

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 12 April 2018
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Peter Cairns, Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Deborah Gasking, Beverley Hall, Glyn Hale, Alan Lee, Michael McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Jenny Olpin, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies: Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2018 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

A letter was sent to DDC on behalf of The Dover Society objecting to the Sunday parking charges. The decision has been deferred.

The new GDPR from 25 May 2018 to be discussed later.

4. Chairman's Report

An email was sent to committee members about the forecast of delivering the new website earlier than expected and together with substantial changes ahead, the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer met to discuss whether it was better for the Treasurer to remain on the committee for a further year. The Treasurer agreed and Peter Cairns was informed and agreed to be elected on to the committee at the AGM on Monday. Peter Cairns informed the committee he has since changed his mind and does not want to be elected. He will however reconsider next year.

The Zeebrugge event is on the 23 April 2018 and there are 6 tickets available for those who wish to attend.

The CEO of DHB, Tim Waggott has resigned and the Chair has sent him a message to wish him well for the future.

A reminder by the Charity Commission to review our governance and policies. Do we need to review our policies and risk assessments? We do need a Health and Safety policy for our vulnerable members **which BH will progress..**

PS sent an email querying a meeting with Keith Morrison by Refurb but JO pointed out that it was with Councillor Holloway. Agreed that PS should arrange postponed meeting with Keith Morris including Chair, Vice Chair, PS and JO if possible..

The Heritage Open Days are nationally publicised over two weekends instead of one which has been the case in previous years. The property owners and volunteers have been contacted suggesting we concentrate on the first weekend in September. Diederich Smet is eager to expand the open days possibly to involve the Student Market to do historic cartoons, the Dover Museum to have a family day with the bronze age boat, historic photographs, marking out of the Roman lawn, and a St Martins walk, a Smart project and a selfie booth. There will be an increased cost for leaflets and flyers, which the society normally pays, but DS will approach DTC for funding towards the costs. DG also suggested having a stall at a suitable location that weekend to promote the society.

5. Secretary's Report

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPA) comes into effect from 25 May 2018 and replaces the Data Protection Act of 1998. A comprehensive overview of this Act and the effects it has on the Society was given by BH. A draft membership renewal form and a message to be given to the members at the AGM has been drafted. This was discussed and the message will be given by the Chair at the AGM. The renewal forms will be amended to include gift aid. In future the society has to be transparent on how we use members data and any updating of our documentation has to be minuted.

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:

£324.00 subscriptions for the this financial year 2018/2019

£350.00 for advertising in the Newsletter

The monies paid out in this period are:

£695.00 to Adams Printers for the March Newsletter

£62.94 for postage of "out of area" Newsletters

£70.00 to Crabble Corn Mill Trust, as agreed at the last committee meeting

£35.50 for printing costs

£37.00 to Royal British Legion for two wreaths for Remembrance services

The March meeting made a loss of £57.08. The raffle receipts netted £49.00.

Our insurance became due on 1 April and has been renewed at a cost of £273.54, a reduction of £38.00 from last year. We have changed insurers from Bluefin to Unity Insurance Services who gave us a much better deal.

The River Dour Partnership Fund received £52.70 last month from donations given to River Tales guided walks. The amount being held in their fund with us is now £21,803.69.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

The quarterly interest from our Car account was £3.57.

This set of figures are the final ones of our last financial year and have been used to compile the Financial Statement which have been circulated to committee members at this meeting and will be presented at the AGM next Monday. Any queries about the statement to be forwarded to the Treasurer.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are nine new members this month. They are:

Mr John Watts, Mount Road, Dover

Mr Michael and Mrs Rosemarie Anderson, Whitfield

Mr Christopher and Mrs Stella Jolliff, Farthingloe Road, Dover

Mr Raymond and Mrs Rosemary Fournier, West Hougham

Mr George Sutcliffe, St Margarets Bay

Miss Joy Wheeler, Deal

Last allocated number is 1330, total number of members 483.

A letter from the Andersons was read out praising the Chair and Society

Another letter was received from the relatives of Mr Fisherden, who had a business in Dover. With it was a cine film reel showing Dover in the 50's and 60's. This was given to MMcF to look at and to digitise.

8. Marketing Group Report

The meeting was held on 12 March and the minutes were circulated to committee members prior to this meeting. BH briefly went through each item and the next meeting to be held on 7 May.

9. Projects

Cowgate

The mowing to start soon. The two abandoned tents have been removed, leaving two being used. The pruning and waste has been removed by DDC. The strimmers need servicing but the usual outlet where they used to be done can no longer do it. Advice given is to replace the filters and spark plugs ourselves at a fraction of the cost. The volunteers have been shown how to do this.

Plaques

- The Ottaway Plaque has now been installed.
- The Toland Plaque to be unveiled tomorrow, Friday 13 April. It is expected that about 16 members of the Toland family will attend plus members of the Society. TS may read out a letter from Dr Toland, but will wait until the end of the ceremony to see if it is appropriate to do so.

River Dour

- No further information

10. Refurbishment

At our meeting of 28th March we discussed our impressions and thoughts of the St James' Development. It was agreed that the Castle Inn was a disappointing aspect. The cost of the Cineworld tickets was also discussed but at least does keep up significant interest in the Silver Screen and it was noted how magnanimous they had been in welcoming the new Multi-Screen to the Town.

With respect to the 'Old Town' rebranding the Greeters are putting pressure on the Council to upgrade the Planters and are also raising funds to contribute to these improvements. We returned once again to the subject of the Cruise Ship and how few of the passengers visit the Town. We would very much like to see promotion of the 'Port of Call', in this case Dover, by providing brochures on board the ships and enquiring as to the onboard presentations and how the town is promoted. Is there any way we could influence the Cruise Lines in actively promoting Dover?

DDC now have a District Councillor who holds the Portfolio for Tourism issues, Cllr Micheal Holloway. We are interested at to his views of Tourism in the District and obviously particularly Dover and perhaps he might to address the Society at one of the meetings or we could invite him for a chat to our Refurbishment to discuss the Cruise market, Banksy, the Western Heights War memorial and perhaps The resurrection of The Old Town Gaol even and promotion of our rich history! The future of The Banksey Art work gives us increasing concerns as the building is once again falling in major disrepair.

With respect to the litter on our main roads we have contacted Cllr Nick Kenton. Apparently his team are arranging for Kent Highways and Highways England to clear the verges but once again 'Health and Safety' concerns are being waved. The clearance timetable is in today's Dover Express.

We understand that Gas mains work is due to begin soon along Maison Dieu Road.

We are writing to Neil McCullum, the new manager at Dover Castle, regarding brown signing for the Castle from the Cliffe Path, ER32 to the Castle. This is a very good short cut for those walking from the cliff path to get to the Castle

John Cotton and I met with Chief Inspector Mark Weller for our Bi-annual update in April. He is particularly excited about their SmartWater initiative. This is a marking solution, looks like Tippex, for our Devices, phone, television, lap top, ipad, for instance marking that deters burglars. This initiative has been piloted at Burgoyne heights and has proved to be popular. The police have recruited second hand shops and similar outlets to be aware of anything they are offered that may have been marked with the SmartWater fluid. This is only visible with a UV light and has the *DNA* of the owner. Notices are posted in the door/windows and on lamp posts in area noting that the property is Forensically protected. This initiative has been evaluated and approved by Warwick University. Kent Police have also been assessed as Outstanding in a recent Annual Inspection in respect of its Legitimacy, PEEL Assessment ***Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy (ethically and fairly)***. We also congratulated Kent Police on the conviction of another rioter making 63 convictions in all. It is expected to be the last. With regard to our recent spate of High Street burglaries he was confident then, and recent press has proved this, that they had already apprehended one suspect and they were about to arrest a second.

11. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

The resubmission for phase 1 funding from the HLF for under £5 million has been made by the Consultants. This is for major building works and will hear if successful in about 3 months time. Guided Tours have commenced this month.

12. Social Secretary's Report

The details and form for the September trip to Chester will be in the next Newsletter. The potted plants for the 3 ladies who serve the refreshments to be purchased in time for a presentation at the AGM.

13. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 4 April 2018 were circulated to members before this meeting. MW briefly commented on each item.

14. Press Secretary's Report

Items still getting in to both local papers.

15. Editor's Report

The deadline for the articles for the next Newsletter is 16 May.

16. Publications

Nothing to report.

17. AOB

DL - reminded committee members to be ready for the AGM

DG - Asked if DDC's insurance would take the responsibility for the Cowgate site. JC to enquire.

Mega Instruments are offering their premises for local charities and societies to hold **committee** meetings there possibly free of charge, but it was agreed that St. Mary's was more convenient **at £10 an evening..**

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10 May 2018**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.