

**The Dover Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 8 February 2018**  
**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, Jenny Olpin, Pat Sherratt, Alan Sencicle, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. **Apologies:** Deborah Gasking, Jean Marsh

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2018 were accepted as correct.

**3. Matters Arising**

None

**4. Chairman's Report**

A tour of Dover was given to two American visitors and they have sent a letter of thanks with a \$100 donation.

DL, BH and PS had a very useful meeting with the Deal Society Conservation Area Appraisal group. We wanted to know how much help was received from DDC. The group had to do all the leg work, contacts with residents, take photographs etc. This was submitted to DDC who take it on board by editing in a presentation format to submit to cabinet. It may then come back for further information before the final draft becomes a supplementary document as part of the planning application process. We could start with a small area and David White, Deal Society, would offer help and assistance.

PS said that it would involve a lot of work. Dealing with the residential areas is fairly easy but there are lot of commercial properties in conservation areas and with absentee landlords it will be very difficult to obtain the information.

BH agreed about the absent landlords and trying to obtain the right documents. Although a positive thing to undertake but gave caution as the amount of hours of work it will take.

After a short discussion it was agreed to form a sub-group with DL as the chair, to consider taking on Dour Street which is a small area as a trial. The volunteers can come from members and non members of the Society. Appeal for volunteers via Newsletter stuffer..

The Society opted out of the Civic Voice about 5 years ago due to the cost. The fee has now been capped to £500 per annum. Should we consider rejoining this organisation? A short discussion followed and it was agreed for the committee to look at the website etc to consider this, and decide at the next meeting.

Chalk up 21 is a new trail of contemporary architecture from Deal Pier Cafe, to the Pines Calyx St Margarets, then to National Trust White Cliffs visitors centre, past the Dover Totems on the path down to the Eastern Docks, on to the sea front past the waves and the Dover Sea Sports centre, to Samphire Hoe shelter and finishing at the Battle of Britain site at Capel le Ferne. Details can be found on their website [CHALKUP21](#).

PCF meeting held today. There was a presentation by the Kent Community Foundation who have given grants to date from the Port of Dover Community Fund to 58 projects totalling £473k..

DWDR - the piling should be finished by the end of February. They have already taken 80% of their need for sand for the current phase from the Thames estuary. No decision has been made by MMO about obtaining sand from the Goodwins for rest of their needs.

Dover Public realm - a discussion regarding plans etc. and all ideas connecting the waterfront with the station, and a link between St James and King Street.

Tim Waggott talked about a 30 year Master Plan for the port which will be discussed at next PCF meeting.

The freight for 2017 was 2.6 million lorries, an increase of 33.3% in the last 5 years.

The White Cliffs Christmas event will continue but looking to the community for support.

Community Representatives election held after 2 years, two were elected from eight candidates.

They are Mike Tedder and Philip Alcock..

Stagecoach has been approached about buses to St James as there are no buses down to the seafront. Hope to have more buses calling at Market Square..

## **5. Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report

## **6. Financial Report**

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

The monies received in this period are:

- £16.00 subscriptions for the next financial year, 2018/2019
- £30.00 donation
- £21.00 for advertising in the Society's newsletter
- £320.22 received from Mr and Mrs Bigrigg, the cost of the "Ottaway Plaque", which they had offered to pay for. This amount went back into the Projects fund.

The monies paid out in this period are:

- £13.44 for postage
- £15.00 annual subscription to "Dover Walkers are Welcome"
- £40.00 to St Mary's PCC for the hire of the room for our meetings up to and including March 2018
- £321.60 to Leander Architectural for the "Gertrude Toland" plaque, taken from the Projects fund.

Bookings for the Wine and Wisdom evening are slowly being received.

The January meeting made a loss of £48.63. The raffle netted £40.00

Money paid out from the River Dour Partnership Fund last month for insurance and a portable PA system was £721.76. The amount now being held in their fund with us is £21,750.99.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

## **7. Membership Secretary's Report**

There are no new members this month. We had one member die and one returning. Last allocated number is 1319, total number of members 474.

## **8. Marketing Group Report**

The minutes of the meeting on 5 February will be sent by email to committee members tomorrow. An outline was given of the presentation given by William Parker-Gorman and suggested he be invited to give presentation to committee members at the next meeting. This was agreed and to start the next meeting at 7.00pm.

## **9. Projects**

### **Cowgate**

- The maintenance is up to date. Suggesting using Facebook and social media to attract more volunteers.
- **Plaques**
- The Toland Plaque, Gary Butcher of Clive House is pleased with the plaque and with a formal event to unveil it. He has also offered to provide tea and cakes at the event.
- The Ottaway Plaque, a date from John Hill for installation is needed. The Manager of Dover Athletic Football club and the Dover Tales to be contacted suitable dates for the unveiling. It was agreed that an outside event is preferable, on a Friday, but wait until the weather improves. DL to contact Dover Tales re mid March and mid April for the plaques.

### **River Dour**

- The committee meeting met on 16 January. EA is maintaining as much weed as possible in the river while it is low slowing flow and offering better protection to the fish. The Lorne Road possibilities are being looked into. Would like to expose the river at the old cinema site if possible when any development takes place. The 2 fish passes for use at Lorne Road and Halfords have been repaired and are to be stored at Fort Burgoyne until they can be installed. The Manager of Morrisons is to be contacted requesting an extra litter bin. A website is to be developed for all local environmental projects including the Dour. Up on the Downs is progressing its HLF funding bid for Dour projects. Still awaiting news of any KCC funding for restoration of railings on the Barton Path.

## 10. Refurbishment

- The meeting was held on Monday 29 January.
  1. Improvements in quality and appearance to the Town including run down premises and empty shops.
    - a) "Old Town" rebranding of High Street and surrounding areas. JO welcomed which if properly managed offers the chance of a future with the advent of the St James' Street development.
    - b) Healthy High Streets event 3<sup>rd</sup> May details attached to minutes.
    - c) Cambridge Terrace. Planning application is in line with listed status. Planners are happy with it
    - d) Banksy building (Old Harts Furniture store) is now due for demolition. The Banksy is well worth preserving if only as an asset for Dover Tourism. MM to update on 1. any developments and 2. the new portfolio holder for tourism. JO to take up with Nigel Collor and new portfolio holder.
    - e) 100 miles for 100 years (World War I commemoration). Phil Trenchard's email set out at the end of minutes. JO to contact Pam Brivio for details and how we might be involved.
    - f) New domestic building in Snargate Street. JO reported warning to potential purchasers in the adjacent bait shop. Is any member aware of the warning and what it might signify?
    - g) Moats Bulwark DL has agreed that JO should continue with an approach to EH but with the warning that EH have been unresponsive in the past to his approaches. JO also noted that the litter surrounding the old rowing boat shed had improved.
    - h) Noted that St James development road system has now partially resolved problems with Sports Centre traffic
    - i) JO reported the beach is altering with the construction of structures & piers in the Western Docks development
    - j) Former Pelosi's building is due to become the Turkish restaurant, Aspendos.
    - k) Old Granada cinema site. Planning application awaited. Planners broadly approving of the concept as set out at the consultation. Dour Partnership would like to see the river opened up to public access if at all possible.
  2. Conservation areas and listed buildings
    - a) Town Centre Conservation areas and Allison Cummings presentation to the Society. Members expressed concern at the minimal approach by DDC to maintaining the Town's conservation areas. If any progress is to be made then it will be up to the Society to collect necessary data and to prepare drafts of the appropriate documents for consideration by DDC. DL is due to discuss the matter with Deal Society to form ideas on the work involved using the scheme prepared by them. Concern was also expressed that DDC planning department appear not to be engaged in any way with aims of conservation.
  3. Cleanliness including litter control
    - a) William Muge site. MW and JP showed their correspondence with DDC which appears to have moved DDC into action.
    - b) Dogs not allowed on our beaches in season but now that they allowed the beaches are fouled

- c) Recycling Plastics. A matter for the committee to take on board.
- d) Roman Road litter. To be taken forward
- e) An increase in roadside litter noticed by committee members. MW says litter not just in Dover but extends along the road to Canterbury, It appears KCC is not keeping up with roadside clearance. JO to write to KCC Councillor Nigel Collor.
- f) Old scrap yard, Barton Path litter strewn. JO to take up with Nigel Collor

#### 4. Highways and pathways

- a) Traffic in Dover
  - 1. JCT to contact DDC Highways about the untidiness of the roadside area on London Road at the River junction.
  - 2. Connaught Barracks development needs for roads to match the proposed development. For future action
  - 3. Problems with road junction from London Road to Alkham JO reported negative approach by KCC when lobbied in the past.
- b) Pathways
  - 1. JO did not get to Chalkup21 meeting but they have been booked to speak to Society November meeting
  - 2. R32path notices (Bleriot to Cliff) no update for this meeting but JO to contact Pam Brivio
  - 3. No update on Seafront bus parking consultation
  - 4. Western Heights war memorial. JC updated on information made available at WHPS AGM by responsible landscape architect.

#### 5. Anti-Social behaviour

- a) JO and JCT have a March appointment with Police inspector.

### **11. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours**

Our previous application for funding from the HLF was not successful. With no applications over £5 million being considered by HLF it has been decided to make 2 applications, a phase 1 and a phase 2. The phase 1 application is to cover essential repairs, the new work into the High Street and the holiday lets at the rear of the building. The phase 2 application would be for internal redecoration, fixtures and fittings. Phase 1 will be submitted in March with a decision in September.

Guided Tours: nationally the Heritage Open days is over two weekends and Diederick Smet would like us to consider this in Dover. Will see if this is possible but it would be up to the owners of the properties.

### **12. Social Secretary's Report**

PHS - has arranged several trips:

Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre in West Sussex on 20 May

Ypres and Passchendaele in July, awaiting prices

Cheshire and Liverpool for the terracotta army exhibition, and National Arboretum in September.

Postal Museum and Foundlings Museum in May, 2019

BH - the Wine and Wisdom now has 13 tables booked for 81 or 82 participants

### **13. Planning**

There was no meeting this month. The next meeting is on 21 February.

Contacted M Cleaver who does distant learning on urban and rural planning, and he would be an asset to the planning committee.

The Secretary of State for Housing has replied regarding brown field sites and the conversion to flats.

BH had a reply regarding planning appeal decisions as follows:

“The breakdown of the appeal decision identifies no discernible pattern that signifies specific areas where our decision-makers are out of step with the current approach of the Planning Inspectorate. The majority of appeals are in relation to a developments’s impact on neighbours and/or the character an appearance of the area. However, where this has been the case, there is a fairly balanced outcome of those that have been upheld and those dismissed. It was agreed at the last Committee meeting that the Head of Regeneration and Development would review a sample of previous decisions whether he was in agreement with the decision-making process. His analysis indicates that there are some recurring grounds of refusal that the Council has been unsuccessful in defending, specifically harm to the character of the area (including to conservation areas) and harm to residential amenity through overlooking. Additional measures were recently put in place to scrutinise the robustness of proposed recommendations for refusal and the analysis of Inspectors’ decisions shows a need to pay particular attention to reasons of harm to the character of an area and harm to residential amenity.”

#### **14. Press Secretary’s Report**

Some items do get into the local paper.

#### **15. Editor’s Report**

The Newsletter will be going to the printers next week and will be available in the first week of March.

Noted that Peter Cairns needs to be nominated 2 weeks before the AGM and not at meeting as indicated in the minutes of the last meeting. Action: JC will nominate and seconded by MW.

#### **16. Publications**

Nothing to report.

#### **17. AOB**

PS - DDC proposing to alter ward boundaries and reduce number of councilors, but no proposals to comment upon..

PHS - Apologies for PS and PHS for not attending the next meeting

AL - Kent wildlife trust, various events coming up, details on their website.

JO - distributed posters for next Society meeting.

AS - gave details of the lack of advance rail fares on South Eastern trains.

MMcF - Programmes available for The Annual Dover Film 2018

#### **18. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 8 March 2018**, at **7.00 pm** at St Mary’s Parish Centre.