

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 10 January 2019
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Graham Margery, Jean Marsh, Patrick Sherratt, Rodney Stone, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

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

The Chairman welcomed Graham Margery for planning and Rodney Stone to assist the Social Secretary.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December requires one amendment to the wording in paragraph 7, line 8, "using DDC postage" should read "using the discounted frank mail DDC enjoy".

3. Matters Arising

In the AOB AS to draft a letter to the refurbishment committee regarding the toilets in Dover. To date the draft letter has not been considered by Refurbishment.

Rodney Stone has volunteered as the Summer Trips Organiser. He gave a brief account of his progress so far. A contact has been made with Leo Coaches to obtain ideas and costs. He proposed a one day trip in April to the Bluebell Railway line and lunch, then another one in June to Arundel. Also a 4 day trip to York on 9 September but another group in Canterbury are also interested in this trip. It means the sharing of a coach but a larger party means it will cost less. It is hoped to get a stuffer in the next Newsletter about the proposed trips.

After a short discussion there was no objection to sharing with another group considering the problems that occurred with the Liverpool trip where it was difficult to fill and it was felt this would be less stressful for the organisers. The committee would be kept informed as and when required. As Rodney Stone is not a committee member **he chose to leave** the meeting.

4. Chairman's Report

An invite has been received as the Chair of the PCF to meet the new DHS CEO. DL enquired about any items to be mentioned at this meeting. Nothing was forthcoming **except desire for a bridge link between Marina Curve and end of East Pier** but to let the Chairman know by email by the end of January.

Proposed Castle Hill House plaque - AS sent out a detailed history of this house and there are no other worthy residents found. The information has been forwarded on to Martyn Webster but no response has been received from him. After a short discussion it was agreed to be put this on the list of plaques to be considered along with the others.

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 financial year 2019/2020

£4.00 for the sale of two badges

The Christmas lunch was in profit by £113.00 after paying a donation to The Folkestone and Dover Branch of Parkinsons UK and paying a gratuity of £50.00 to the staff at the Town Hall. The raffle took £205.00.

The River Dour Partnership had no outgoings from the fund in the last month. The amount being held in their fund with us is still £15,282.25.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

The quarterly interest paid on our Caf account was £10.71. The current interest rate on this account has been raised from 0.05% to 0.15%.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There is 1 new member this month. They are: Mrs Jean Gavin, Redlands Court, introduced by JO. Last allocated number is 1347. Total number of members is 458.

Copies of past Newsletters have been kept in case they are required for information. 10 of each copy have been kept and after reviewing this 5 would be sufficient. The spare copies will be brought to the members meetings for anyone to take who is interested in them.

Mavis Allen, a lady who lives at Aycliffe, was interested in the Railway Halt, shown on the front of the last Newsletter. She is now 91 and has lived most of her life in the Pier District of Dover and may be willing to be interviewed about her life in this district if anyone is interested.

8. Marketing Group Report

There has been no meeting of this group recently because it has been difficult to get everyone together. It is under consideration and hope to take it forward soon. The new website The Dover Society is up and running.

9. Projects

Conservation Appraisal – Dour Street : draft text almost finalised and choosing photographs. When completed it will be sent to DDC Conservation Officer for comment.

Cowgate - up to date with the work and no mowing until April. A visit to be made once a month for maintenance and a general tidy up.

Co-innovation centre - clearing up around the back of the building clearing it of debris and rubbish. Another clear up to be organised at a later date.

10. Refurbishment

The minutes of the Refurbishment committee meeting held on Monday 7 January 2019 were circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. MW went through the notes submitted by JO which are covered in the minutes.

11. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

There are no tours at the moment but a booking has already been received from a group for August.

Refurbishment project is now in the development phase and detailed technical plans are to be submitted to HLF by March 2020. HLF has provided £427 grant toward £627,000 cost. There are many specialist tasks involved including 25 surveys and a below ground survey. There is a £670,000 funding gap for the first phase of the project and a need for a funding plan to obtain grants from other sources.

12. Social Secretary's Report

BH - the next Christmas lunch for 2019 can be on 1st or 8th December. The consensus was for the 8th December. This date will be booked for the lunch at the Town Hall. The entertainment to be organised and may ask "Threes a Company" again.

The Wine and Wisdom - the glasses have been obtained at last years price of £42. 44 have booked but need 80 so will be mentioned at the next members meeting.

The St Mary's Parish Hall has been booked for our main meetings for the coming year. The AGM will be before Easter.

13. Planning

There was no Planning Committee meeting held this month. The plans for 188 dwellings at Buckland Hospital site have been revised, but we are still objecting due to impact upon Coombe Valley Road traffic. St Mary's Residential Home change of use to Bed and Breakfast: this application has been withdrawn. A response on behalf of The Society on the proposed Lower Thames crossing has been submitted.

Re the former Magistrates Court planning application for conversion to 46 flats: the Society has no objection to this planning application but on further investigation it appears that Goodwill SIP Ltd, is involved in providing accommodation for the London borough of Newham. The fear is people will be rehoused from London into Dover, which **could put pressure on local services by** DDC and KCC. It is not known if DDC is aware of this. After a short discussion it was agreed that PS contact DDC to find out if they know of this association.

14. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

15. Editor's Report

The deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is 23 January 2019.

16. Publications

Nothing to report

17. AOB

DL - As MMcF has retired from the Executive committee, and he was one on the founder members, it was suggested that at the AGM, he should be proposed as a Vice President. This was agreed.

PHS - An article in an old newsletter March 1994 gives a vision of Dover 2020. It is an interesting read.

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 7 February 2019, at 7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.