

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 9 February 2017
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover.

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Alan Lee, Mike McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Pat Sherratt, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January has one amendment, Para 4, first line, delete JC.

3. Matters Arising

To consider the next Blue Plaque There are 5 names on the list, Thomas Gould VC, Wally Hammond a cricketer, Cuthbert Ottaway, the first English football captain, Charles Lightoller, 2nd Officer of the Titanic, Dover Patrol, and Sir Edward Wollaston Knocker. Another person suggested is Francis Cockburn. A discussion followed and agreed to explore a site for a Thomas Gould VC plaque. **Action:** JC to take the lead.

4. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave a summary of the PCF meeting.

Attended the Walkers are Welcome launch and suggested The Dover Society become a member with an annual subscription of £15.00. Agreed, MW to action.

The local MP, Charlie Elphicke, can only arrange a meeting on a Friday. PS gave an outline on the topics to tackle him with. Suggested a CCG Health Representative also be present.

Action: DL to arrange a meeting and all committee members who are available on the proposed date will attend.

Zeebrugge ceremony is on Sunday 23 April 2017 with the usual arrangements as per previous years.

The Bell from the Herald of Free Enterprise has been given to the Sailors Society and it will be displayed in St Mary's Church.

The Waterloo Crescent proposed conservation area consultation. It was agreed that there is no need for a sub-group as the committee strongly support the recommendations plus the need to include De Bradlei Wharf buildings..

Action: DL to take forward.

East Kent Merger Consultation, a strong case has been made by the consultants. A discussion followed. It was agreed that a small group be formed to consider fully the implications of the proposed merger. DL, JC,BH, PS and MW to form group.

5. Secretary's Report

The AGM minutes and agenda to be circulated. Jenny Olpin is prepared to stand for the committee. JC to ask John Morgan.

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:

£36.00 subscriptions for the next financial year 2017/2018

£14.00 donation

The January meeting was £25.27 in deficit but the raffle made £100.00 net but we did have to pay £67 for three speakers meals.

No payment made from the River Dour Partnership but they did receive a £9,900 grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. A further £87.46 in various donations was received making the total held £17,848.49.

No money was paid out from the Bluebird Trail Fund which remains at £7,838.44. An invoice for £10,340 needs to be paid before the remaining 10% grant from HLF is received. It was agreed that the shortfall could be borrowed from The Society account.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have two new members:

Mr John Woodland, Malvern Meadow, Temple Ewell, Dover.

Mr Brian Simmons, St Margarets at Cliffe

Last allocated number 1282, total number of members 463.

8. Projects

Cowgate

- Work is up to date.

River Dour

- Deborah Gasking is looking into funding for the Barton Path railings.
- Received funding of £12K from DBL and EA to investigate the potential purchase of the Mill Pond in Lorne Road.
- Fish passes are now at Folkestone and publicity is to be given to WCCP and Affinity Water.
- Funding now received for the River Tales project from HLF. The first walk took place on Sunday 29 January. The walk was from Kearsney Abbey with a Tales performance.

Plaques

- There are 5 names on the list and was discussed earlier in Matters Arising.

9. Refurbishment

- Sylvia Parsons is resigning from the committee due to a possible move to France.
- SP to contact PS to confirm a letter to DDC about the Unitarian Church. There is a need to make a search for the current owner, this may incur a cost.
- JC to give a further reminder to Roger Walton or Martin Leggatt about the Old St James maintenance.
- AS to contact Pam Brivio about the state of the grass between the Dour River and Morrisons Supermarket and the future of the plot. AS confirmed contact was made and informed there is to be a total re-turfing of the area with a grid placed over the grass.
- Waterloo Crescent Conservation area consultation, the Refurbishment committee strongly support the inclusion of area of Cullins Yard and De Bradelei Wharf.
- There is a concern over the litter on DDC owned area, formally Muge House and the matter is to be pursued.
- MMcF to prepare a business plan on the collection and recycling of aluminium cans to raise funds.
- A walk around the Dover Castle is being considered.
- The next meeting with the Police is in March, any comments to Jenny Olpin.
- Jenny Olpin to contact PS for Local Health Consultation Group and then to take the matter up.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment/ Guided Tours

The Town Hall has now got a Grade 1 listing. The HFL round1 application decision is expected in March..

The Guided tours will commence on 1 April but group tours are still being undertaken.

The Blue Bird Trail

DL reported that the Evaluator's recommendations for the future were discussed by the PCF. Whilst The Society will keep the trail going as required by HLF, other developments were considered separate projects with wider implications which would be discussed with Destination Dover Manager. The final report to HLF was being drafted which would enable HLF to forward the remaining grant.

11. Social Secretary's Report

PHS - is organising a trip to Windsor in July. The payment for the Honfleur trip is due by 17 March. BH - The Wine and Wisdom has 82 bookings for 14 tables and everything has been organised. The Christmas lunch has been booked for the first Sunday in December and emailed Stephen Yarrow for the entertainment. Other names given for the entertainment if needed.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 7 February were circulated to members before this meeting. PS went through each item followed by a discussion on the various topics. BH gave an update on the Leisure Centre: after a short discussion it was agreed that no further action is needed. DL thanked BH for the work she has done. MW gave an update on the Muge House site. DDC were contacted and it has now been cleared.

13. Press Secretary's Report

TS reported an increase in Dover Express's Dover news coverage possibly as a result of our criticism.

14. Editor's Report

The next Newsletter should be available early March.

15. Publications

MW had reassured John Peverley that his book on the Western Heights was not out of print. Suggest it should be put on the society's website and where it can be purchased.

16. AOB

AS - Details of Francis Cockburn will be on the Dover Historian website from Saturday. MMcF - showed a leaflet of the Dover Pageant, and there is a temporary exhibition in the museum. The history of the pageants is on the Dover Society website.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 9 March 2017**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.