

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

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Terry Sutton.

1. **Apologies:** Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Mike McFarnell, Pat Sherratt, Mike Weston

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

Our MP, Michael Elphicke, has been contacted to obtain the first Friday he is free to talk to us. To date no response has been received.

Suggested that Gertrude Toland be put onto the list for a Blue Plaque. Agreed.

4. Chairman's Report

The Society's response to the Waterloo Crescent Conservation Area appraisal has been sent.

The Society has also responded to the proposal of an East Kent Council Merger.

DL and JC attended the KLAC/KFAS conference about the proposed East Kent merger. An outline of the areas covered and discussed was given by DL.

TS and DL met the Manager of Dover Castle and put forward the idea of a glass lift from the seafront to the castle. The idea was considered but rejected because the White Cliffs cannot be interfered with.

5. Secretary's Report

AGM - confirmed that Jenny Olpin is willing to stand on the committee. JC did ask John Morgan to stand but he declined. No one else has come forward for selection on to the committee, but Deborah Gasking will be approached..

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

£30.00 donation

£20.00 paid into the Publication fund from the sale of the Town Hall booklets

£50.00 paid into the Town Hall fund from money taken for the Town Hall tours

The monies paid out in this period are:

£15.00 for an affiliation fee to Dover "Walkers are Welcome"

The Wine and Wisdom evening made a profit of £84.62. Part of this profit £30.00 came from a 50% refund of our fee to St Mary's PCC due to a complaint being made as to the poor state of cleanliness of the hall and in particular the toilets.

Our normal practice is to give a donation out of the profits to Clive Taylor's preferred charity, The Crabble Corn Mill Trust. Last year we gave £70.00 and the year before it was £75.00. It is suggested that we give £70.00 again, if the committee agreed. Agreed.

No payment made from the River Dour Partnership so the amount being held is still £17,848.49.

The Bluebird Trail fund paid out £10,340 last month. At the end of February the fund was £2,501.56 in debt to the Society. However a letter from the HLF dated 22 February confirms the final grant payment has been approved and a payment of £3,279 should be received shortly. DL confirmed payment has been received.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have three new members:

Mr Joseph and Mrs Sarah Yarrow

Mrs Constance Pierce

Last allocated number 1285, total number of members 466.

8. Projects

Cowgate

- The maintenance is up to date and all the strimmers have been serviced at a cost of £120.00

Plaques

- There is now a revised list and will be circulated to the committee members with the minutes of this meeting.
- The Millennium Plaque Trail leaflet is out of print. As soon as a new plaque is put up, the leaflet becomes out of date. A discussion followed and a few ideas were put forward. It was agreed that AL to update leaflet in a simpler format and in colour. A more detailed version to be put on the Society's website.

River Dour

- A meeting to be held on 14 March regarding a regeneration scheme with Coastal Communities. This could be outside the Coastal Communities remit but if the river becomes a tourist attraction it may be considered for funding.

Bluebird Trail

- The final report to HLF has been accepted and the final payment has been made. There is a small surplus and as agreed part of this amount will be used to pay the increased Society's audit fees. Webmaster training has been arranged for those involved with the trail.

9. Refurbishment

This month's committee meeting has been deferred.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

The result of HFL round1 application should be known during March.

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

11. Social Secretary's Report

BH has taken over the organising of the trip to Windsor in July but cannot go on the coach trip itself. A volunteer is required for the day's journey to oversee it. A flyer has been produced for the Windsor trip for insertion in the next newsletter.

Stephen Yarrow has confirmed he is available for the entertainment at the Christmas lunch.

There is problem with hiring glasses from Morrisons and we need approximately 100 to 120. A short discussion followed and it was suggested to enquire at St Martin's Emmanus charity premises where they have a lot of glasses for sale or an alternative source up to £120. Agreed for BH to pursue..

A further discussion followed about the cost of the food and drink for the Wine and Wisdom event and whether to consider cutting the cost in order to make a profit. It was agreed the quality and quantity of the food should remain and to consider charging more. Agreed to increase the cost of ticket to £10.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 7 March were circulated to members before this meeting. BH went through each item followed by a discussion on the various topics. The Town Centre Property Scheme requires further clarification and it was agreed that DL and JC arrange a meeting with Alison Burton for further information.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Continuing to get topics in local paper.

14. Editor's Report

The next Newsletter is at the printers and will be available shortly.

A discussion followed about putting a whole newsletter on the Society's website. Not the latest one, but one that is about 2 years old. Also to put a snippet of the latest one for viewing with the proviso of becoming a member to obtain the full copy of the newsletter. There is a need to consult with MMcF regarding the capacity available on the website.

The cost of sending a hard copy of the newsletter abroad (but only 4) is getting expensive. Agreed to offer the newsletter by email in PDF form to all postal recipients. AL to take forward.

15. Publications

Where to obtain a copy of the Western Heights publication is now on the Society's website.

16. AOB

DL - A researcher of Hubert de Burgh, requested a tour of the Town Hall. As the tours are not yet available DL gave a personal tour. A donation of £100 was later received..

JC - Coastal Communities agree to match funds with DTC assessment scheme for the Roman Painted House. It is agreed that four members of the Coastal Communities group look at the assessment and the governance is properly considered. As The Dover Society is one of the groups TS nominated. JC to be one of the members.

TS - Biggin Hall has been refurbished by the Rotary Club and is now open.

GH - Attended a meeting in the St Mary's Parish Hall and the seating was rearranged sideways, with people with hearing difficulties being sat at the front. It was found to be easier to hear and see the presentation projected on to the large wall. After a short discussion it was agreed to try this format of seating at the next Society's meeting. BH to arrange.

AS - suggested a Speaker from the Historic Church Conservation Trust that take over churches no longer in use. There are 17 in Kent. Agreed to send information to DL.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 13 April 2017**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.