

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

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Michael McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. **Apologies:** Deborah Gasking, Glyn Hale, Jenny Olpin, William Parker-Gorman, Alan Sencicle

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

DL wrote a letter to the Boundary Commission about the naming/merging of the wards and copied it to DDC.

A letter, drafted by PS, was also sent to English Heritage regarding the disposal of the Citadel for them to acquire it but to date no acknowledgement has been received.

DHB has issued the first draft of a 30 year master plan for the Port inviting comments from various sources. PS to look at it before commenting on behalf to The Dover Society.

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:

£157.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2018/2019

£12.00 in donations

£4.00 from the sale of Town Hall booklets

The monies paid out in this period are:

£20.00 to St Mary's PCC for the hire of room for Executive Committee meetings

£3.48 postage

£10.00 to return a double subscription payment to a member

£9.58 website cost for two months, March and April

The Town fund received £66.00 from the Town Hall tours.

The Amberley Museum Trip was in profit by £5.00.

The Ypres Trip had to be cancelled through lack of participants and the money paid by members has been refunded.

The River Dour Partnership Fund received £33.22 in donations and a further grant of £1,528.40 from Big Local. Their outgoings this month amounted to £785.00. The amount being held in their fund with us is now £17,808.35.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

The new online banking authorisation is live and working correctly. The two officer authorisation protocol is still in place.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are 2 new members this month. They are: Mr Gordon Skinner, Mr Charles Pennington

One member has returned. Last allocated number is 1334, total number of members is approximately 475. Some subscriptions have not been received and those members not responding will no longer be counted.

8. Marketing Group Report

No Marketing Group meeting held this month. BH gave an update of various tasks that will be done over the summer until the next meeting in September/October.

Photographs of some members of the Executive Committee have been received for the website but not enough for a page for when we go live.

Dover Regatta - 6 volunteers have responded, including DG, but it needs to be organised with a leader. There is a need for tables, publicity literature, pop ups and a rota. BH agreed to ask Sue? to take on this role, if she does not agree the Society will not apply for a stand, **but hopefully share WCCP stand.**

9. Projects

Conservation Appraisal

A **team** meeting with Alison Cummings and Robin Green took place with a walk around the course to be appraised. **Explanatory letters and invitations to comment have been delivered** to residents and an **announcement sent** to the Dover Express. The first survey, an overview of the area, is to take place in August.

Cowgate

Maintenance is being kept up and it is reasonably tidy. We still need younger volunteers.

Plaques

Sir Edward Wollaston Knocker and the Dover Seaplane base has been suggested. There are 15 names or sites on the list and will be updated and circulated to Executive members.

An organisation looking at WW1 and WW2 airfields in the Dover area want to put up plaques to commemorate these bases. They would use their own plaques and would like the Society's support with no cost to the Society. **This Would include the Seaplane Base** Agreed to give support.

River Dour

The Dour Committee met on 25 June.

- The Lorne Road Mill pond survey has been carried out. The new owner is keen to cooperate with the idea of an angling club and with public access. The owner has new ideas for improving the setting and has been invited to the next meeting.
- Trying to get the collection of rubbish improved around the Morrison's supermarket.
- The committee is working to upgrade their website.
- The old Co-op site, hoping there will further development of the riverside. Before the meeting AL sent out a Big Local report giving an update for this site.
- Awaiting the results of the HLF bid which involves the development of the old toilets on the Buckland Bridge into the Dour Centre.
- MW and ID visited Buckland Mill site, and were disappointed in the amount of sheet piling in the river over a distance of 50 meters, but it can be visually softened.
- Barton Path railings, still waiting for KCC's decision on funding.
- River Tales, Barry O'Brien continues its positive progress on event.

10. Refurbishment

JC reported for JO.

- A new member to the Refurbishment committee is DG with a returning member Joan Liggett. Unfortunately Tony Bones, who was present at our previous meeting considered that committees are not for him and he prefers to contribute to the external activities of the Society so we are contacting him to assist with checking the RoW signage etc.
- The committee is still pursuing the local supermarkets regarding their engagement with Company environmental standards policies in general. Our particular concern being their use of plastic. Tesco have provided a limited response to date and MMcF is researching other supermarkets. MMcF elaborated on what he is doing.

- Cllr M. J. Holloway, DDC Member for a Sandwich Ward and holds the Tourism Portfolio, is attending our next Refurbishment meeting at the end of July so we can hopefully develop a partnership relationship in the development of a new Tourism strategy.
- Committee members have been in conversation with DTC Councillor Warriner enquiring as to why no action on the "Welcome to Dover" sign in Townwall Street.
- Planning directed us to the need for pavement cleaning in St James's. MW has noted it has been done.
- There is a meeting due with Kent Police in October. This is a reminder to let the committee know of any issues they would like to be discussed.

11. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

DDC has received initial Heritage Lottery Fund support for the Town Hall restoration (phase 1). Development funding of £427,400 has been awarded for DDC to make detailed plans. If the plans are approved, the remainder of the £4.7 million from the HLF will be forthcoming. The Guided Tours are continuing.

12. Social Secretary's Report

PHS - The Liverpool trip has had a poor response. To date 19 people have booked but we need another 12 to break even. Payment for the hotel is due next week but the coach operator will try to get an extension until the end of July. DL to send Deal Society contact to see if any of their members are interested.

BH - Has received the first booking for the Christmas Lunch.

We have four volunteers from the Dover Greeters, with JM and BH to serve refreshments at our members meetings. We will split the volunteers into two teams, the 4 Dover Greeters as one team and BH, JM with SC helping out after dealing with the raffle as the other. This will be trialled to see if it works.

13. Planning

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

MW and PS attended a meeting on the new development on the Muge House and Snelgrove House site. The Architects were mainly dealing with the pocket gardens surrounding the site, how they should look, and what goes into them. They want to know what the residents want and for them to take ownership of the gardens. DDC will probably pay for this landscaping opportunity.

14. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

15. Editor's Report

Awaiting for a digital copy of the newsletter from Adams the Printers to send to two members.

Publications

Not managed to deliver The Western Heights publication to Pebbles as previously stated because they were closed, but will try again next week.

17. AOB

TS - The Dover Society executive committee members have been invited to the Merchant Navy Day Parade on 3 September at 12.00 noon. TS will be representing the Society.

SC - unable to deliver Newsletter to Secretary of the Deal Society and requires contact details.

PS - An article on Kent Messenger on line indicating the local MP has reached an agreement with DDC to clear up the site around Townwall Street and The Crypt in Bench Street. The Dover Society should have been mentioned as the Planning committee has been pressing for this for the past 7 years.

JC - Martin Webster's mother has gone into a home and has a little used Yamaha piano. Tried all the various charities but no one wants it. Does anyone or know of anyone who wants one.

MMcF - From this evening he is resigning from the Executive Committee as there is a younger man replacing him as webmaster and feels it is time to stand down. DL thanked MMcF for all he has done over the years as a committee member. MMcF will remain on the Refurbishment committee.

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 13 September 2018**, at **7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.