

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 14 September 2017
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Deborah Gasking, Glynn Hale, Beverley Hall, Patricia Hooper-Sherratt, Mike McFarnell, Jean Marsh, Jenny Olpin, Pat Sherratt, Alan Sencicle, Terry Sutton.

1. **Apologies:** Alan Lee, Mike Weston

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 were accepted as correct.

3. Matters Arising

Recruitment of a new Treasurer for the Executive Committee was discussed. It was decided to ask MW to put down everything he does and see if it can be split into two separate posts if necessary..

MW has requested the timeline from St Mary's Parish Hall, item to be carried forward.

TS drafted a letter for DL to send to the Dover Mercury, to date no response.

The musicians for the Tram Crash Centenary were donated a £50 fee.

The planning application for a 300 lorry park has been withdrawn.

4. Chairman's Report

DL, JC and PS met Roger Walton on the 1 August. The topics discussed were:

Listed buildings and Old St James.

Mill House in Lorne Road conversion, S215 put on hold pending planning application.

Rough sleepers in the town, to keep the town clear and provide shelter and this is being worked on with close partnership with Porchlight.

Litter in unoccupied shop doorways, Veolia should be looking after this.

Dover town centre when DTIZ units are open, 50% has been let to existing town centre retailers, 2 to new retailers, 2 under offer, 4 available. DDC has no plan for empty shops.

The traffic pollution on the A20 has a high reading, with TAPS it has not gone away.

Town Hall, the HLF round1 application has been rejected due to lack of money but we have been urged to come back with the same project sharing it with another major fund at a later date. The consultants are making contact with organisations to join the project.

Castle Street and change of use, agreed not to allow one bedroom flats due to the amount of rubbish it will create and possible anti social behaviour.

Parks Blue Flag award and why DDC did not receive one. It appears DDC did not enter.

Parking on pavements, this is not for DDC to enforce and is a police matter. **Action:** JO to take up the matter again with the Police.

HMO's discussed and requires greater monitoring of them by DDC, especially when the HMO licence is due for renewal. A letter to Roger about this matter has been forwarded to Mike Davis, the Finance and Housing Officer, to date no acknowledgment has been received.

River Tram Crash Commemoration centenary was very successful with over 70 attending.

Highlights of the PCF meeting on the 4 September were circulated to members before the meeting. DL briefly went through each item.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

6. Financial Report

The financial reports for the last two months were circulated to the committee prior to the meeting.

The monies received in this period are:

£38.00 subscriptions for this financial year 2017/2018

£63.00 from Newsletter advertising

£28.00 to the publication fund from the sale of seven Town Hall booklets

£145.00 to Town Hall fund, money taken for Town Hall tours

The monies paid out in this period are:

£695.00 paid to Adams Printers to produce the July Newsletter

£17.56 for postage of Newsletter to out of area members

£25.00 from the Town Hall fund for advertising in The Kent History Federation Newsletter

£50.00 from Miscellaneous fund paid to Whyte Studio for hosting costs of the Society's website

Under donations £50.00 was donated to "Dover Tales" at the commemoration of the centenary of the River Tram Crash. The Society was given a £30.00 donation by the family of the tram driver.

An application was made in July to HMRC for gift aid reclaim for £608.25. The claim was met in full with an additional £2.55 interest, making a total of £610.80. At the end of this financial year £62.50 of this reclaim goes into the Projects fund and £548.30 into the general fund.

Bookings have started to be paid for the Christmas Lunch and £400 has been banked.

No movement on the River Dour Partnership Fund, therefore the amount held by us remains at £22,848.49.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are 17 new members. They are:

Mr David Todd

Mr David McRoberts from Deal

Mr Paul Skelton from Temple Ewell

Mr Barry Vaughan, Riverdale, River

Ms Angela Upton, Samphire Court

Rev. Dr John Walker and Rev. Canon Jocelyn Walker of St Mary's, Dover

Mr David Hawkins, Aycliffe

Chris and Mrs Stephanie Precious, Aycliffe

Mr Ian Palmer, Kings Road

Mr W and Mrs P Osbourne, Ode Road

Mrs Aileen Devonport, Priory Hill

Mr Nicholas and Mrs Rachael Winther, Priory Lodge

Mr Neil Hamilton, Big Local, Charlton Centre

Last allocated number is 1309, total number of members 459.

The Society Marketing group, SC, MMcF, BH, and JO met on 23 August and JO gave details of the meeting. The membership of the group was agreed and the group is likely to be time limited and could possibly evolve.

DG gave an update on new banner. There was a discussion about the current banners and it was agreed to progress with another style of banner to reflect the diversity of the occasion.

SC had written to the three member applicants from the Tram Event to advise them that membership monies were due. Membership would only be free until the next membership year if it was late into that year, therefore SC confirmed the monies were due.

Following the Tram Crash event it was considered that a cultural element to the Society's remit could be of interest. It was agreed to refer to the Executive to discuss whether promotion of Art, Music, Poetry etc might be another element of the Society with respect to the Newsletter and perhaps events. **BH would look at our aims and objectives.**

Discussion about during the past thirty years there has been members who were interested in different cultural aspects and these were supported by the Society.

There is the Zeebrugge event next year and we have become aware that Dover District Council are planning to commemorate the event too. It was suggested that the Society liaise with DDC.

Discussed local press promotion. Agreed to speak to TS re profile of the Society. Discussion about a press officer and perhaps suggesting that TS has a protege to train and share contacts etc.

Discussed types of membership and stakeholders such as DHB, Dover Town Team, Town Council, Companies and organisations.

Subscriptions - discussed Canterbury and Chichester Society's membership fees, such as Corporate, Family, Senior, Life, gold/silver/bronze. SC briefed the meeting on the current Society fund well-being. BH considered that this position could be perceived from different aspects especially as the "liability" costs, such as the Bluebird Trail, are considerable. It was therefore considered that currently that membership should remain at £6.

Discussed the opportunity at Society Monthly meetings for members to raise issues that they may want raised for discussion. It was mentioned that this had happened at previous meetings. It was considered the opportunity to invite members and non members to join and raise issues at meeting could be perhaps at the two monthly meetings and facilitated by Executive Members. It was then considered that feedback could briefly be given at the next meeting.

DG suggested that we target an area, such as Elms Vale Road with Newsletters and an invitation to join the Society. This pilot will require approximately 50 back copies of the Society's Newsletter. SC has located a Dover Society poster which will be suitable for Jill Sergeant for the St Mary's Hall foyer, which will be forwarded to her.

A short discussion followed and it was agreed that the suggested pilot to go ahead and to look at the overall objectives of the Society. The meeting of this group will be on 24 October.

8. Projects

Cowgate

- The maintenance is up to date.
- There are still tents with occupants in the cemetery and DG will report on the litter being generated. DDC to be contacted again.
- David Todd has joined the Society and paid his membership fee but yet to complete the application form.

Plaques

- The Ottaway plaque has now been received and was shown to the committee members. Regarding the launch of the plaque, it was decided to wait until the scaffolding has been removed from the building before looking at dates. A discussion followed as to who will launch the plaque. It was agreed to talk to Barry O'Brien about this.
- The wording for the Toland plaque has yet to be decided and then agreed the Clyde House owners.

River Dour

- KCC has confirmed they are responsible for the maintenance of Barton Path railings. However this will probably not mean restoration of the existing railings. DG and JC will take this forward with KCC to try and get confirmation of what may be expected from KCC and how can it be incorporated into any restoration work.
- On any funding from Dover Society MW has made the point that our funds are subject to a potential liability of £10K in respect of the Blue Bird Trail and this has to be borne in mind when considering any financial help from the Society.
- River Tales, unable to get a real response from the Society's insurers on covering any liability for performances and projects so that a separate policy is being taken out as a cost of approximately £200, to be taken out of the River Dour Fund.

9. Refurbishment

- The next meeting of the sub-committee for refurbishment will be on Monday 18 September.
- The Parks and Open Spaces maintenance has been taken back in house by DDC. The consensus is that there has been a positive improvement in this area.
- JO reported on the meeting with Kent Highways and DTC regarding the right of way between Bleriot Memorial and Cliff path with an extension to include a circular walk around the Castle. There is work in progress but the steps are proving hazardous with a safety issue. KCC has no money for direction signage but DTC could do some signage. Due to hazardous nature of this path it was decided the Society should not get involved.
- Contact JO with any comments to take forward to the IPAG meeting.

The Blue Bird Trail was publicised at the Tram Crash event, the Dover Regatta and at the Rotary club. Over 5000 booklets have been given out.

10. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

The guided Town Hall tours have been busy including a coachload from Sandhurst village, near Rye. For the Heritage day over 100 attended. Enquiry for a school visit from Guston suitable for year 4.

11. Social Secretary's Report

BH - to date 26 have booked for the Christmas Lunch and suggest it is mentioned at the October meeting.

PHS - has not been in a position to arrange anything but will do something in the new year.

12. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Wednesday 6 September could not be circulated to members before this meeting. The topics covered were:

DTIZ

The latest retail unit taken was by Superdrug who are already located in the town centre. This now means eight of the ten retail units are currently town centre shops. Only Next and Trespass are new outlets to Dover. There is a concern as to the future of the existing town shopping area. The cladding on buildings are not subject to the "Grenfell concerns" as they are under 17 metres high and have fire breaks. The Cinema complex is subject to separate fire regulations that are being complied with.

DHB & Seafont

The statement made at the PCF meeting on 4 September on the progress of the DHB project is a real concern if the Marina and waterfront development is not delivered.

Section 215

There is a visible improvement in areas close to the DTIZ development. Possible future S215, as requested by JC, regarding Mill House. This is possibly the building requesting planning permission for conversion to nine supported living units, if so suggest we await outcome of planning application (DOV/17/00899) that is shown as Ryder House.

Parking at Dover Priory Station

No further progress since the last meeting. PS to contact DDC again about this and the Westmount site.

Castle Avenue TPO/Conservation Area

MW sent a list of trees in Castle Avenue and made a request to the Tree Preservation Officer for a TPO on a copper beech tree in the back garden of 67 Castle Avenue.

BH in contact with the Conservation Officer regarding the flint/brick walls. PS suggested a site visit with the Conservation Officer is a possible way forward.

Conservation Areas

There is a need to start Conservation Area appraisals and a small team is required.

Buckland Mill Development

Noted previous response so PS will contact DDC to see if a site meeting with the Developer and HCA can be arranged.

Castle Street Planning Applications

Noted the latest application (DOV/17/00903 and 00904) regarding 27 Castle Street. This is the first of the four "Bradleys Buildings" recently sold at auction. If the density of accommodation is used in this and the other "Bradley Buildings" it could result in 40 to 50 people residing in these four properties and considered to be over intensification for Castle Street. Our preference is either single family residential or quality maisonettes.

DTC Town Centre Property Scheme (Love Dover)

To remove to the inactive list.

Buckland Hospital and future Intermediate care facilities

PS updated his FOI regarding the £1.4 million KCC secured from an auction of the old Buckland Hospital. There is no valuation report from EKHUFT who sold to KCC for £375K. Noted the new "Dementia Village" and interesting that £3 million is EU funding.

Leisure Centre Development

Noted the plans have been approved.

Dover Waterfront Masterplan Development

Nothing new to report since the last meeting.

New DDC Local Plan Project Advisory Group

PS outlined the purpose of this group.

Traffic congestion on the 29 July, correspondence to DDC and MP. Greater need for co-ordination.

Damaged roundabout on the Folkestone Road/York Street junction, correspondence with DDC/KCC. Notified from KCC the work scheduled for 6 to 8 weeks.

Beacon Church (DOV/17/00704), over intensification, parking, rubbish etc. To oppose.

Noted work, renovation/extension of Bushy Rough House.

Dover - Deal road needs to be upgraded. The most likely outcome is for a road connection from Deal to the existing dual carriageway - A256.

Noted (DOV/17/00595 (Kings Hall) and (DOV/17/00645) (Worthington Street) both refused planning. The Dover Society objected to both applications.

The old Post Office sorting office site to be developed by McCarthy and Stone for 69 retirement homes for the over 70's. Looking forward to seeing the detailed planning application.

13. Press Secretary's Report

Some items do get into the local paper.

Coastal Communities

A meeting of the Dover Coastal Community Team was held on 4 September.

An update was given on the reasons why Dover had failed to get financial help in round four of the national competition for funds from the Crown Estates.

Preparations are now in hand to prepare bids for round five in the national scheme but the government has warned no funds will be available until 2019, although application should be made before then.

It was evident there is a clash of ideas over the future of The Roman Painted House. Several members of the team are very much in favour of applying for funds to create a fresh entrance to the Painted House via the Market Square and over the "Roman Lawn". Brian Philp, who manages the Painted House, rejects this idea. He wants the main entrance to be from York Street or from New Street. He says the Painted House Trust has three schemes pending to refurbish the existing centre, to provide an education centre and to carry out archaeological digs. "We are likely to succeed in obtaining funds. Our scheme costs less than £500,000," he told the group.

14. Editor's Report

Nothing to report.

15. Publications

Nothing to report.

16. AOB

DG - a new member has made contact about the path at the top Priory Hill that has been blocked off due to anti social behaviour. This is no longer the case and the residents want access to the path again. After a short discussion it was agreed that BH to draft a letter to KCC.

GH - Newsletter to advertise coming events.

JO - suggested a letter to Roger Walton on the improvement clearing litter on the main trunk roads. This was not supported by AS as there is still a problem on other roads. DL **would send an appropriate letter.**

MMcF - requested support for the Dover Festival Programme with a donation of £30. This was agreed.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 12 October 2017**, at 7.30 pm at St Mary's Parish Centre.

