

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

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale,, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Mike McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1.Apologies: Beverley Hall, Alan Lee, Alan Sencicle,

2.Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2016 were accepted as correct.

3.Matters Arising

As agreed at the last meeting regarding the DHB draft response to Highways England, DL responded to DHB supporting it and PS responded to DDC raising the point of the necessity to upgrade the A2 to bypass Whitfield.

TS confirmed he had responded to the Channel Dash Memorial Trust letter.

4. Chairman's Report.

Contact has been made with N Rix regarding the hidden vase at Westmount and they confirmed they have not found it.

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 June are:

- £21.00 from Newsletter advertising
- £198.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2016/2017
- £6.00 subscriptions for the next financial year 2017/2018
- £6.00 subscriptions for the following year 2018/2019
- £8.00 in donations for the general fund
- £8.00 into the Publications fund from sales of the Town Hall book.
- £24.88 into the Publications fund from Pebbles for the sale of "Dover Hidden Fortress".
- £132.00 to Town Hall fund from Town Hall tours.
- £66.52 into the Town Hall fund from the dividend paid by Reckitt Benckiser.

We paid out:

- £145.99 from the Publication Fund for Town Hall leaflets.
- £20.00 to St Mary's PCC for the hire of a room for the committee meetings for July and September.
- £57.50 from the Miscellaneous Fund for website costs.

The Weald and Downland outing almost broke even. By adding into the figures shown under financially completed functions the money taken in the year 2015/2016 under note five the outing made a loss of £5.50.

No payment made from the River Dour Partnership. The amount held in the account remains the same £1,726.56.

Money paid out from the Bluebird Trail Fund was £3,913.66 and we are now holding £14,953.27.

The Caf account paid interest of £14.66 in the last quarter.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have two new members:

Mr R and Mrs E Meadows from Kearsney.
Last allocated number 1266, total number of members 457.

A letter has been received from Mr Christopher Simpson regarding the St Martins choir of which he was a member. He enclosed a photograph and would like to identify the boys and where they are now. Suggestion made to put in local paper and on the website, Action: SC to respond with suggestions made and to seek his permission.

8. Projects

Cowgate

- There is very vigorous growth. There is also a need for to recruit new volunteers but no response to emails.

Plaques

- AL has agreed a site with Dover College for the Keottlitz plaque on the brick wall next to the pillar on Folkestone Road. The wall may be listed and needs to be checked before installation. The plaque is going to be produced and a draft copy of the plaque was given to committee members to view. The cost of the plaque is £400.00 plus the installation.

RDSG

- **Lorne Road Millpond.** South Eastern River Trust (SERT) have proposed the use of a fish pass from EA, lower the weir by between a half and one metre and narrow the river so this it has less silt and is faster flowing. The banks will then be built up so they are covered with vegetation and allow for a pathway. This will only be effectively dealt with by the acquisition of the mill pond.
- To purchase this would be around £40K and up to £200K for environmental work. EA have advised that funding would be easier if we owned the mill pond.
- A survey is required and DBL and DTC are being approached to fund it
- SERT and Martina White are to prepare a feasibility and sustainability study as a basis for funding.
- There would be a need for the most appropriate vehicle in place if the purchase was made.
- **Halfords Weir** - a feasibility study is to be prepared and the funding would be about £70K to £80K.
- **Other funding bids** - for "No Fishing" signs, Community Grant scheme for volunteers equipment and HFL bid for River Tales to publish the river. Agree The Society can be named as the applicant.
- **The Railings at Barton Path and Beaconsfield Road** - DDC and DTC have indicated a desire to be involved in the restoration of the railings but KCC would need to deal with the wall. DCC is to carry out a survey.
- **Catch and Release aquarium** - Ray Newsam is seeking involvement with DHB on an aquarium for sea creatures and a tank for river species.

9. Refurbishment

- MMcF is working with DBL to try and set up a scheme to deal with shop doorways that are being used to deposit rubbish.
- **Litter enforcement orders** - MMcF is to request DDC to prepare an order to Network Rail regarding the litter on the embankment at Coombe Valley Road. If DDC decline can we authorise MMcF to issue a Magistrates Order in the name of The Society. After a short discussion it was agreed.
- DDC are positive about the maintenance of the Market Square planters but Sylvie Parsons is to contact Darren Solley about the timing of the maintenance.
- **Highways** - the main road matters raised referred onto the Planners. KCC have confirmed street lamp posts can be retained by the use of LED kits. The A2 and A20 verges have been cleared. Nothing has been heard about the cobbles in Dolphin Lane from the developers.

- There has been a report of problems with needles from Market Square campers being thrown into garden at the rear of The Salle Vert, This is being dealt with by the Town Clerk through DDC.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/ Guided Tours

- The two coach parties from the Cranbrook area, organised by PS and PHS, were very impressed with the tour and their itinerary. We also had a party of 25 Dover Lions and 25 from Tenterden booked for August.
- The first design workshop on Connaught and Stone Hall was very positive. The next are on 18 and 26 July and will deal with all the other rooms.
- The first application to HFL is due by December.

The Bluebird Trail

The Bluebird Trail booklet has now been printed and a copy was given to committee members. The markers are going in and the website and app is being tested. The website will not be complete by the time of the launch but the basis information will be there. The launch is on the 27 August at 09.30 at the Town Hall. There will be a short official ceremony and the ribbon will be cut. The booklets and a passport will be issued to walkers to follow the self guided trail.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The trip to Hampton Court Flower Show last Sunday went very well. Already have interest in the Honfleur and Waddesdon Manor trips.

John Richards is interested in joining The Dover Society Executive Committee but would like to attend a meeting to see what it is about.

BH sent in items by email after the meeting.

- Received the booking form from Your Leisure agreeing the menu and that the costs will be the same as last year i.e. £18 a head for food and £3 a head for the welcome drink. The details will be checked again and return a signed copy to Your Leisure to confirm our booking.
- Requested a microphone for the top table and also the use raffle drum and these are booked.
- Agreed a fee of £225 with Stephen Yarrow (plus 3 meals on the day).

12. Planning

There was no meeting this month of the Planning committee. However the areas to raise are the Leisure Centre consultation, lorry parking and Castle Street.

The first of five Dover Leisure Centre consultation workshops was today. Details of these workshops are available on line. There are another four workshops for the general public to attend and the consultation closes on 24 July.

DDC Scrutiny meeting about lorry parking, particularly in the Coombe Valley Road area. PS outlined the context of the meeting.

Castle Street planning for change of use which is not a problem because it is better for the buildings to be occupied. It is the number of units in each property creating another 70 residents which causes problems with **refuse**. There was an informal meeting with Roger Walton and the architects and the control of the rubbish will be a problem because DDC will not provide extra collections. Planning permission not yet granted.

There are no flowers in Castle Street this year as there have been in previous years. DTC have been asked for grant but there has been no response.

PS thanked DL for the two groups meeting in the Town Hall. They also had lunch in the Town Hall and these parties all add to promoting the town and to bring in revenue.

PS is the Walkers are Welcome representative for the society Trying to set up a bank account to apply to DTC for a grant to get started. This will benefit the town and businesses alike.

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

TS - Speakers Day Confederation is on 1 October and is every 7 years. All the Mayors from the Cinque Ports and the Lord Warden will be coming to Dover. The Mayor of Dover will give a speech in the Town Hall and then onto St Mary's Church. There will also be a Tudor Festival.
MMcF - In order to fund the Dover Film Festival there is a need to attract advertisements in the programme. Used the same advertisers to make the Tudor Festival Programme and attract sponsorship. In order for DTC to give a grant, the project has to show they have no reserves of money.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 8 September 2016**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.