

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 May 2018
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Deborah Gasking, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Michael McFarnell, Jenny Olpin, Alan Sencicle Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. **Apologies:** Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Jean Marsh.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2018 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

There was a question about DDC's Health and Safety guidelines and if the volunteers working at Cowgate Cemetery needed to abide by them, even though they are insured under the Society's insurance. The Society is in the process of constructing their own Health and Safety policy but DG will **enquire**.

4. Chairman's Report

BH will be bringing the Society's Health and Safety policy to the July meeting.

The meeting with Keith Morrison took place. JO and PS gave a summary of the meeting giving details of the fly tipping amnesty with DDC supplying lorries to take away rubbish. It was believed this was a trial area but there is a structured plan to replicate this in other areas.

Strategy for tourism in Dover, Mike Holloway has a remit for a paid position for a tourism person and expect to see developments.

The corner of York Street/Bench Street and Crypt site is a mess. There is problem with planning applications as the owner has to be involved, and to date the owners are not forthcoming. The building with the "Banksy" mural is due for demolition and it is not known if it is to remain or not. **The Banksy wall may well survive**. For the Crypt the proposal is to have it under glass so the basement is visible. The Crypt has a high status and has to be protected and DDC has to make sure it is cleared properly.

HMO's, the details put in have not been actioned and will meet with the team again.

S215's in the Town Centre, there is a new team dealing with S215 properties, which has been strengthened and streamlined. Progress should now be made. **PS was invited to meet the team**.

Conversion of Flats, DDC could have adopted the **government's guidance** but failed to do so resulting in sub standard properties being **approved**. **The Society pressed for adoption urgently rather than possibly incorporate in next local plan**.

There are "Brown Sites" that have planning permission and being taken forward by "Homes for the Community" who have appointed a developer.

Change of use in properties in Castle Street, need to look at the amount of refuse to be collected, transport in Town Centre, and parking of cars on the street. In the area of DTIZ, they are not charging parking fees at the moment but will be doing so and there is no parking for staff. Need to wait until it is **completely** up and running before doing a parking survey in the surrounding area.

Hanging Baskets, **DDC maintained this is a DTC problem**. If DDC took over they would have to do the same in all the towns in the DDC area.

Citadel is up for sale and The Dover Society applied for it to be a community asset, therefore delaying the process but this was rejected by DDC. **DDC has no interest in purchasing it**.

Nigel Coller stated there was £16 million grant for a rapid bus service from the new development at Richmond Park to Priory Station during commuter time with other services during the day to other various locations.

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Heritage Open days, the properties will only be open for the 8/9 September weekend in September except for Dover College which may open for the 2 weekends. A meeting to be held with Diedererich Smet at the end of month regarding additional events..

5. Secretary's Report

Action to progress Health & Safety policy: this is being picked up as part of the transition to the new website where several policy documents will be published together with our Constitution. Previous action to revise the Membership and renewal forms to take account of new data protection requirements. The aim is to revise the main membership form to go in the July Newsletter. It should be ready by the deadline of 16 May. The changes will be similar to those on the renewal form used at the AGM, although there is a need to sort out the wording regarding Gift Aid.

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:

£1458.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2018/2019

£30.00 in donations

£96.00 for advertising in the Newsletter

£20.00 from the sale of Town Hall booklets

The monies paid out in this period are:

£30.00 was sent to The White Cliffs County Tourism Association for the Society's annual membership

£30.00 for a wreath for the Zeebrugge Memorial Service

The AGM made a profit of £24.83. The raffle receipts netted £87.00.

The Town fund received £36.09 from the Town Hall tours.

The River Dour Partnership Fund spent £764.96 on projects. The amount being held in their fund with us is now £21,038.73.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are two new members this month. They are: Mr Derek and Mrs Linda Burden from Folkestone. Last allocated number is 1332, total number of members 484

At the present time chasing up this year's subscriptions. Also mentioned the need of keeping our data secure and not pass it on to anyone else without their permission.

8. Marketing Group Report

The meeting was held on Monday 7 May. Main point is that William Parker Gorman has made excellent progress on the website, Society emails, archive, etc and we are now looking at what content needs to be in place for a "soft launch" this summer and a more formal launch to kick off our winter programme.

Help will be needed from several members of the Executive Committee to get information transferred from the old website and/or provide articles and summaries of projects in the right format for WPG to upload, etc.

Progress has also been made on defining the Marketing Strategy and plans for next year and are therefore on track to give a short briefing to the July Executive meeting as promised.

9. Projects

Cowgate

Contact with Roger Walton regarding the removal of rubbish from the site and the need to ensure the camping tents have been abandoned before removing them. The Council as advisers will help. The normal maintenance continues.

Plaques

- The Toland Plaque has been now been installed with various excerpts from the local papers being sent to the Toland family.
- Thomas Gould has been taken off the list for plaques as one will be put up by **the Submariners' Society**.

River Dour

- No further information.

10. Refurbishment

We are inviting Cllr Michael Holloway, who has the Tourism remit, to come and meet with us to discuss what seems to be the development of a very positive approach towards a Tourism Strategy.

It appears that the litter on the main access roads to the Town is now gradually being cleared. For information Cllr Nick Kenton's team is responsible for litter and our enquiries regarding litter have been copied to him but as yet no response.

The Committee are concerned about the drainage system coping with such a deluge as we had last Monday and will be following up on this.

Debating air pollution in the Town and questioned why it is not showing as one of the Country's most polluted! www.kentair.org.uk a Kent & Medway air quality monitoring network,. Dover is showing as level 3 out of 10, which is considered low. I understand from Cllr Collor that the monitoring site is on the Townwall Street side of the Leisure Centre

The issue of lorries, Operation Stack and Lorry Parks continues to be on our agenda.

The sad news of the poor chap found dead in the Seafront Shelter on 29th April and one of our members finding a destitute young man sleeping in his garage has prompted us to circulate a list of helpful contacts and telephone numbers should they need it, especially as there seems to be an increase in rough sleepers now the weather has improved and the night shelters are closed.

Refurbishment also spoke of the success of the Dover History day at the Discovery Centre and well done to Paul Wells and Jeff Howe.

We reminded ourselves that the fundamental remit for Refurbishment was to ' make the best of what we have!'

Finally we need new members on Refurbishment and are actively looking to recruit.

11. TownHall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

It is too early for the result of our submission for phase 1 funding from the HLF.

The Guided Tours are taking place, with a group due next week and another in June.

12. Social Secretary's Report

BH - The booking form for the Christmas Lunch will be in the July Newsletter.

PHS - There is a need for another 10 passengers for the Amberley trip on 20 May to break even.

Action: JC to email members with details of the trip to see if the numbers can be made up.

DL - It is our practice not to pay a fee for our speakers but to offer them a meal. After attending The Friends of the Museum and hearing a professional speaker on the subject of Edith Cavell, whose body was brought back through the port of Dover a 100 years ago, could the Society occasionally book speakers for a fee? After a short discussion the proposal was made by TS not to pay, 3 members in favour of paying, 2 against, the rest abstained. Action: DL to enquire re costs involved for Edith Cavell speaker.

13. Planning

PS would like to thank DL for visiting him in during his recent stay in hospital and keeping the executive members informed of his progress.

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 2 May 2018 were circulated to members before this meeting. PS briefly commented on each item.

PS will be made an Hon. Freeman of Dover of which he feels greatly honoured. The Chairman congratulated Patrick and 3 other Society members who will also be made Hon Freeman.

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

BH - Suggest the William Parker Gorman to be put onto the Executive committee. There were no objections for him to be co-opted on to the committee.

JC - to email members to recruit for volunteers for Cowgate and Conservation Appraisals and younger members for refurbishment.

TS - the Old Pharosians of Dover Grammar School are being asked if the building should be listed. It was built in 1935 and may be demolished by KCC. It has no historic significance but it can be described as iconic. The Society would support an application..

SC - the discussion has been made regarding paying for speakers but an exception should be made for the speaker on Edith Cavell.

AS - gave the statistics for the hits on the doverhistorian website compiled by Lorraine Sencicle. She was hurt that she was not invited to the Zeebrugge event considering all the work she does on this site for Dover.

AL - John Morgan made a Fellow of the Rotary Club.

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 14 June 2018**, at **7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.