

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 09 June 2016
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover.

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale,,
Beverley Hall, Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton.
Mike Weston.

1.Apologies: Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Mike McFarnell

2.Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2016 were accepted as correct.

3.Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman contacted the two names that were put forward at the last meeting to see if they were interested in becoming members of the Executive Committee. No response has been received from one, and the contact details for the other was incorrect. JC to look again at the email address given.

The DHB draft response to Highways England Strategic Route Consultation was circulated to members prior to the meeting. A short discussion followed and the committee agreed with the draft response. The only considered point to raise was for the A2 to bypass Whitfield. DL to respond to **DHB** and PS to respond to **DDC** on behalf The Dover Society before deadline of 20 June 2016.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Financial Report.

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

The monies received in May are:

- £146.00 from Newsletter advertising
- £289.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2016/2017
- £10.00 subscriptions for the next financial year 2017/2018
- £18.00 in donations for the general fund
- £250.00 donation the project fund from a member who wishes to remain anonymous
- £4.00 into the Publications fund from sales of the Town Hall book.
- £102.00 into the Publication fund from The Western Heights Preservation Society who purchased 40 copies of "Dover Hidden Fortress"
- £86.00 to Town Hall fund from Town Hall tours.

We paid out:

- £26.40 postage
- £25.00 from Town Hall Fund for an advertisement placed in the Kent History Journal
- £30.00 form the Miscellaneous Fund for the wreath laid at the Zeebrugge Memorial Service

No payment made from the River Dour Partnership. The amount held in the account remains the same £1726.56.

Money paid out from the Bluebird Trail Fund was £2733.00 and we are now holding £18866.93.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have three new members:

- Mrs Alice Klidzia of Victoria Street, Dover
- Mr Graham and Mrs Mary Margery of River.

Last allocated number 1264, total number of members 474.

A letter received from the Channel Dash Memorial Trust about MTB 219, a WW2 motor torpedo boat, about possible relocation to Dover. The cost of purchasing the boat is £25000. A short discussion followed and it was agreed to respond to the letter informing them the society would not be offering any help but inform them of other organisations that may eg **Transport Museum**.
Action: TS to respond.

8. Projects

DBL

- **New Light Aquaponics**. The Oasis project now has a full fish breeding program in place. The hydro growing part will be completed by 10 June 2016. There are two volunteers for this project. There is a need for new premises to expand and talks are taking place with DDC for the Upper Danes old tip site.
- A grant of £10,000 has been made to the Dover Music Festival, £500 to the Dover Community Arts Festival and £50 to Eythorne Silver Band.
- Successful launch of the Makers Market.
- Dover Urban Fete have booked a local group Hey Rudi.
- **Destination Dover** - the 13 attendees at the breakfast meeting have formed an interim committee and have promised that things will move forward sooner rather than later. The aim to raise £100,000 per year for five years has got off to an excellent start with £6500 per year pledged so far and another £15,000 awaiting ratification. Also office space and equipment has been promised.
- **General Appeal** - If anyone has any ideas or plans to develop an environmental project in the Dover Big Local area please contact AL.
- **Cowgate**
- The grass is growing fast and with one mowing on plot 1

River Dour

- A meeting was held on 26th May.
- Coastal Communities have changed the bid rules but will try and get in bid for fish passes before the 30 June deadline.
- Dover Tales HLF bid is being prepared The plan is to publicise the River to locals and tourists.
- SERT have installed eel passes at Lorne Road and by Halfords. The £1000 funding from DTC to be used on the Morrison Weir to deal with unforeseen repairs.
- The River Dour volunteers won the "Beautiful Dover" category of the Dover Town Council "People of Dover" awards.
- Farm and Forest day, the River Dour Group to help WCCP on the The Ups and Downs landscape partnership scheme at Kearsney Abbey on Monday 25 July.
- The ground water levels remain good.
- DHB pollution tests are reasonably good.

The Bluebird Trail

- The formal launch is on 27 August at 9.30 am at the Town Hall, with refreshments, and will invite certain people **plus** an open invite to the public To start the event participants will be issued with **a free guide booklet** plus a Bluebird passport **which** will be stamped when they reach the Sea Sports centre on the seafront. **DL** to meet with Pam Brivio and **Patrick** of Walkers are Welcome to discuss joining the launch without distracting from the occasion.

9. Refurbishment

- **Plaques** - AL to follow up with Dover College for the siting of the Keottlitz plaque. Admiral Sir Terence Lewin has been put on the list. There has been no response from the League of Friends. Suggestion made Dover's only VC holder in WWII, Thomas Gould should have a plaque. Agreed to put name on the list.
- **Litter** - AS continues to publicise areas of rubbish in the town to make people aware of it.
- **Lighting** - waiting for response from KCC
- **Policing** - informed on how they are dealing with the demonstrators

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/ Guided Tours

- The Town Hall tours are busy, there are several group tours booked plus the three coach parties organised by PS and PHS.
- The Extra special Society meeting held on Monday 16 May with the Consultants was well attended and went very well. Now preparing HLF application for funding.
- The general public consultation programme is in July and August. On 7 July local stakeholders between 1.00pm and 3.00 pm. On 7 July and 18 July between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm, 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.

11. Social Secretary's Report

Need to confirm the price and menu for the Christmas Lunch and will have the information in time for the stuffer to put in the next newsletter. Considering delaying the lunch by 15 minutes from comments made at last Society meeting so that church goers have time to attend.

Have yet to book entertainment and considering not giving them a meal. They will be paid for their services and then leave. This will help to break even. Suggestion made to contact The 3 Yarrows for the entertainment.

The meetings for next year have been booked at St Mary's Parish Hall and the AGM in 2017 has been booked on 24 April to avoid Easter Monday.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning meeting held on Tuesday 2 June were circulated by PS prior to the meeting. PS went through each item and discussion followed.

Action: TS to give DL details of Westmount hidden vase for contact with N Rix .

JC gave an outline of DL, PS and JC meeting held with DDC which discussed the tents being erected in the town by homeless people, future shopping in the town, TAP, the A20, and making Snargate Street a conservation area. Also Highways England being urged to take over the responsibility of clearing litter on major routes. The legal dispute continues about the Western Heights and Farthingloe development and there is a danger the planning application may lapse. The Connaught Barracks Officers site development is proceeding but there is a S106 query. The Fort Burgoyne will go to the Land Trust and the green land at the barracks will not be developed. Other issues discussed were the devolution of Councils and County Councils which KCC is against, the parking strategy, and the conservation of Old St James. The Town Hall consultants have been invited to look at St James for the repairs needed.

The Dover Museum is to have free entry with DCC matching the funding.

The Transport Strategy is ongoing. There is a Strategic Housing Assessment joint with Shepway Council and a report is due in July.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

14. Editor's Report

The newsletter should be available at the beginning of July.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. AOB

MW - asked about the proposed hanging of a refugee boat in St Mary's Church. TS replied but cannot be recorded until the PCC members have been informed.

TS - informed the committee of the death of Lady Boyce, wife of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Lord Boyce.

PS - gave details of an itinerary he devised titled "Hidden Treasures of Dover". The Kent branch of the Association of Group Travel Organisers are having their annual meeting in Dover on Monday 27 June based on this itinerary.

AS - Finished proof reading an article about River Dour and River. Should be published next month.

AL - stated lorries have been seen going up Coombe Valley Road. Rats also seen at the back of Ill Rustico restaurant and a complaint has been made. There is a Scrutiny meeting in July.

Date of next meeting

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