Last year we paid £251.89, this year we have had to pay £310.20.

Our March meeting made a loss of £50.90, the speakers meals cost £44.00. The raffle netted £55.00.

We paid out £815.98 from the River Dour Partnership leaving £1726.56 in their account being held by us.

We are holding the funds for the "Bluebird Trail" on behalf of the various parties involved in this project. During March Dover Harbour Board sent a contribution of £5000 to the fund. Money spent from the account during March totalled £10225.07. The amount we are now holding is £24264.93.

The last quarters interest on our Caf account totalled £14.45.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have one new member, Mrs Roberta Emms, now a joint member with husband David.

Last allocated number 1258, total number of members 480.

Adeline Reidy, representing the Dover Ladies Luncheon Club, are having a lunch in the Town Hall on 29 June and suggested a table for The Dover Society committee members. Cost £20.00

Read out a letter from a member Roy Evans who has left the town but requiring information.

8. Projects

A Bluebird Trail marker to be inserted into the pavement was shown to members.

Coastal Communities

- Awaiting outcome of bid
- Gave an update on behalf of DBL of River Dour project and Tourism project

DBL

- I am giving up as Secretary and a member of the committee at the elections next week but will continue to support
- Presentations on Tourism and Shared Assets (Fort Burgoyne)
- Taking on two apprentices
- Continuing involvement with community groups and individuals

- Biggin Hall now transferred to DCA who will start process of renovation to bring about community use and involvement.

Cowgate

- Up to date with the work. Received a gift of a strimmer from Mr Dukes and a letter of thanks has been sent.

River Dour

- Ray Newsam taking up fund raising for large projects, fish passes, using Kevin Charles expertise
- Sue and Deborah looking for funding from HLF to start project with Dover Community Radio (DCR) and Barry O'Brien on River Tales to get community involvement. If successful then way open to further projects on River Warden and River Walks.

9. Refurbishment

Litter

- Litter problem of the week picture. A discussion followed with TS about putting it in local paper to highlight worst areas in town. Being considered.
- Need to get a talk on how litter collection is organised and how are problems dealt with.
- Highways - AS to contact DDC and Keep Britain Tidy to suggest a more cost effective way of clearing litter from major roads
- Addy's April Clean up Campaign . Emailed to members
- Bleriot to Cliffs walk signage. Jenny and Mike to take forward and look to involve Coastal Communities.

Conservation, listed building publicity in abeyance

Police and Demonstrations. Apart from the town centre being deserted, the demonstrations were fully controlled which included use of mounted police. They are confident about St Georges Day and consider **numbers** will be far smaller.

Alan Lee agreeing siting of Keottlitz plaque with College. Suggested to be on gate in Folkestone Road.

To check Es Flugen plaque and chase Jon Iveson if necessary. **A report recommends moving it indoors.**

Jenny to try another contact at League of Friends for cooperation with Hospital information boards
We have to look at our page on Website

LED lamps renewal - waiting for KCC Highways comment on kits to upgrade lights rather than renewal of lamp posts. Need to keep existing lamp post in Castle Street and Pencester Gardens.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/ Guided Tours

Steering group meeting on Monday

The Guided Tours are proceeding with group bookings later in the year.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The Hampton Court trip is going well but not so many for the Downland Open Museum. Suggest sending out link to members by email and mention again at AGM.

We have had requests to organise a short holiday and we have had discussions with coach operators. They will suggest 3 day tour from Thursday to Sunday with places to visit. If it makes a profit will share with the Society, if it makes a loss there will no charge on us. Will put details in next Newsletter.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning meeting held on Tuesday 5 April was circulated by PS prior to the meeting. MW went through each item and a discussion followed. It was agreed to sign off a draft letter constructed by PS and BH about the proposed Leisure Centre at Whitfield with a thank you to PS for all the work he has put into it.

TS also mentioned the proposed site for new housing on Singledge Lane, Whitfield and if we are going to do anything about it. It has been strongly objected to by residents **but deadline for comments has passed**. Action: BH to look at it and consult with PS.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report.

15. Publications

Email received from Paul Wells enquiring about the publications "Dover's Hidden Fortress". Discussion about the amount to charge, agreed he could have 35% off the retail price, which the same being given to Dover Museum.

16. AOB

DL - reminder of the Zeebrugge Memorial on 23 April leaving Maison Dieu car park at 10.20. There is a free concert **afterwards** inside the Town Hall.

AS - as a WCCTA member representing The Dover Society, I attended the WCCTA AGM ON 15 March. The chairman gave a short report stating 2015 was a bad year with Operation Stack, the collapse of the Railway line and bad press in the Bryson book. Tourism is not looking **too** healthy. The Dover Historian website has had 250000 visits, about 200 to 250 visits per day. The Home Guard story to be published on Saturday.

MMcF - there is an extra **facility** on the Society's website, **translation** into 100 languages.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 12 May 2016**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.