

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 14 June 2018
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Deborah Gasking, Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Michael McFarnell, Jean Marsh, William Parker-Gorman, Alan Sencicle Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. **Apologies:** Alan Lee, Jenny Olpin

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2018 need an insert that was omitted. Insert "The overlap of any Refurbishment and Planning issues should be discussed at this meeting". Item 10 Refurbishment minutes stating "The issues of lorries, Operation Stack, and Lorry Parks continues to be on agenda." This is seen as a Planning issue by PS but after a short discussion with some of the Refurbishment committee members, this referred to the cleanliness and litter problems the lorries pose and not Planning. This was accepted by PS. The minutes were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

An action point was DG to enquire about DDC's Health and Safety guidelines and if the volunteers working at Cowgate Cemetery needed to abide by them. MW confirmed our insurance policy covers all volunteers working at Cowgate. DG has not got any further with this but DDC has requested sight of our Health and Safety Policy which will be passed on to them.

William Parker-Gorman agreed to being co-opted on to the committee and was welcomed by the Chairman..

JC has recruited volunteers for Cowgate and Conservation Team..

4. Chairman's Report

The Heritage Days will be over the weekend of 8th and 9th September and not two weekends. The draft proposal by The Local Government Boundary Commission has been published and there is a recommendation for councillors to be reduced and wards to merge. It is **proposing to name a merged ward of present Town and Pier and Castle wards named Town and Castle but DDC wants it named Dover Central instead..** After a short discussion it was agreed DL **to write to the Commission on behalf of the Society, to query the necessity for merging the 2 wards but if necessary to call it Town and Castle as proposed..**

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:

- £394.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2018/2019
- £6.00 subscriptions for the next financial year 2019/2020
- £12.00 in donations
- £16.00 from the sale of Town Hall booklets
- £2.00 for the sale of one Society badge
- £73.28 from a dividend from Reckitt Benckiser

. The Town fund received £73.00 from the Town Hall tours.

The River Dour Partnership Fund spent £4007.00 on projects. The amount being held in their fund with us is now £17,031.73.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are no members this month. Last allocated number is 1332, total number of members 481.

At the present time chasing up this year's subscriptions. Our member Mike Igglesden in Australia has died.

8. Marketing Group Report

BH gave a resume of the 14 June meeting and would send out the minutes. The Executive was asked to:

- Endorse prioritisation of website for early September launch. The Executive agreed
- Provide photos for the website introduction pages if agreeable. The committee is agreeable.
- Support preparation of website content: Cowgate (JC), River Dour (DG), Town Hall (DL) and summary for Society Plaques (BH). Consider any other projects that should be on the website for the launch. The Executive agreed
- Approve a small fund of £50 to test online promotional options. After a short discussion it was proposed by TS and seconded by MW.
- Consider The Society having and staffing a paid for (and therefore promoted) stall at the Regatta on Sunday 26 August 2018. This was discussed and providing it can be manned it was agreed. BH to draft a note to members who wish to volunteer to man the stall and JC to email the note to all members.

9. Projects

Cowgate

Good progress but there are empty tents on the site and they will not be removed if these are housing a homeless person. Roger Walton to be contacted about this. 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

Need to consider starting work on the next. The list to be circulated again for consideration.

River Dour

The Dour Committee is due to meet in June.

Barton Path

DG reported that contact has been made with KCC about the funding decision on the Barton Path railings and informed that a decision will be not be made until next month.

10. Refurbishment

JC reported that At our meeting of 28 May were very pleased to welcome a new member Tony Bones. It is hoped that we will also be welcoming a further two new members soon. The following was among items discussed:

- Parking at St James, it was noted how 'empty' the surrounding car parks such as St Mary's have become. The opening of M & S and Next will further ensure a significant increase in footfall.
- The meeting agreed that the impact of St James' on Bench Street and King Street appears positive. On an anti-social behaviour issue it was noted that the bench, which attracted groups of drinkers, has been removed.
- However, the impact of the closure of M & S on the High Street has been very negative and the future of this group of shops is extremely concerning. It is hoped that B&M when it opens will improve footfall and attract other businesses to consider opening. Also the 'Old Town' plans will in due course, and it won't happen overnight, will change this current sad environment.
- It was noted that the A2 and A20 verges are now cleared of litter as promised by DDC/KCC
- The meeting was reminded of the positive response on the KCC website when reporting drainage problems.

- Unfortunately no one had been able to attend the meeting at St Mary's about the future of Operation Stack following Brexit.
- The committee is continuing to liaise re the Cliffe Path route to Bleriot and the Castle with a view to a 'circular' walking route in the future. This venture would be with the Walkers are Welcome initiative.
- We are welcoming Cllr Holloway, DDC member with a responsibility for Tourism, to our meeting in July to discuss Tourism and his vision.
- Two of our members are seeking a meeting with Tesco regarding their re-cycling plans

11. Town Hall 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, and we had a party from East Kent W.I. History group with another due in June.

12. Social Secretary's Report

PHS - The trip to Ypres needs another 26 passengers to make it worthwhile. After a short discussion it was agreed to wait until the 1 July to see if the numbers have increased before cancelling the trip. Emails have been sent to all members and other organisations to see if anyone else is interested in this trip.

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

We also need more volunteers to help JM to serve tea and coffee at our monthly meetings. If no one comes forward no refreshments will be served.

13. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 6 June 2018 were circulated to members before this meeting. PS briefly commented on each item.

MW informed the committee about an Engagement Meeting with DDC and Architects on a new development on the Muge House and Snelgrove House site. It was attended by MW and PS. It will be a quality development matching the buildings in the area. The timescale is for planning application in June/July with result known in August/September. The tenders to be put out in October with first phase to start in January 2019.

There was a Public Consultation by Highways England yesterday about Operation Stack but was not widely publicised. PS gave out the booklets obtained from the event to members of the committee. There is another due on 30 June in St Mary's Parish Hall.

PS discussed the future of the Chair of the Planning and stated he wanted to stay in this role but felt there was a lack of communication with Refurbishment causing a lot of stress which may lead him to resign. It was made clear to PS by the Chairman that he was very much appreciated in his role and his experience is invaluable and would not want him to go. After a short discussion it was agreed that PS and JO should meet with DL to talk about the problems both committees are experiencing.

14. Press Secretary's Report

Trinity Mirror has changed its name to Reach and the Dover Express is now at the Discovery Park in Sandwich. Items still getting in to both local papers.

15. Editor's Report

The proofreading has been completed and the next Newsletter should be out on time.

16. Publications

The Western Heights publication has been delivered to Pebbles to sell.

17. AOB

MMcF - There is another High Street meeting this month.

AS - Links can be arranged between websites. IWC program on Channel 4 on Historic Towns have used the Historic Dover website.

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 12 July 2018**, at **7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.