

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday 14 March 2019  
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover, 7.30 pm.

- 1) Attendance: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Deborah Gasking, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Graham Margery, Jean Marsh, Jenny Olpin, William Parker-Gorman, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston
- 2) Apologies. Glyn Hale
- 3) Minutes from the last meeting 14 February 2019. Apart from the following amendment the minutes were accepted as a true record.  
Item 4 (d)iii) 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence which should read "TS has confirmed with Sea Anglers that there is no admission charge for walkers."
- 4) Matters arising
  - a) AGM. P H-S confirmed she would not be standing for re-election
  - b) DL to continue as Chair.
  - c) District Tourism Strategy. DL & PS attended
    - i) Attended by about 80 business and relevant groups
    - ii) Testing opinion of those attending. DDC not involved enough and should greatly increase its commitment.
    - iii) Branding. The use and value of White Cliffs Country logo was questioned particularly by those from Deal and Sandwich.
    - iv) Currently the value of tourism to the District is £282m and 5800 jobs
    - v) DDC confirmed that Tourism strategy is to form part of the local plan with its own section
    - vi) The importance of networking was stressed
    - vii) Chris Townend said that as part of the strategy vision there were three key points:-
      - (1) Protect (and enhance) what we have.
      - (2) Promote what we have
      - (3) Produce (more visitor opportunities)
    - (viii) DL stressed the need for public realm measures to make our District more attractive such as ensuring less litter
- 5) Chairman's report. DL confirmed all matters to be dealt with under other agenda items
- 6) Secretary's report
  - a) AGM agenda and Chair report circulated with March newsletter
  - b) List of enclosures has wrong AGM date and members emailed to correct this.
  - c) As agreed Chair would appoint Patricia Sherratt and Mike McFarnell as Vice Presidents.
- 7) Treasurer's report.
  - a) Subscriptions received during the last month totalled £64.00p, for the next financial year 2019/2020. The Society also received a £34 donation.
  - b) Advertisements in our Newsletter brought in £21 last month. Sale of 1 newsletter brought in £2.08, this included a cost for postage.
  - c) Printing costs last month amounted to £34.69p
  - d) Our wine and wisdom evening made a profit of £164.64p. As is our usual practice of donating to the quiz master's charity which is, the Friends of Crabble Mill. Committee agreed we send a donation of £80 to Clive Taylor.
  - e) The River Dour Partnership - Outgoings from the fund last month were £452.80p. £14629.45p is being held in their fund with us.
  - f) The Bluebird Trail Fund - there was no movement, the amount remaining in the fund is still £777.44p.
- 8) Membership Secretary's report.
  - a) 4 new members. Barry O'Brien, Nicholas Lockhart, Graham and Vanessa Fletcher.
  - b) Total number of members 464
- 9) Marketing Group report

- a) Website WP-G
    - i) A cache version of old website has been located and new archive created. Archive is separate Website but accessed via the main website.
    - ii) The archive still needs some editing
    - iii) Main website. WP-G needs articles and news items sent to him to post so the site is kept current.
    - iv) Members should look at officers' page. It needs pictures.
    - v) PS suggests a link to DTC website to keep members informed of events – eg. Christmas Lights
    - vi) JO said that Refurb will feed info to WPG
    - vii) All members are asked to pass constructive comments to WPG
    - viii) Executive expressed its thanks to WP-G for his work
  - b) Marketing Group Organisation
    - i) BH said with the website up and running it was time to regroup with marketing and organizational proposals referred to Executive for decisions. JO is to take on Marketing and BH back office elements each with support of Marketing members.
  - c) Future agendas will include headings for Webmaster, Marketing and Back Office
- 10) Projects
- a) Cowgate.
    - i) JVC has agreed with DTC for a second hand shed to be erected – estimated cost with locks £100.
    - ii) Allison Burton is organizing security marking which should be available through DTC.
    - iii) Allison suggests we use the shed for a month with non-valuable contents to test security.
  - b) No Dour report
- 11) Refurbishment Sub-Committee
- a) Minutes had been circulated
  - b) JVC preparing letter on toilets for submission to Chris Townend, DDC and DTC
  - c) AS raised the matter of blocked drains. JO reminded the meeting such incidents must be reported to Kent Highways – they acted primarily on public input.
  - d) Old scrap yard on Barton Path. There had been a “gorilla litter clear up”
- 12) Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours - DL
- a) There had been an interesting project meeting with complete team and consultants.
  - b) There had been a meeting with Landmark Trust. They are very excited by the opportunity of the holiday lets and are offering their own experts help. The Trust understand the need for tours to include Mayors Parlour.
  - c) There are a large number of surveys all needing to dovetail
  - d) A meeting is to be held with Historic England to register Town Hall as a building at risk
  - e) DL spoke with the Interpretation Specialist on how promotion is to be effected.
  - f) An Instagram page has been set up
  - g) WPG said that theatrical and entertainment purposes need to be included as a basic aim of any planning. Val of Town Hall felt her commercial concerns were ignored. WPG had concerns about noise on holiday lets. DL said all surveys will work around commercial bookings and he would feed back the concerns expressed.
  - h) PS asked if the organ was to be restored. DL said this will not be done with estimated costs of up to £750k
- 13) Social Secretary's report
- a) Jill Sarjeant had warned of walk in thefts at St Mary's Parish Hall – BH suggests we warn members at meetings
  - b) BH apologies for absence on Monday night. Jean Marsh will stand in.
  - c) Outings.
    - i) Agreed that Rodney Stone should organize trips as he thinks appropriate.
    - ii) MW has emailed Rodney with necessary requirements on data protection and finance.

iii) Agreed Train trip to go ahead with present numbers. JVC to email reminder.

14) Planning and Local Government

PS reviewed the Planning Committee minutes with particular references to:-

- a) Castle Avenue. MW successful lobbying to get KCC to replant felled trees.
- b) Dour Street conservation area appraisal and recommendations. GM said draft to conservation officer awaiting comments. Recommendations were to **extend the boundary to include the Iranian Nut Tree in Dour Street and the Police Station. It was suggested that there should also be a TPO on the tree.**
- c) The need for volunteers to help with Town Plan (contact Karen Dry)
- d) GM to be our point of dialogue with Keith Parfitt on archeological matters helping with planning matters
- e) DL was asked to contact Adeline Reidy to congratulate on Castle Street newsletter.
- f) Old St James as an open air theatre. PS to discuss further with DAD .
- g) PS described the background to land ownership and exchanges relating to City Court Developments at Whitfield and old sports centre.

15) Press Secretary's report. Items still being published in local press

16) Editor's report. March newsletter printed and distributed.

17) Publications. No update

18) Any other business

- a) TS spoke to the proposed changes on rebuilding the Boys Grammar school
- b) TS said that the Wargen website is collecting peoples' WW2 memories. Do we know of anyone who may be able to contribute.
- c) JO going to inaugural meeting of Dover Community Network.
- d) PS reported adverse weather has caused problems at the port resulting in lorry traffic backing up on A2 and A20. Car traffic faced considerable delays. There was no noticeable police presence so that he had emailed Kent Police commissioner. WP-G reported he had not experienced any problems.
- e) Market Square developments. A decision is still awaited.
- f) AS described events at the Dover Historian Website.

19) Date of next meeting Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup> 2019.