

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 9 May 2019
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Alan Lee, Graham Margery, Jean Marsh, Jenny Olpin, Patrick Sherratt, Alan Sencicle, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

1. Apologies: Deborah Gasking, William Parker-Gorman

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2019 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

In the AOB of the last meeting JM mentioned an event for the Society to consider having a stall.

No further action needed..

BH action to draft a letter for the Chairman to be sent to BT regarding the former telephone exchange, Apologies from BH as this action has not been done but will do it before the next meeting.

4. Chairman's Report

An email was sent to members of the committee regarding the **likely winding** round up of Kent Federation of Amenity Societies. The vacancies on KFAS executive committee are not being filled and as no one is coming forward to stand it is likely at their AGM on 25 May it will cease.

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:

£1408.00 subscriptions for financial year 2019/2020

£25.00 in donations

£181.00 for advertisements in the Newsletter

£4.00 for the sale of one Town Hall booklet

The monies paid out in this period are:

£15.00 for our subscription to "Dover Walkers are Welcome"

£30.00 to St Mary's PCC for the hire of a room for April, May and June for our committee meetings

£30.00 for wreath to commemorate Zeebrugge Raid on 23 April, St Georges Day.

The Town Hall fund was credited with £64.46 for Town Hall tours.

The AGM was £12.95 in profit. The raffle grossed £105.00, with a net figure of £75.00 after taking out the cost of the M&S tokens as prizes. The Speakers meals cost £18.95.

The final figures for the Bluebell Railway excursion will appear in next months figures but it can be confirmed the outing did run at a profit of £71.00.

The River Dour Partnership outgoings from the fund in the last month was £472.15. The amount being held in their fund with us is £14,157.30.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

The Environment Agency paid a further £10,000 into our account we are holding behalf of DDC for their Kearsney Abbey and the River Dour projects. Since then DDC have raised invoices covering the total of £70,903.88 held by the Society and no money is being held on their behalf.

According to the new Charity Commission rules we do not need to send this year's accounts to an outside auditor because our income was less than £25000.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are 7 new members this month. They are:

Mr Melvyn Durrant, involved with the Town Hall tours, Dover Greeters etc
Mr Graham Leadbeater, Samphire Court
Mr Brian and Mrs Christine Walton, Western Heights
Miss Joanna Walton, Western Heights
Mr Gary and Mrs Anita Jordan, Stanhope Road

Last allocated number is 1364. Total number of members is 475.

A letter was read out from Mr John Lockyer about the new Commonwealth Memorial conveying his support for the project. There seems to be some confusion about the Society's approval and this may have prompted this letter. The Society is not against this project which will be made clear when this letter is acknowledged.

8. Webmaster

JC has been given 2 CDs **of all past Newsletters** by Paul Skelton but JC does not feel competent enough to download the content and asked BH to take them which was agreed. There is a need to understand who is going to deal with the content onto the website. BH to send emails to Paul Skelton and WPG and copy in JC to agree a way forward..

9. Marketing Group Report

JO to update the committee about their ideas on marketing and how it will look like. They are looking at a winter programme possibly with a theme, such as the environment and inviting speakers on the topics. DL to be contacted. Marketing needs its own login into the website and will consult WPG about this. The focus to be on obtaining new members but not losing current members.

10. Back Office

Google is the host for our back office activities. It is an internal site for members of the executive committee only. It can only be accessed by them with an account and password. SC is involved in the transition of Society members onto a database and stressed it should be user friendly. BH will open one folder that will contain documents, minutes of meetings etc only available to committee members. The public will not be able to view this site.

11. Projects

Cowgate - campers are settling in which means litter to be cleared.

The shed is secure and there is a need to get the locking arrangements costed. The shed costs to be finalised.

Barton Path - the railings are being refurbished. **Bridge St railings reinstated.**

12. Refurbishment

The minutes of the Refurbishment committee meeting held on Monday 29 April 2019 were circulated to the committee prior to the meeting.

JO briefly went through the items discussed at the meeting.

13. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

The Project Steering Group **plus** consultants had a meeting on Tuesday. A lot of work is going on behind the scenes. They visited Cardiff Castle to see how this was renovated and the outcome. It has up to 6 school visits a day. It does make a profit but it goes to Cardiff City Council and not necessarily back into the castle for the ongoing maintenance it requires. This is something for Dover Town Hall refurbishment to consider for the future. Any profit made by the Town Hall should be "ring fenced" so there are sufficient funds to maintain the building for future use.

All the special surveys are under way. An asbestos survey is required before any demolition work can begin. This should have been carried out by DDC over the years but no comment was made by DDC representative present.

The concerns of the current performers and users of the building was raised. They will be consulted from the start. The contact names of those concerned will be forwarded to the consultants by DL.

Interpretation specialists will meet various people, such as tourism and guides to obtain their experience.

There is a community plan for workshops in June with consultation in September on how they performed.

Re the problem of closing the funding gap, the consultants have ideas on who to ask.

The state of the roof and drainage is mainly due to seagulls and pigeons either dying or making nests in the drainage hoppers.

14. Social Secretary's Report

BH - contact not yet made with 3's Company for the Christmas lunch entertainment. There is a need to contact the caterer at the Town Hall to confirm prices to see if there has been an increase since last year.

DL - confirmed the winter programme for speakers is full, just waiting for one or two to confirm.

BH - There has been a question about insurance for members who have paid a deposit or the full amount for the York trip in case they have to cancel. It was agreed that this is not for the Society to get involved with and it is up to each individual to obtain their own personal insurance.

15. Planning

The Planning Committee meeting held this month was circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

PS briefly commented on each item.

The new pier was opened on 3 May. It has no street furniture on it yet and will wait and see if it is installed at a later date.

16. Press Secretary's Report

Articles continue to be put in two local papers. On Channel 4, 18 May, at 8.00 pm, a programme called "British Historic Towns" will feature Dover.

17. Editor's Report

The deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is 15 May 2019.

16. Publications

Nothing to report

17. AOB

DL - The Heritage Open days this year will be over two weekends, because some buildings cannot be opened on the one weekend. The dates are 14th and 15th, and 21st and 22nd September.

A check **by DL of** the Chairman's report for this year and the minutes of the **previous AGM** meeting was made during this meeting and he could not find any reference to the Society objecting to the Commonwealth Memorial project.

MW - The annual public DHB consultation meeting will be held on 20 May 2019 at the Marina Hotel **5.30 for 6pm..**

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 13 June 2019, at 7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.