

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 April 2017
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Jeremy Cope (Vice Chairman), Sheila Cope, Beverley Hall, Alan Lee, Mike McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. **Apologies:** Derek Leach (Chairman), Glyn Hale, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Pat Sherratt

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

It was agreed at the last meeting to buy glasses, but this is not now necessary as they can be loaned to the Society by the Parish Hall.

4. Chairman's Report

DL and JC discussed the Love Dover project with Alison Burton as requested at the last meeting. Details of the meeting were circulated to committee members prior to the meeting. A discussion followed about what should be reported by Chair as part of his report at the AGM. Agreed Chair would only provide details of our contacts. He would not give an opinion. Members would be told that a talk will be given by one of the trustees to the Society in the autumn. Proposed by TS, seconded by SC, carried forward.

Following Tim Waggott's presentation at the last meeting and the problem about the Goodwin Sands licence for dredging, JC and I thought that the Society should urge the MMO to grant a licence as soon as possible. A draft letter, already circulated to the committee from John Gerrard, member and former Director of Engineering DHB, will be sent subject to the committee's approval. A short discussion followed. It was agreed to suggest small amendments to ensure it is factually correct.

An email has been received about a French film maker who wants to make a documentary about the refugee crisis in Europe. As Dover is so close to Calais he wants to interview people in Dover about their views and anybody else who lived here during W.W.II. It was agreed by the committee that the Society should not get involved in this.

TS gave a report on the talk given by Paul Watkins at the Rotary Club on the merger of the East Kent Councils.

5. Secretary's Report

BH and DL attended a meeting on the Waterfront Masterplan, Stage II. BH gave a comprehensive account of the meeting and of the plan. At the present time it is still commercially sensitive and their request for confidentiality needs to be respected.

DL has suggested a small working group to comment within the next 3 weeks, before the full public consultation. Agreed BH, DL, JC and MW to form group. BH to set up.

AGM - confirmed Deborah Gasking has been approached and agreed to be nominated.

At the last Society meeting the new seating arrangement was preferred by the majority attending.

Agreed to keep the format for the next meeting and to confirm at the AGM if this is still the preferred option.

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:

£1238.00 subscriptions for the next financial year 2017/2018

£300.00 donation

£179.00 for Newsletter advertising

The monies paid out in this period are:

£311.39 to Bluefin Insurance Services for our insurance for this financial year

£695.00 to Adam Printers for the production of the March Newsletter

£55.84 postage for sending out Newsletter to members out of the area.
£36.36 for printing costs
£74.30 postage costs, buying postage stamps prior to increase due at the end of March
£70.00 donated to The Crabble Corn Mill Trust, as agreed at the last meeting.
£119.29 paid from the Projects fund for the overhaul of the strimmers used at Cowgate.
£37.00 to Royal British Legion for 2 wreaths used by the Society during the year.
£25.00 paid from the Town Hall fund for badges for the Dover Greeters.

The March meeting made a loss of £54.85. The raffle netted £74.00. The cost of 3 DHB members meals cost £72.00.

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

The Bluebird Trail fund received £3279.00 at the beginning of March from the Lottery funding and the amount remaining in the fund is now £777.44.

The financial statement for the last financial year has been circulated to committee members prior to the AGM. The report was accepted.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

We have one new member:

Mrs Jacy Marks, from Brighton, joint membership with an existing member.

Last allocated number 1286, total number of members 465.

8. Projects

Cowgate

- The maintenance is up to date. We have a new volunteer but he is not a member. MW confirmed he will need to be one for insurance purposes. To be arranged.
- **Plaques**
- Gould Plaque, the Gould family has responded and are pleased on the blue plaque proposal. It will take several months to find a suitable location with permission in Woolcomber Street and to design and manufacture the plaque.
- We are waiting to hear from the Spain brothers on use of their St James Street property. If we have agreement to this location the property is listed and we will need appropriate permission.

River Dour

- The River Tales project is getting under way.
- Plans for the river include:
 - Lorne Road investigation. Problems include sorting out funding invoice problems with EA and need to find a qualified person to carry out survey.
 - Overall plans for the river, Marina White is leading with inputs from JC and Deborah Gasking (DG). Funding is required for qualified help in preparing the plan and resulting funding of projects.
 - DG is investigating funding to restore the Barton Path railings.
 - SERT is a key player with lower Dour environmental improvement and fish passes.

Bluebird Trail

- The webmaster training has been held for 5 people, including AL, MMcF and DL.

9. Refurbishment

- MMcF attended a meeting on rough sleepers on 5 April and gave an account of the meeting to the committee members.
- Activity noted at the Congregation Church shell.
- JO is has been chasing up the cleaning of the Discovery Centre and is making progress.
- There is still rubbish in the Town Centre doorways and Mandy Pile to be contacted about it.
- MMcF described his work on aluminium can recycling in the town.
- DDC has two extra litter enforcement officers via a commercial organisation.

- JO and John Cotton have a meeting with the Police on 18 April, any questions to be sent to JO.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

The result of HFL round1 application will not be known until May.
The Guided tours will restart for the summer season.

11. Social Secretary's Report

The Windsor trip has 11 people booked and 9 have paid.

At the AGM meeting to be held on 24 April, the speaker Kate Pinnock, was to due to talk about the next steps in the Town Hall project. As the HLF decision will not now be known until May, this presentation has been postponed until autumn/winter, assuming a positive outcome, which is by no means certain. Instead the topic will be Deal Royal Marines Heritage Trail project.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 4 April were circulated to members before this meeting. BH went through each item followed by a discussion on the various topics. BH has been unable to find the owner of the land where the new Leisure Centre to due to be built. TS suggested looking on the planning application, the owner should be noted. Action: TS to take forward.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Continuing to get topics in local paper.

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. AOB

DL - A reminder that the Zeebrugge Day will be on Sunday 23 April.

MW - AGM arrangements

BH - received email from MoD about the 60th India Regiment memorial and asking who is responsible for maintaining it. The committee confirmed it is not The Dover Society, and suggest they contact the regiment. BH to respond.

AS - attended White Cliffs Tourist meeting at Deal and gave an update. TS is no longer Chair and this role has been taken over by Graham Hutchison.

AL - requested details of membership changes to Refurbishment and Planning committees in time for the next Newsletter.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 11 May 2017**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.