

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 14 November 2019
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Graham Margery, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Patrick Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

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

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2019 were accepted as correct except for one minor typing error. Paragraph 4, JS should read JC.

3. Matters Arising

It was suggested at the last meeting the minutes of the meeting between The Dover Society and DDC's Nadeem Aziz and Roger Walton be sent to them. After a short discussion it was agreed it was not appropriate.

4. Chairman's Report

TS laid a wreath on behalf of The Dover Society on Remembrance Sunday at the Town Hall. It was noted there was no centre piece on the wreath stating who has laid it. The system for ordering wreaths has changed so next year there is a need to state what is required. Action: SC to arrange ordering of wreaths.

DL attended the Service of Remembrance at Terminal 1 and laid wreath for the Unknown Warrior. The Managing Director of SE Railways noted it was the centenary of the Unknown Warrior next year and would like to organise something special, such as bringing soil over from the WW1 battlefields of France on a RN ship, a steam train with the wagon that took Edith Cavell's body to London from Dover, a military guard and a 14 gun salute from the Castle. DL agreed to be the local liaison person.

A letter has been receive from MMcF requesting £30 for an advert in the Film Festival programme. Agreed. Action MW.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

6. Financial Report

The financial report for last month was circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. The monies received in this period are:

£16.00 subscriptions for this financial year
£117.24 for Town Hall tours to the Town Hall fund
£250.00 donation for the projects fund from an anonymous member.

The monies paid out in this period are:

£30.00 to St Mary's PCC for hire of room for executive meetings in October, November and December
£34.00 to Royal British Legion for Remembrance Day services

The October meeting finances have not yet been finalised because the surplus money from Tea and Coffee sales has not been received.

By the end of September £825.00 has been received for bookings for the Society's Christmas Lunch.

The River Dour Partnership had no outgoings from the fund in the last month so the amount being held in their fund with us remains at £13,015.03.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

JC has sent letter of thanks to the anonymous donor.

TS asked about the £50.00 for Rolls Memorial Maintenance Fund noted on the accounts. It appears it has been there for many years and has not been used. After a short discussion it was agreed it was no longer needed and to be transferred into the Town Hall fund.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are 3 new members this month:

Mr Alain Black from Dibden Purlieu
Ben and Michelle Harding from Clarendon

Last allocated number is 1383. Total number of members is 457.

SC is holding copies of "By Gone Kent" covering 10 years. They are currently being looked at by JM and AS. Afterwards they will be available to anyone who is interested and will be mentioned in the Newsletter and at the members meetings

SC has the service programme for Brigadier Atherton's memorial service for anyone who wants to see it. Also the Programme of Events 2020 for The Deal Society for anyone who is interested.

8. Webmaster

Nothing to report

9. Marketing Group Report

Mt and Mrs Simpson have been recruited to man stalls. The next Marketing meeting to be held next week and JO, DG, MMcF and SC will discuss matters.

10. Back Office

Nothing to report

11. Projects

Cowgate - is too wet at the moment to do any work. There was a police enquiry about a dagger found in a tent that was put out as rubbish. The police were referred to DG for further information. There is a need to recruit more volunteers.

Plaques - Castle Hill House, unfortunately still not had the time available to pursue this. The owners of the house are not in any hurry as they want to paint the door first before the plaque is installed. Request to be made to Martyn Web to deal with the listing process.

12. Refurbishment

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28 October were circulated prior to the meeting and JC briefly went through the items.

DG is working closely with Morrisons Supermarket and posed the question of making them a corporate member of The Dover Society. After short discussion it was decided to refer the matter to the Marketing team to discuss and come back to the committee with any proposals.

AS has contacted KCC Highways about flooding and drainage.

Tourism Strategy will be included in the District Local Plan. This is a legal document. The Strategy is available for public consultation until January 2020. Any comments to JO for The Dover Society to respond.

13. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

The Guided Tours have ended with the annual end of season meeting with the guides. There were 233 paid tours including several groups, of which 2 groups were over 50 people. There were 102 visitors who attended for tours on the Heritage open days but these were free. A survey showed there were casual visitors and cruise ship visitors, ten times as many as the paid tours, into the Stone Hall. Some 2500 people came into the Stone Hall. The amount received from paid tours and donations was £767. With interest on shares the Town Hall fund now has nearly £13k. The experiment to open for short free tours on a non Wednesday to cater for the cruise ship passengers was successful and will be continued.

Re Town Hall project - mid term review with HLF took place on 4 October. A written comprehensive report accompanied a live presentation. HLF were impressed with the scale of the project. HLF advised submitting completed development plans in June 2020 rather than March to give us an extra 3 month. The result would then be known in September rather than June. Two pits to be dug into foundations for lifts. HLF made changes to business plan with a need for an ongoing maintenance plan. Interpretation costs to be reviewed. The building to be open almost every day for self guided tours even if events are going on. This will need careful management. With estimated costs updated there is a £650K shortfall but potential funders have been approached and it is looking promising. Town Hall guide reps and DTC reps will discuss with consultants interpretation issues. Public consultation of the project will be over a period of 2/3 weeks in 3 locations. The Town Hall would be closed from September 2021 for 2 years.

14. Social Secretary's Report

There are 65 bookings for the Christmas lunch. This would give a £250 shortfall. To be promoted at the next members meeting. Any raffle prizes to AL.

There has been some confusion about the refreshments for the members meetings. JM supplied the tea and coffee at the October meeting and still has the surplus monies. It was agreed that Denise and her team will do the November meeting and the rest of the winter meetings if necessary, but would like another team to alternate with them. JM agreed to find another team. Whosever turn it is supplies the tea and coffee and is responsible for the monies taken. The cost of the provisions to be taken out of the takings and the surplus given to MW.

Rodney Stone is in talks with Iain of Leo Prides coaches about an excursion to Exmouth and a one day outing to Brighton and Debden..

15. Planning

The Planning Committee meeting was held Wednesday 2 October and the minutes were circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. PS went through each item and gave an update on any action taken.

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

SC - at the "Cause Is Altered" public house site the small plaque has disappeared. Should we consider replacing old plaques, but it is not the responsibility of The Dover Society. To be considered at a later date.

JC – re request regarding the upkeep of the Rifles Monument, will reply stating this is not the responsibility of The Dover Society.

AS - attended the WCCTA meeting and EH SE Manager is on a £30 million spending spree. He would like to take all the car parks out of the castle and put a multi storey car park near the Bleriot memorial site. Plan to refurbish the officers' mess as a welcome centre and to provide a children's play area.

TS - Christians Together in Dover (CTiD), who had organised general election debates in past years, are not holding any for the December 2019 general election.

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5 December 2019**, at **7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.