

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 12 May 2016
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover.

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Alan Sencicle, Mike Weston.

1.Apologies: Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Pat Sherratt, Mike McFarnell Jean Marsh, Terry Sutton.

The chairman informed the committee that Mike McFarnell is being installed as an Honorary Freeman of Dover and we congratulate him. The Chairman to send a letter of congratulations. With several members absent due to Mayor making, it was agreed to avoid the clash in future if possible.

2.Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2016 were accepted as correct.

3.Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report.

An email from PS was circulated to members prior to the meeting informing the Chairman that he was reconsidering his decision to resign as Chairman of the Planning Committee. A discussion followed and there were no objections to PS to continue to be the Chairman of the Planning Committee if he wished. Two names were put forward for the Chairman to contact to see if they were interested in becoming members of the Executive Committee.

PCF - The Chairman gave an outline of the points raised at the meeting viz.

Litter - Adeline Reidy commented on the rubbish on the A20 and A2 and it was confirmed it was the responsibility of DDC as they are not motorways. Lobbying for HE to take over for all strategic routes. The National Litter Enforcement Strategy under consideration.

TAP Update - the delay of the variable speed signs is due to the fact there is no electricity power supply along that particular stretch of the A20.

Eastern Docks - there are now extra parking spaces.

DHB - the road works are not causing as much congestion as expected except for Good Friday, when there was an exceptionally heavy amount of traffic.

The proposed lower Thames crossing in East Kent is supported by DHB.

The traffic to the Port increased by 30% last year and the daily lorry traffic is expected to increase from 10,000 to 16,000 in the next 10 years.

The Port of Dover Annual Consultative Meeting is on Monday 23 May, in Cruise Terminal 1, 1700 to 1930 hours, if anyone is interested in going along.

The Dover Regatta is on Saturday 23 July.

The beach is being closed off 50 metres from Prince of Wales Pier. The removal of the heritage items is ongoing

There is a concern about the vulnerability of the Cruise terminals from possible terrorist action.

May have to close Admiralty Pier when ships are in the dock.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report. Not yet had time to research Corporate Members. Suggestion made to research Junior Members at the same time.

6. Financial Report.

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

The monies received in April are:

£255.00 from Newsletter advertising

£488.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2016/2017

£10.00 subscriptions for the next financial year 2017/2018

£10.00 in donations
£4.00 into the Publications fund from sales of the Town Hall book.
£61.00 to Town Hall fund from Town Hall tours.
£10.00 from sale of Society Badges

We paid out:

£10.00 subscription returned to member who had double paid
£30.00 to St Mary's for cost of Committee meetings in St Mary's Parish Hall for 3 months, April, May and June.
£40.00 membership fee to The White Cliffs Country Tourism Association for the current year.

The AGM meeting made a profit of £50.00. The raffle netted £97.00 profit.

Nothing was paid out from the River Dour Partnership leaving £1726.56 in their account being held by us.

Money paid out from the Bluebird Trail Fund totalled £2,665.00 and we are now holding £21,599.93

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have three new members:

Miss Debbie Everett, Auden Way, Dover
Mr Martin and Mrs Anne Edwards, Guston.

Last allocated number 1261, total number of members 480.

8. Projects

DBL

- AL gave an update as JC is no longer on the committee .
- Supporting youth activities in Pencester which have just resumed. For the first time the American Football session has been held and over 30 youngsters took part. This is run in conjunction with American Football Development Ltd. The sessions are now longer with JET coaching held after the sports session. Geo-Caching session was run for the first time, as a way to engage in healthy pastimes.
- There has been an increase in the uptake of employment advice offered to young people from DBL area.
- After the successful series of activities held in the DBL Hub over the Easter break, there are plans for a repeat of this style of event to be held over the school holidays, 31st May to 4th June. The main aim is to encourage family involvement/learning and provide something free or affordable and community based over the the holiday period. Workshop ideas will be developed over the next week and details released as soon as they are finalised. This will also give the opportunity to promote local organisations and societies. (This could give the Dover Society an opportunity to increase their profile and gain new members, maybe with a talk.)
- Tourism Works Update of workshop held St Mary's in Castro Wednesday 13 April 2016. Final report on this activity will be end of May with recommendations and proposals at the DBL meeting.
- DBL have employed two apprentices, will help set up a little local to engage with younger people. Full programme for the apprentices to be finalised.
- Proposals are underway to revamp and redesign the DTC noticeboards around the town. In co-operation with DTC.
- Meetings are planned to discuss various options for Fort Burgoyne with the Land Trust.

Cowgate

- No meeting in June as the work is in between the spring clear up and summer mowing. There is a possibility of obtaining a new recruit.

Coastal Communities

- Nothing further to report.

River Dour

- The next six monthly meeting to be held on 26th May.

- A further matter raised is the ornate railings where Barton Path crosses Beaconsfield Road Looking for funding to restore along with KCC's work to strengthen or repair the river walling.

The Bluebird Trail

- The Community Engagement Officer is very enthusiastic and has many ideas.. Setting up workshops for graphic design, website/app and local history and making contact with schools and businesses. Pupils to make their own maps, such as the journey to school. The Website and Apps construction are going well.
- The Guide Books are almost ready to print.
- Ordering more markers as spares as they were less expensive than first thought.
- A meeting with DHB pointed out a problem now that a section of the seafront has been closed off as one the markers was due to be put there. The route will need to be diverted across the sea front and down Union Street. The marker will not be put in until the work on the sea front is completed. Charles II Pavilion will be affected. A meeting to be held next week to decide what to do.
- Possible problem with where to put the marker on/by the gun turret, as it is listed need to apply to DDC for planning permission.

9. Refurbishment

- There was no meeting last month

Litter

- AS sent out an email to members of the committee showing the problems with litter on the A20 and the responses from Dinah Nichols, Chair of Keep Britain Tidy. The rubbish cannot be seen by a car as it is higher up on the grass. The road has to close if the space between the centre white line and edge of the road/grass verge is less than 1.2 metres. It appears the space is more than this on the A20. AS does not accept that the road has to be closed to clear rubbish. The 6 monthly meeting with Roger Walton, DDC on 9 June is due and this subject will be brought up.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/ Guided Tours

- Extra special meeting on Monday 16 May when the Consultants will be presenting their recommendations.
- General public consultation programme in July and August. On 7 July local stakeholders between 1.00pm and 3.0 pm. On 7 July and 18 July between 10.00 and 12.00, design workshops, Stone and Connaught Halls, VIC block, Courtroom and welcome centre. Lastly the Holiday Lets block on either 25/26/27 July, date to be confirmed. Inform DL if anyone wants to attend. Public consultations in July and August.

11. Social Secretary's Report

Need another 5 to book to break even for the Downland Open Museum trip.

For the next AGM in 2017 the normal date of 17 April would be Easter Monday. Agreed to move the date to 24 April. BH to book hall at St Mary's Parish Hall for this date.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning meeting held on Tuesday 3 May was circulated by PS prior to the meeting. PS also circulated copies of two letters sent to DDC in response to planning applications. MW went through each item and a short discussion followed.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

The deadline for the next newsletter was yesterday, 11 May.

15. Publications

Paul Wells was given 40 books of "Dover's Hidden Fortress" for £104.00

Sue Jones took 7 but no payment has been received.

16. AOB

DL - reminder of the Extra Special Meeting on Monday 16 May at the Town Hal.

AS - Blue Plaques, suggested one for Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, Admiral of the Fleet, and Chief of Defence Staff during the Falkland conflict. Information about this war is now coming availability under the 30 year rule. He was born in Dover and it was agreed to put him on the current list. There is no movement on the Koettliz plaque.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 9 June 2016**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.