

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 8 September 2016
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover.

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

1.Apologies: Jean Marsh

2.Minutes of the last meeting

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

3.Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report.

A **PCF** meeting was held on 17th August and brief outline of the meeting was given.

DHB was warned in advance of the security check that would be carried out by the French Customs. Unfortunately there were not enough French staff to do this on the busiest weekend of the year.

The Dover Festival went well despite the traffic chaos. Considering avoiding this weekend in the future.

Heart of the Community awards given by DHB. There were 8 awards, 7 by a panel and one by DHB. The nominations came from the readers of local papers and 51 organisations were nominated. PS made the comment that the awards were not given to Dover based organisations. A short discussion followed and the Chairman read out the report about the awards.

Tim Waggott gave **PCF** an update and Nick Humphrey Smith (**big Local**) gave an update on the **appointment of the** Dover Town Tourist Officer next week.

The Annual Consultative meeting was held in May and **PCF** comments were made that the audience should be able to put questions to the Board, TS gave his and the Society's views.

The Prince of Wales Pier/A20 junction is behind so work will be starting on the York Street roundabout this month.

An update of the Blue Bird Trails was given.

A survey was carried out for use of the Cruise Terminal and various suggestions were made.

A letter from KCC has been received and was read out. It is about a new project called Urban Archaeological Database for Dover. KCC has maintained the Historic Environment Record (HER). This is a large mapped database of heritage sites. An Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) will provide more detail than an HER. Dover's archaeological discoveries and excavations will be mapped more accurately and in much more detail. The work will continue until November 2017 and the database will help planners and developers in the town to assess development proposals to conserve Dover's heritage. A public event will be held at the conclusion of the project to present the results with an interpretative leaflet to show the online system and how to access it.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Financial Report.

The financial report for the last 2 months, July and August, was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting.

The monies received in this period are:

£116.00 from Newsletter advertising

£60.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2016/2017

£10.00 subscriptions for the next financial year 2017/2018

£6.00 subscriptions for the following year 2018/2019
£36.00 into the Publications fund from sales of the Town Hall book.
£450.00 to Town Hall fund from Town Hall tours.
£3.65 into the Town Hall fund from a dividend paid by Indivior.

We paid out:

£695.00 was paid to Adams Printers for the production of the July Newsletter
£69.14 for posting "out of area" newsletters.
£95.99 from the publication fund to MCL Graphics for the printing of the Heritage Open Day leaflets.
£30.00 to St Mary's PCC for the hire of a room for the committee meetings for October, November, and December.
£40.00 annual subscription to CPRE
£15.50 for printing and stationary costs
£7.67 from the project fund for oil for strimmers used at Cowgate.

An application was made to HRMC for "gift aid" on subscriptions and donations received during the last financial year 2015/2016. We received £636.55 from HMRC, the amount applied for.

Our last financial year's accounts are being audited by the accountant Neil Beverton. Hopefully they will be completed by the next committee meeting. JC reminded Big Local that the cost of the audit is to be paid by them and this has been acknowledged.

The Hampton Court Flower Show trip made a surplus of £342.50.
The next trip to Waddeston to date is poorly supported.

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 £17,375.04. The Lottery Current gave the project the second tranche of the grant which was £23,600. The amount we are now holding is £21,178.23.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have four new members:

Mrs Wendy Stokes from Church Hougham
Mr Luo from Park Avenue, Dover
Mrs Penelope and Mr Raymond Stroud, Beaufoy Terrace Dover.

Last allocated number 1270, total number of members 456.

8. Projects

Cowgate

- The camper's site has been destroyed and cleaned up. The work continues and there is still a need for two good volunteers.

River Dour

- A scheme is being prepared to fund the acquisition and improvement for the Lorne Road Mill pond. The first priority is a professional assessment of the scheme so it is clear that there is a realistic plan.
- There are fish passes for the Lorne Road and Halfords weir.
- Continuing dialogue with Coastal Communities but potential funding is looking unlikely.
- Still pursuing the three smaller bids for PR, Dover Tails and volunteers equipment and signage.

Plaques

- The Keottlitz plaque has been ordered and will be installed on the wall next to the entrance to the old Gate House in due course.

9. Refurbishment

- MMcF is still working with DBL on ideas to deal with litter and to clear the rubbish from dirty shop doorways.
- As far as the committee is able to try and describe the aims of the Town Team's scheme for Coastal Community funding
- SP to email Roger Walton on the maintenance of the flowers in the Market Square and the use of a water bowser for the Town's planting. This is subject to MW and AS input. Suggestion made by PS to go to DTC if no response from DDC, and remind them of the budget for planting but there is none for maintenance so it is a complete waste of money providing the plants.
- JO and MW to pursue the signage on the Bleriot Cliff top path.
- The A2 and A20 verges have been cleared.
- JO requests any concerns on police matters to be sent to her in time for the October meeting.
- At the next meeting the committee to consider the scope of their role and its effectiveness and how it can be improved. The committee will look at the membership and consider the need for new and younger members.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/ Guided Tours

- It has been a good summer for group tours and people walking in.
- The consultants are looking at all the information that came out of the Refurbishment workshops.

The Bluebird Trail

The Bluebird Trail had a successful launch on **27 August** with 75 attending the opening ceremony. At **Pebbles** 51 free drinks were given out. The coverage in the local papers was good. Feedback was collected on the trail and suggestions were considered and some discounted. The App was being downloaded and in use although it is not yet quite completed. It appears there may well be an underspend **additional activities are planned..**

11. Social Secretary's Report

PHS - The trip to Hampton Court Flower Show was a success but this was mainly due the coach being filled by non members of the Society who the coach operator knew who wanted to go this venue. The Waddesdon Manor trip only has 16 bookings and will make a loss of £282. The committee was asked if it could run and offset the loss from the profit made from the Hampton Court trip. The other alternative is to cancel. A short discussion followed and it was agreed to let the trip go ahead and off set the loss against the Hampton Court trip.

BH - Christmas Lunch, so far 23 members have booked. The entertainment has also been booked. It was proposed that the Mayor is not invited this year and not in future years due monetary restraints. The proposal was agreed.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 5th September were circulated to members before this meeting. PS went through each item followed by a discussion on the various topics.

Action: DL to make contact with DDC regarding the Conservation Areas Appraisal Reports.

Action: Leisure Centre Consultation, to wait to read minutes from the meeting and link it to an invite to Roger Walton to discuss at a Society committee meeting.

13. Press Secretary's Report

The Dover Express catchment area is expanding and it much more difficult to get anything in the paper. The new Editor is Luke Jacobs from Trinity Mirror and the trend is to read on line and not on paper.

14. Editor's Report

The deadline for reports for the next newsletter was yesterday so can they submitted as soon a possible. The back page can be held back a little longer to be completed.

15. Publications

The Pebbles kiosk will take more publications of Dover's Hidden Fortress next year.

16. AOB

MMcF - the showing of the film of the Battle of the Somme is on Monday and to date 25 have booked for the 11.30 showing and 30 for the 14.30 showing but some may come on the day without booking. The numbers are disappointing.

JC - The Dover Tudor Festival is on the 1 October and it is important for the town.

TS - The Royal British Legion are walking along the seafront on Sunday and ending at the RCPYC.

PS - As Walkers are Welcome representative a grant was applied for to set up a website and this has been successful. However, still trying to set up a bank account because without one we can not set up a membership scheme.

AS- Not able to organise the supper in October or for next April's meetings.

AL to help MMcF on Monday at the Cinema.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 13 October 2016**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.