

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 October 2016
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover.

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Mike McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton,

1. Apologies: Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Alan Sencicle, Mike Weston.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report.

Attended a meeting of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies (KFAS) at Canterbury. A brief outline of the meeting was given. Enquired how the Canterbury Society got on with Canterbury District Council. In the main the middle ranks were helpful but found some Councillors and top rank officials difficult. It is the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Amenities Act and it was suggested that each society name three buildings in a conservation area that would have been lost if not for the intervention of their society. After a short discussion it was agreed that research was needed to name 3 buildings. The age of the members of the civic societies is getting older and we are encouraged to go out to the schools, speak to teachers, especially the History teachers. With cuts in local councils there is a loss of expertise **in the planning/heritage sections and societies must be vigilant.** A possible merger of councils in the East Kent area **is being considered.**

Moat's Bulwark has squatters and others there are paying rent. Discussed with Nigel **Coller** who is looking at the planning position. The Coastal Communities **Fund may provide access to the Bulwark. We have suggested S215 action to DDC but nothing has happened..**

PS - This area **could** be cleared as a coach drop off for the Castle with a glass fronted lift up to the Castle. To take forward it needs architect's drawings for a clear impression of what it would look like. This would clear the area and bring it up to a respectable state.

Action: TS to raise with Coastal Communities.

DL, JC and PS met last Friday to discuss the Society's relations with DDC, which have deteriorated recently. DDC see **some comments on issues** as personal attacks **of officers..**

Agreed that DL to meet Roger Walton to discuss our reasons for our frustrations **and find ways to improve the situation.**

DL met Roger Walton on Monday and discussed:

DTIZ, complained about the non transparency of the **situation.** RW responded that this is a delicate matter as far as DDC is concerned. It is between the developers and the contractors. One contract **to clear the site** has **been** completed **but a new contractor is likely for the next phase.**

Leisure Centre, the **Society view is that** a new one at Whitfield will be depriving the **poorer** people of Dover of a facility. There was also very short notice to approve planning, just legal but less notice for the public to observe. This is not good public relations. RW responded; it was not a practical business proposition to have two leisure centres so close together as two would destroy grants for both. We are looking ahead 30 years and the present Leisure Centre is not up to current expectations of what is required.

A short discussion followed and it was suggested that an FOI be requested to look at the leisure and valuation business plan. **Action:** BH will seek this as a member of the public and not as a member of the Society.

Conservation areas and S215, there has been a good deal of work in Dover but nothing has happened for over a year. RW responded that **there was no plan to concentrate on Deal and Sandwich to the detriment of Dover. Similarly we had offered a year ago to assist with appraisals of conservation areas. RW would speak to the team and suggested we contact Jim McEwan and Alison Cummings again.**

Lorry Park Consultation, no response to us considering KCC public meeting. RW surprised The Dover Society had not heard about it.

A short discussion followed and suggested the Society becomes a Statutory Consultative society and be consulted on everything. This was dismissed because we would be inundated with information.

It was agreed at the end of the meeting that improved communications was the way forward. If we are concerned about anything we should contact DDC first before putting pen to paper.

Remembrance Sunday, TS to go to DTC service. DL to **Western Docks**. DL to check on wreaths.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Financial Report.

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

The monies received in this period are:

- £38.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2016/2017
- £4.00 into the Publications fund from sales of the Town Hall book.
- £81.00 to Town Hall fund from Town Hall tours.
- £21.00 advertising revenue from the Newsletter

We paid out:

- £25.00 from the miscellaneous fund to The Silver Screen Cinema for the cost of the projectionist to show the "Battle of the Somme" film.

The Waddesdon Manor outing made a loss of £199.00.

No payment made from the River Dour Partnership. A donation of £50 has been received from Town Hamlets gardeners and £84.47 from a collection made at the regatta brings the amount held in the account to £1,861.03.

Money paid out from the Bluebird Trail Fund totalled £6,802.22. The amount we are now holding is £14,376.01.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have three new members:

- Mr M and Mrs J Kennedy from Temple Ewell
- Mrs Barbara Skinner from Harold Street.

Last allocated number 1273, total number of members 459.

8. Projects

Cowgate

- JC was attacked by wasps after strimming through a nest and this involved a hospital trip. The matter is being taken up with Kirk Alexander to see how this can be prevented in future. It is important not to put volunteers at risk. We still need two good volunteers.

River Dour

- A funding bid is being made to DBL and if successful it should enable, with EA money, to commission a proper assessment of Lorne Road Pond and the installation of a fish pass. AL confirmed a grant of £6,000 has been given.

Plaques

- The Keottlitz plaque is due to be delivered week commencing 10 October but requested it be delayed for one week.

9. Refurbishment

Litter

- There is a problem with litter on the Blue Bird Trail and to take this up with Roger Walton.
- Roger Walton has been helpful with the Market Square topiary and flowers boxes.
- Roger Walton to be contacted to give a talk on rubbish collections to a Dover Society meeting.
- JO and MW to continue to press for tourist information boards on the walk from Bleriot to Langdon Cliffs.
- JO and John Cotton had a good meeting with the Police. The Police are now under increasing financial pressure with DCI Barlow leaving Dover.
- The Refurbishment committee would like to have a meeting with DDC to discuss litter problems, also how the Society may possibly help, for example trying to recruit litter wardens, subject to the Executive Committee agreement. Agreed the best person to contact is Mandy Pile at DDC.
- There is a need to recruit new committee members and helpers.
- JO to take up future Health and Social Care which may be a way to recruit more help.

DBL

- AL gave an update, agreed bids for:
- The River Dour Group £6,000
- Nifties (social supermarket) £500 for shelves
- Music for Change £5,000
- Dover District Volunteer Centre £500
- Transitions Dour £500
- Urban Fete. Overall a success and will continue next year and will take note of lessons learnt.
- Bid for Pop-Up Business School for 2017. Agreed to match funding up to £5,000. Will take place from 6 to 10 March 2017.
- Deterik Smet has been appointed a Destination Manger for Dover who will be employed by DTC. To start on 1 November 2016.

The Bluebird Trail

A **promotion** to be made during the half term holiday to make it a family big day out at the Town Hall. Planning to make school visits.

There is to be Web Master training for up to 5 people. A course to be devised for the Dover Greeters on how to take groups around the trail. **Themed history talks also planned.**

Meeting the PCF trail group in December to give **draft** final report to Heritage Fund. **Also to consider long term management of the trail.** The Dover Society agreed to be **the HLF applicant**, Treasurer also short term manager.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/ Guided Tours

Town Hall

It has been a good summer for group tours and people walking in. The Town Hall tours will end in **26 October** and start again next April.

The consultants are looking at all the information that came out of the workshops **and preparing supporting documents for the HLF Round 1 application.** A paint expert to look at the Burgess paint and what it would look like if restored in the Burges style.

11. Social Secretary's Report

BH - so far 35 people have book for Christmas lunch.

Confirmed Clive Taylor is free for our Wine and Wisdom evening.

DL To give a reminder about the Christmas Lunch and mention the Wine and Wisdom event at the next Society meeting on Monday.

PHS - to date 33 people have booked for the **Honfleur** trip next May. A deposit of £50 is required as soon as possible.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 28th September were circulated to members before this meeting. PS went through each item followed by a discussion on the various topics.

MMcF gave an up date on the Dover Town Team and Property Scheme. The money is a separate company, COC, with 1 property in Market Square and 2 in Biggin Street. Contact Alison Burton for details.

There is a new member on the Planning Committee. He is Graham Margery.

13. Press Secretary's Report

As stated at the last meeting, The Dover Express catchment area is expanding and the quality and quantity of local news is lacking.

Action: DL to write to the Trinity Mirror group regarding the quality of the journalism in the local paper.

14. Editor's Report

The Newsletter should be out early November.

15. Publications

Nothing to report

16. AOB

PS - Dover Walkers are Welcome, there has been no meeting and finally we are about to secure a bank account. Once we have a bank account we can do a launch for membership. The website is two-thirds completed and hopefully launch member support organisations and group membership for £15 to £20.

MMcF - a meeting on 14 November at 5.30 pm at the Silver Screen Cinema, a 27 minute film of the Dover Tudor Festival Admission is free but would be expected to buy a raffle ticket.

AL - Castle Ward are having a Christmas Tree **competition** again this year. A prize will be given to the best decorated tree

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10 November 2016**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.