

**The Dover Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 4 December**  
**2019**  
**at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover**

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

**1. Apologies:** Sheila Cope, Beverley Hall, Graham Margery, William Parker-Gorman,

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November were accepted as correct.

**3. Matters Arising**

Nothing to report

**4. Chairman's Report**

The AGM report to be written by the end of February in time for insertion in the March Newsletter. This will keep to the same format as previous years and will update at the AGM.

The Chairman has a significant amount of The Dover Society archive material mainly from Jack Woolford. It includes minutes of meetings, books, and photographs. A list of material to be sent to committee members by email for anyone who is interested to view them. What to do with the various books etc to be considered at a later date.

**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:

- £26.00 subscriptions for the next financial year
- £141.00 for Town Hall tours to the Town Hall fund
- £39.00 for advertising in the Newsletter
- £36.00 for sale of 9 Town Hall booklets into the publication fund

The monies paid out in this period are:

- £13.00 from Town Hall fund for coffees at the greeters "end of season" meeting
- £30.00 donation for advertisement in the Dover Film Festival programme
- £695.00 to Adams Printers for production of November Newsletter
- £64.20 for postage for "out of area" Newsletter

The October and November meetings have been finalised and the October meeting made a loss of £15.00 but the November meeting made a profit of £49.53. The profit was due to a very good raffle grossing £144.00 netting £114.00.

By the end of November £1625.00 of bookings was received for the Society's Christmas Lunch. Further bookings have been received this month and with these and raffle takings of £202.00 the lunch overall made a profit of £32.00. However, a gratuity of £50.00 was given to staff and so the lunch will show a small loss of £18.00.

The River Dour Partnership had outgoings of £1613.18 from the fund this month and with donations of £52.55 the amount being held in their fund with us is £11,454.40.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

**7. Membership Secretary's Report**

There are 4 new members this month:

David and Kim Burton, Lydden  
Rhian Pamphilon from Broadstairs  
Clive Pilcher from Epping, Essex

Last allocated number is 1387. Total number of members is 461.

### **8. Webmaster**

There has not been much change in regard to the website and by extension social media. There has been some issues with server side scripting and security updates, although these are aspects of web presence that won't be seen. It has been noticed that we are receiving regular communication and membership applications throughout the website and it appears to be easily found through search engines. Some of the content needs updating and it will be done shortly. The membership spreadsheet is being utilised although it is still a work in progress and will be addressed in the new year.

### **9. Marketing Group Report**

A Marketing meeting was held on 19 November. Mary and Peter Simpson will represent the Society at various events in the town to encourage membership. It has been suggested to have badges made to wear to make it clear who is representing the Society.

It was also suggested to get Big Local involved in developing and marketing, also involve help from the Technical College.

Corporate membership is being discussed and is work in progress but the consensus is there could be a conflict of interest.

A copy of the comments made by The Dover Society on the Consultation 2020 to 2030 Tourism and Visitor Economy Strategy is attached to these minutes.

### **10. Back Office**

Nothing to report

### **11. Projects**

**Cowgate** - work is being continued with tidying up.

**Plaques - Castle Hill House**, Martyn Web is dealing with the listing process.

**TS** - there has been complaints about the screen size in St Mary's PCC and a larger screen is to be purchased at the cost of £200 and requested that the Society to make a donation of £100.

Following a short discussion it was agreed there was not enough information to make a decision.

### **12. Refurbishment**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 November were circulated prior to the meeting and JO briefly went through the items.

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

The Guided Tours have now ended until next year.

There has been no steering group meetings.

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

Altogether there were 73 guests, excluding the singers, from 77 bookings so this was down from last year. I estimated there would be a need for 90 people to book to cover the costs so the outcome is pleasing with a small profit of £32 due to the £202 achieved by the raffle.

However this does not include the £50 gratuity we provide to the staff at the Town Hall and it is recommended we provide it again this year. This would result in a loss of £18.

The committee agreed to this.

For next year there is a need to make decisions quickly if we want to use the Town Hall next year there is a need to book, agree menu and costs before March. Does the Executive agree we stay at the Town Hall as a venue for next year?

Agreed by committee.

The Society has been provisionally booked in on Sunday 6 December 2020 at the usual time. Any comments/concerns or can this date be confirmed? The menus and costs will be reviewed in January and hopefully costs will not increase and the ticket price can be kept to £25 per person. Agreed by committee.

#### **15. Planning**

There was no Planning Committee meeting this month and an update was given on various planning issues.

Application for St Mary's Residential home in Maison Dieu Road to be developed in to apartments, town houses and cottages. The application will be supported.

20 Castle Street change of use to a museum, no objections made.

Dover Grammar School for Boys, KCC agree to a new school to go ahead providing EH make no application for listing but a Society member is making a listing application.

The Town Centre Conservation Area appraisal draft is completed, need to agree text and select photographs, then submit to Principal Conservation officer.

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

A full page article on the Society's speaker Christine Waterman on 18 November about Oxney Court in the Dover Express.

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

Deadline for next Newsletter is 5 February 2020.

#### **16. Publications**

Nothing to report

#### **17. AOB**

AS suggested new Bishop of Dover be invited to speak to Society. Agreed.

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

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 9 January 2020**, at **7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.