

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 8 November 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, Alan Lee, William Parker-Gorman, Patrick Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

1. **Apologies:** Jean Marsh, Jenny Olpin, Alan Sencicle

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

The committee were asked to view the new website which everyone did, and some leaving comments.

BH had requested that we ask members at the next Society meeting to volunteer to help in other areas. The request was made and there was a good response.

4. Chairman's Report

Attended the Service of Remembrance at Terminal 1 and laid wreath for the Unknown Warrior. PCF meeting on 18 October attended by DL and TS. An update was given on DWDR and it is expected the new marina pier to be open in the first quarter on 2019. DHB has borrowed £100 million for the DWDR works. The heritage items on the Prince of Wales pier that were removed, including the granite, will be reinstated in the Clock Tower area. There are ongoing preparations for Brexit, but the Port growth is down in 2018. We were informed of the appointment of Doug Bannister as Chief Executive of the Port of Dover who will take up post in March 2019. There is a lack of community issues discussed at these meetings and it has been agreed to put Community Issues on the agenda for future meetings.

The whereabouts of the Jarrett Clifford - Memorial put on the Prince of Wales Pier is not known. Action - DL to make enquires.

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:

£22.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2018/2019

£66.89 from Town Hall Tours

£606.46 from HMRC for our claim of Gift Aid

The monies paid out in this period are:

£30.00 to St Mary's PCC for the hire of room for committee meetings.

£25.00 for advertising in The Kent Federation History Association magazine

The October meeting was in profit by £19.15. The raffle netted £125.00. A "thank you" goes to the members running the raffle.

The River Dour Partnership outgoings from the fund in the last month is £197.30. The amount being held in their fund with us is now £16,111.05.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There is one new member this month. He is Mr Harry Harris from River. He is interested in research. Last allocated number is 1340, total number of members is 452.

We have two new volunteers for distributing the Newsletter in the River area.

The Deal Society newsletter has been received and it is interesting to see the different format from our own. To be distributed to committee members to view. **SC agreed to check basis of Deal Society Newsletter being posted to members by DDC.**

8. Marketing Group Report

Nothing to report as the next meeting will be on the 29 November.

9. Projects

Conservation Appraisal – work has started on the draft report.

Cowgate - one new volunteer. There is a need to store the equipment where it is accessible to all volunteers. There is space on the allotment with a secure shed and the allotment itself is considered to be secure and it is intended to use this facility.

Plaques - nothing to add

River Dour - a Warden has been appointed with 11 volunteers on a list.

10. Refurbishment

The minutes of the Refurbishment committee meeting held on Monday 29 October were circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. JC went through the minutes and pointed out there are two new members of the Refurbishment committee and that Joan Liggett is standing down.

11. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

Refurbishment - Consultants have been appointed to develop the detailed plans for phase 1. They have high technical and architectural skills. A meeting is to take place in the near future with DL, DTC DDC and the Consultants.

The Guided Tours season has now finished. There were 146 paid tours, 105 free tours and many more people who were allowed to look around free. Over the season £556.00 was obtained from tours.

12. Social Secretary's Report

BH - the entertainment for the Christmas lunch has been confirmed but help will be needed with a keyboard. There are 71 confirmed paid bookings with another 10 interested but not paid. Still need 90 to break even. The numbers need to be confirmed by the end of November as the lunch is on the 2 December. To date collected 6 raffle prizes for this event and need another 4. Please give any donation of raffle prizes to AL.

PHS - has decided to step down from organising the summer trips. DL stated that PHS has done a fantastic job and thanked her for all she has done. It was decided to contact members on email to see if anyone would like to take on this role.

13. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 31 October 2018 were circulated to members before this meeting. PS briefly commented on each item including details of the Dover Town Neighbourhood Plan consultation at Biggin Hall on 29 November 10-12.30 and Lower Thames Crossing event at the Town Hall on 4 December 2-9pm.

14. Press Secretary's Report

Still getting small pieces in the Dover Express and Mercury.

15. Editor's Report

Nothing to report.

16. Publications

Nothing to report

17. AOB

PS - McCarthy and Stone have been granted planning permission for 70 extra care apartments on the site of the old sorting office on Charlton Green, but are putting in a further application for four extra apartments to be put on the roof.

PS and Graham Margery attended an "open activity" meeting with 20 other people which included Councillors and Charlotte Cornell. The Labour Party had called the meeting to obtain thoughts about the town centre regeneration from businesses and local people and this would be digested within their manifesto. The meeting mainly revolved around empty shops and the effect on business rates and rents. There was much debate on the state of the town and the use of section 215 etc. It was clear that the group had met Keith Morris, the leader of the Council, but have seen no action. Big Local were present and it seemed that many present were a little dissatisfied as requests made to them had not been acknowledged. Linda of Big Local rigorously defended this and outlined the "Incubator" scheme to be set up in the old Co-Op building. It seems they already have a positive response of interest. There was much criticism of DTIZ, (St James's). PS emphasised, as he always does, that a town can only be as prosperous as its disposable income, if it is a low earning area then must rely on income from external sources, such as tourism. Also that it will always be difficult to attract new shops whilst the town is a town of deprivation. It was recognised that there are many groups in Dover trying to improve matters. There is a need to draw all of these together and jointly involve DDC and DTC plus political representatives. Charlotte was of the opinion it should not be led by either Council or any political party and as such sought The Dover Society to lead such an activity. PS said he supported a combined approach but would need to seek the views of the Chairman and Executive of The Dover Society to lead such an activity. Charlotte indicated there are 14 to 18 "organisations" and PS has requested a list of these. To date a list has not been received. A full discussion followed and it was decided not to come to a conclusion at this time until more information is obtained. **It was important for The Society to maintain its nonparty political policy.**

DG - does anyone remember the clock situated in the Market Square, and if so what has happened to it. Action: Refurbishment committee to take forward.

WPG - Would the committee agree to putting an advertisement in the community pantomime programme for the cost of £30. This is the same amount as the society pays for the Film Festival programme. They will sell from 300 to 400 programmes. After a short discussion pointing out it will reach a different demographic audience, it was agreed.

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on first Thursday of the month, **Thursday 6 December 2018, at 7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.