

The Dover Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee, held on Thursday 13 February
2020
at St Mary's Parish Centre, Dover

Present: Derek Leach (Chairman), Jeremy Cope, Sheila Cope, Deborah Gasking, Alan Lee, Jean Marsh, Alan Sencicle, Terry Sutton, Mike Weston.

1. Apologies: Glyn Hale, Beverley Hall, Graham Margery, Jenny Olpin, William Parker-Gorman, Pat Sherratt

2. Minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

Paul Skelton has agreed to digitise the Committee minutes to be put online. A set of hard copy minutes kept by Jack Woolford are available from 1986 to 2001. DL has hard copies from 2001 to 2011 and electronic versions thereafter.

The donated archives have been passed to AL to scan if necessary. TS borrowed photo copies of books. AL has listed the paperwork and is going through the photographs TS assisting in identifying the various people in the photographs.

The organisers of the Walking Festival intend to include the Blue Plaque trail and have been given the original trails plus the later plaque details.

The Zeebrugge event is on 23 April, St Georges day. The arrangements are the same as previous years. The coach leaves at 10.20 as normal for 3 or 4 attending. DL to arrange for wreath.

AL informed the committee that VE day is on the 8 May and requests to close any roads for street parties have to be submitted to DDC by 6 March.

The next Port and Community Forum meeting is on 27 February due and DHB would be asked for 2019 traffic statistics, opening date for Marina Curve and resiting of Prince of Wales artefacts.

5. Secretary's Report

The members to be asked urgently if they wish to stand for the Executive Committee. JC has drafted an appeal for members to come forward for running of the Society.

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:

£16.00 subscriptions for the next financial year 2020/21

Since enabling payments to be made by BACS it has been found that some new members are not sending money to our account and therefore we have membership dues unpaid despite SC chasing them up. It was suggested that the Society's bank account details be put on the form so that money can be transferred in without any delay. SC to take forward.

The January meeting made a small loss of £4.08.

To date there are 14 tables booked for the Wine and Wisdom evening on Monday 17 February.

The River Dour Partnership had no outgoings from the fund this month so the amount being held in their fund is still £11,454.40.

The Bluebird Trail Fund remains the same at £777.44.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

There are 6 new members this month they are:

Mr Andrew and Mrs Danie Page, Park Road, Dover, Mrs Janet and Mr Paul Dagys
Mark Kerr and Joan Idris, St Radigunds Road

Last allocated number is 1393. Total number of members is 467.

8. Webmaster

Nothing to report.

9. Marketing Group Report

Nothing to report

10. Back Office

Nothing to report

11. Projects

Cowgate - weather is against the working party at the moment but the grass is tidy.

Plaques - Castle Hill House, photographs produced to show where the plaque is to go.

There was a discussion about the second proposed plaque for Anne Pratt who lived in Castle Street. It was suggested to go ahead with this one at the same time as the Castle Hill one. Action: DG to draft wording for plaque.

TS - met Lord Boyce, Patron of the Submariners Association, and told him about the plaque for Petty Officer Gould, VC to be erected in Dover and asked what the delay is. It appears he does know about this but will make enquires. He was informed if the Submariners Association were not going to proceed with a plaque the Dover Society will do it.

12. Refurbishment

The minutes of the Refurbishment meeting held on Monday 27 January were circulated to members of the executive prior to this meeting. Some points were raised by DL.

13. Town Hall Refurbishment and Guided Tours

Project – the draft management plan has been finalized

The Activity plan during the construction period is in the November Newsletter. Some of the comments made suggest it is not for the majority but there are many opportunities in it for everyone. There has also been a consultation by the Interpretation consultants with Town Hall Guides and DTC. There was concern about the lack of provision for foreign visitors. Whilst the Town Hall will be open every day for self guided tours if possible it will need careful management to work around any rooms in use.

14. Social Secretary's Report

There are 14 tables booked for 84 people for the Wine and Wisdom evening. Need volunteers to help to set up tables etc at 4.30 pm. The Christmas Feast has been booked for 6 December 2020. The entertainment to be considered (ideas needed) and booked.

15. Planning

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2 January were circulated to members of the executive prior to this meeting. MW went through the various items and brought up to date any planning issues.

16. Press Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

17. Editor's Report

The Newsletter will be out by end of March. The Chairman's report, agenda etc will be put in as a stuffer in time for the AGM.

16. Publications

Still holding 500 copies of Western Heights book. "Pebbles" and the Dover Museum to be contacted to see if they are wanted.

17. AOB

DL - In preparation of the AGM need for members of committee to confirm if they are willing to be nominated again or wish to stand down. JC to put out message.

MW – Requesting volunteers to help put out the chairs for the March meeting. There were 3 volunteers MW to organise.

AS - WW1 memorial airfields, Swingate and Capel plaques will be done this year subject to planning permission.

TS - Message from The Remembrance Trust, whose objective is to find pre 1914 military graves, to restore and to them keep in good order. JM is involved in the research as to where the graves are in Dover.

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 12 March 2020, at 7.30 pm** at St Mary's Parish Centre.