

**The Dover Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 5 September 2019**  
**at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover**

**Present:** Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Deborah Gasking, Glyn Hale, Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Jenny Olpin, Patrick Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

**1. Apologies:** Beverley Hall, Graham Margery, William Parker-Gorman, Alan Sencicle

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

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

**3. Matters Arising**

Nothing to report

**4. Chairman's Report**

Annual invite to the Remembrance Day on 10 November has been received and TS has been asked to attend on behalf of The Dover Society, which he accepted. The wreaths have not yet been ordered. Action; SC and JC to order wreaths.

Airfield of Britain Trust is putting up granite memorial plaques on various sites across the country. They have been in touch and locally there are five sites in the Dover area. AS has agreed to take the lead to gain the support required to get these WW1 Airfield memorials installed locally.

Mike McFarnell has sent an email to all members of the executive committee regarding a potential grant of £25 million that is available for a connection between the High Street and the seafront. According to Charlie Elphick MP, DDC will be receive £150,000 to put forward a full business case for the grant.

**5. Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report

**6. Financial Report**

The financial report for the last two months was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting.

The monies received in this period are:

£118.00 subscriptions for financial year 2019/2020

£4.00 donation

£8.00 for the sale of Town Hall booklets to the publication fund

£182.50 for Town Hall tours to the Town Hall fund

£173.00 advertising revenue in our July Newsletter

The monies paid out in this period are:

£30.00 to Mike McFarnell for advertising of the Regatta Trail

£695.00 to Adam Printers for production of July Newsletter

£64.20 posting out of area Newsletters

£17.94 for general postage and printing costs

£152.00 from the Publication Fund to Adam Printers for printing the Heritage Open Day leaflets

£216.38 paid out from Projects fund for shed to hold Cowgate tools and two strimmer heads

£40.00 to CPRE for our annual subscription

The Arundel outing is now completed and made a surplus of £20.00

The River Dour Partnership had outgoings from the fund in the last two months of £400.00 so the amount being held in their fund with us is £13,595.43

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

The claim to HMRC was submitted for "Gift Aid" reclaim of £591.24. This was accepted in full plus an interest of £1.47 so the total received is £592.72. At the end of the this financial year £62.50 of this will go into the Projects fund and the rest into the general fund.

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

There are 9 new members this last two months

Philip Knight of North Wales  
John and Pamela Male of Balfour Road  
Sarah and Mark Mannall of Temple Ewell  
Mrs Sheila Watts of The Gateway  
Mr A Hogg of Whitfield  
Mr Jan Lewandowski of Ashford, Middlesex  
Mr Alan Lewer of St Margarets Bay

Last allocated number is 1376. Total number of members is 459.

## **8. Webmaster**

Nothing to report

## **9. Marketing Group Report**

A meeting took place on 4 September and attended by SC, MMcF and JO. They reviewed the Marketing Strategy now the group has separated from the Website development. It was agreed the Website had met the strategy timeline, but the promotion, profiling and recruitment actions had not been achieved. When analysed they found that pro-active members, availability, enthusiastic and creativity were lacking. Also the group had not profiled viable locations/events or possible recruitment.

They decided as a way forward to see what they had achieved and it was agreed to update the strategy and to investigate and activate the following key actions with approval from the members of the committee.

1. MMcF to draft a job description for the role of managing The Society's social media that is Facebook and Twitter
2. Meet with Anita Luckett and Linda Aldred of Big Local to discuss recruiting one or two people who could be tasked by the Marketing Group to attend the selected events for profiling and recruitment.
3. Address the October winter meeting and subsequent meetings, about Member recruitment to assist with Marketing.

## **10. Back Office**

Nothing to report

## **11. Projects**

**Cowgate** - JC announced that Jeremy Fox has died. The shed is in use but still needs a little organising.

**Plaques - Castle Hill House**, the design has been agreed and waiting for response to a minor change.

**River Dour** - there was an open meeting last week and was poorly attended. The chairperson is stepping down as chair. The minute secretary is also leaving and volunteers are being sought.

The railings on Barton path are now finished.

## **12. Refurbishment**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 July and were circulated prior to the meeting and JO briefly went through the items.

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

Guided tours continue to be made.

The Refurbishment continues with removal of some emulsion paint by specialists in a planned way to get at the original decoration. It may be possible to recover or reproduce Burges's designs.

There is a problem in the storage rooms as asbestos has been found in the paint. The rooms have been locked to prevent access and the Court Room is now being used for storage.

Meeting about Activity Plans involving the community activity plans as part of engagement in the project. The consultants will produce two sides of A5 paper to be inserted in the Newsletter to obtain interest from members as volunteers. Details to be put on the website. A refurbishment presentation will be given at the next AGM. The Town Hall was expected to be closed for 6 months but may be as long as 2 years, but this has not been confirmed.

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

There is a need now to obtain numbers for the Christmas lunch.

### **15. Planning**

The Planning Committee meeting was held 28 August and was circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. PS went through each item and gave an update on any action taken.

Conservation area appraisal, the Senior Heritage Officer has put forward the Dour Street appraisal to the Leaders Forum, and from there it goes to Management and then to Cabinet. Leaders Forum has discussed the report and questioning why Dour Street is a conservation area and why the Police Station should be included. Its view was it should not be included and has been referred back without a clear steer. Another draft submission to be made as it appears the Leader Forum do not understand the significance of the area. A covering note will be put on at the beginning of the draft making it clear what this appraisal is about.

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

Articles continue to be put in two local papers.

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

Barry O'Brien has requested help from The Dover Society members to research the history of Fort Burgoyne and Connaught Barracks.

Working with the White Cliffs Branch of the Royal British Legion a collection of photographs, memorabilia, film and recordings as the first part of a display at the site, building toward a celebration to commemorate the Centenary of the Royal British Legion in 2021.

Although the site is not fully open to the public, visits can be arranged for interested groups. Barry O'Brien has been asked to submit a short piece with pictures for the next Newsletter.

A reminder the deadline for articles in the next Newsletter is Wednesday 2 October. The time has been shortened between the editorial deadline and the printing time. Therefore all reports must be in on time to enable the first proofs to reach the printers without delay

### **16. Publications**

Nothing to report

### **17. AOB**

DL - While in the Town Hall two people came in with leaflets advertising Community - Led Housing and Self Build stating that grants are available and how to get further information. The leaflets were circulated to executive members.

DG- Heritage Open Days, the Deal leaflets shows the logos of the Deal and Walmer town councils as they were promoting it. Can the Society obtain funding from DTC for our Heritage day leaflets? This is a thought for next year and will be discussed at refurbishment meeting.

TS - On September 26 in 1944 the last enemy cross channel shell fell on Dover (also the last to fall on the UK).

The 75th anniversary of this historic event is to be commemorated at an ecumenical service at St Mary's Church, Cannon Street, Dover on Saturday, September 28th 2019 at 10.30 am.

The borough of Dover received 2,226 German shells in the four years from August 1940, resulting in the deaths of more than 200 civilians as well as many Servicemen and women based in and around the town. The mayors of neighbouring towns which also suffered shelling have been invited to the service, to be conducted by the Reverend Sean Sheffield.

The object of the service is to:

- Remember those Dover people killed by shelling
- To honour the Servicemen and women who were killed by shelling and bombing in Dover
- To show appreciation to the Canadian troops and others who captured the enemy guns,
- To remember French civilians of the Calais-Boulogne area who were killed in the fighting
- To give thanks that St Mary's Church survived while the surrounding area was devastated
- And to give thanks we now live in peace

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

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 10 October 2019**, at **7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.