

**The Dover Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 June 2019**  
**at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover**

**Present:** Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Deborah Gasking, Beverley Hall, Graham Margery, Jean Marsh, Jenny Olpin, William Parker-Gorman, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

**1. Apologies:** Glyn Hale, Alan Lee, Patrick Sherratt, Alan Sencicle

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2019 were accepted as correct.

**3. Matters Arising**

BH sent an email to BT regarding the former telephone exchange. The reply was not informative.

**4. Chairman's Report**

The Port and Community Forum meeting was held on 11 June.

Points made: It is not clear who owns, or is responsible for, the section of owned promenade at East Cliff or who is responsible for beach cleaning on this section. DHB claims they are not responsible. The Highway Authority took some of the area for the A20 widening but further investigation is needed.

DHB to look into the suggestion of providing an observation platform overlooking the cruise terminal quays.

The CEO was pleased with the response from Dover to greet the cruise ship MV Boudicca with the Normandy veterans aboard. It was forced to dock in Dover on Sunday morning rather than Portsmouth because of poor weather.

Brexit has caused problems with a big build up of traffic in March, again in April and now the numbers have dwindled. Waiting to see what will happen in October. Coach traffic has increased but bookings for cars are not being made in advance. They are tending to book at the port on the day of travel.

The decision on SOS v MMO high court action reference the licence required to take sand from the Goodwin Sands is expected in the next few weeks. Fresh surveys will be required because the last surveys were 2 years ago and now out of date. A new contract also needs to be negotiated with the dredging company. The infill of Granville Dock is not expected until 2021.

The Chairman and AS spoke about the possibility of high tides and the River Dour flooding. No decision made.

Cambridge Terrace apartments - there have been many enquiries from potential owners and tenants for the 25 number of flats available.

Neil Wiggins and Samantha Gurney, DHB board community directors have been reappointed for a further 3 years. Questions were asked on how this was decided.

Dover Greeters sought information about the lease of a kiosk on promenade that is always closed as it could be used for Greeters TIC. Enquires about the ownership to be made.

On the Regatta evening of 4 August, there will be an outdoor showing of the film "The Greatest Showman".

**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:

£394.00 subscriptions for financial year 2019/2020

£12.00 subscriptions for the next financial year 2020/2021

£8.00 in donations

£75.00 for advertisements in the Newsletter

£16.00 for the sale of 4 Town Hall booklets

The Town Hall fund was credited with £75.15 dividend paid by Reckitt & Benckiser shares and £36.43 for Town Hall tours.

The Bluebell Railway excursion ran at a profit of £71.00 as predicted at last months meeting.

At the present time the Arundel outing is covering its cost with 30 participants paid to go on the trip. The River Dour Partnership outgoings from the fund in the last month was £224.84 and £62.93 was paid in from donations collected on their walks. The amount being held in their fund with us is £13,995.43.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

The annual membership of The White Cliffs County Tourism Association is due. The executive committee was asked if the £30.00 could be paid. Agree to pay.

## **7. Membership Secretary's Report**

There is one new member this month.

Chantal Vouillemin, East Cliff, Dover

Last allocated number is 1365. Total number of members is 473.

## **8. Webmaster**

Received the CDs **containing all** past Newsletters and will be loaded onto the website as and when. The CDs will then be given to AL to hold.

**Action:** DL to send formal acknowledgement to Paul Skelton to thank him for the work he has done.

## **9. Marketing Group Report**

In progress and will be arranging a meeting soon.

## **10. Back Office**

SC on line with a data base for membership in progress.

## **11. Projects**

**Plaques** - enquiry has been received about Matthew Arnold who stayed in Dover and wrote the poem "Dover Beach" More research is required to see if he lived in Dover and where (**possibly Athol Terrace**).

Another suggestion for a plaque from DG, is Anne Pratt (1806 - 1893) a botanist and illustrator who published over 20 books. She lived at 39 Castle Street in 1849.

Martyn Webster is keen to have a plaque on Castle Hill House and the proposed wording was circulated.

A proposed **Submariners' Society** plaque for William Gould VC has caused problems with the family. The **latest** proposed site is on the Town Hall but as it is a listed building it can only be secured into the mortar and not the brickwork. **Action:** TS to contact John Iveson to discuss situation.

It was agreed to have 2 plaques this year, one for Castle Hill House and the other for Anne Pratt.

**Cowgate** - the maintenance has been made easier now we have access to our tools in a shed on the site. The weather this week has prevented any work being carried out.

**River Dour** - Barton School has put the River Dour onto their curriculum. There are now 32 river volunteers but very few fish have been seen in the river.

## **12. Refurbishment**

The next meeting is due on 24 June.

DG - to meet Police again in October but not getting any response about PCO meetings.

The letter about the lack of toilets in Dover has been sent to DDC, DTC and our MP. The letters have been acknowledged and will be given 3 months to see what happens.

## **13. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours**

Guided tours - large groups have booked tours. **Some extra tours** other than on Wednesday to accommodate the days some cruise ships are in Dover.

DL and two other guides met the Town Hall tourism interpretation consultant and discussed possibilities bearing in mind the need to work around commercial hirings.

#### **14. Social Secretary's Report**

Christmas lunch, it was agreed to book it for 8 December but have been informed the lunch has been booked in for the 1st December. On the 8th there is a choir concert at 4.00 pm which will interrupt our lunch. As the date has not yet been published agreed to have it on the 1st December.

**Action:** BH to contact entertainers to confirm new date.

The prices have been increased to £3.50 for welcome drinks and £19.00 for the meal. Agreed not to increase the price of the lunch and to keep it at £25.00 per person.

The next outing is to Arundel and the times of pick up are as published in the Newsletter.

#### **15. Planning**

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

GM briefly mentioned a few items of interest.

HMO at 13 Castle Street for 10 people which the Society is objecting to.

HMO in Folkestone Road is also being objected to.

There are over 40 HMOs in Dover but DDC do not seem to have a policy for HMOs.

Buckland Hospital site has now been revised to 150 dwellings and Kent Highways has not objected to the amount of traffic this site will produce.

DL - Conservation appraisal meeting held with Conservation Officer to consider a few minor points. It will be put into DDC format and go out for consultation.

The next appraisal will be of the Town Centre area of Cannon Street, Biggin Street, Queens gardens, New Street and Worthington Street.

#### **16. Press Secretary's Report**

Articles continue to be put in two local papers.

#### **17. Editor's Report**

Nothing to report.

#### **16. Publications**

Nothing to report

#### **17. AOB**

DL - PCF presented grants to Dover Smart Project and to Hi Kent lip reading classes, paid for out of the DHB Community Fund.

WPG - Gave an explanation of the forthcoming changes to the commercial side of the Town Hall which could affect many events and in particular DODS and their ability to put on their annual pantomime. Suggestion made for WPG to contact Roger Walton with concerns..

GM - the public transport to the new Leisure Centre is poor and putting people off going. **Action;** To be taken up by Refurbishment Committee.

#### **18. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 11 July 2019, at 7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.