

WALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walmer Parish Council held on Wednesday, 13 January 2021 via Zoom Video Conference.

Present Councillors:

Cllrs Murray (Chair), M Eddy, P Heath, C Weale, D Thompson, Mrs S Le Chevalier, Miss A Herring

Officers Present:

Kevin Lynch (Clerk) Ms S Plews (Assistant Clerk)

6050. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Lonsdale, Cllr D Symons, Cllr Mrs M Beard-Gould, Cllr B Gardner – technical issues

6051. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

6052. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

To remind those present of the following: -

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the council, committees and sub committees is established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014. This is in addition to the rights of the press and public to attend such meetings.

While those attending meetings are deemed to have consented to the filming, recording or broadcasting of meetings, those exercising the rights to film, record and broadcast must respect the rights of other people attending under the Data Protection Act 2018.

Any person or organisation choosing to film, record or broadcast any meeting of the Council or a committee is responsible for any claims or other liability from them so doing.

6053. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Murray reported:

(i) The Department of Housing, Communities & Local Government had not responded on the Walmer Parish mortgage request.

(ii) That the Locum Clerk was working less hours than the previous Clerk and that therefore capacity was somewhat diminished. Council and Committees should, bearing in mind the

commitment to serving the residents of Walmer and the pandemic, prioritise their work in order to facilitate the best service possible.

(iii) That he had informally attended a meeting with a QC to discuss a Judicial Review (JR) of the Cross Road Decision. The outcome was that there was no case for a JR. If further action was warranted that would have to be via the Local Government Ombudsman procedures

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note.

6054. MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.

6055. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

None

6056. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF WALMER

Members agreed to suspend the meeting for up to 15 minutes to allow discussion with members of the electorate of the Parish of Walmer present at the meeting. No members of the public asked to speak.

Cllr Beer (as a District Councillor) briefed Members on a Dover District Council food poverty project and the Deal Town Council cycle friendly project.

6057. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

- i) Members had seen previously circulated information from the PCSO indicating that there had been no substantive crime in the Dover Area. Cllr Thompson agreed to report to DDC a burnt-out vehicle in the Parish.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note

- ii) Monthly Surgeries: currently suspended

6058. PLANNING COMMITTEE

- i) Members received the reports of the Chairman and the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 08 December 2020 and on 05 January 2021.

CLlr Herring briefed Members on the apparent inability of DDC enforcement to take action on damage or destruction of trees.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note

6059. HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- i) Members received the reports of the Vice-Chairman concerning the appointment of the Locum Clerk and recruiting a permanent Clerk.

RESOLVED: To proceed with process of appointing the Locum and continue with the process of recruiting a permanent Clerk.

6060. REPORT OF THE LOCUM CLERK

Nothing to Report

6061. FINANCIAL ISSUES

- i) Members received the reports of the Responsible Financial Officer and considered payments and orders as detailed.

RESOLVED: That the payments and income for 07 December be authorised.

RESOLVED: That the financial position, as detailed in the bank reconciliation, of the Council on 7 January 2021 be noted.

- ii) Members to agree a date for the final F&GP budget meeting now that the final information has been received from DDC regarding the council tax and precept demand for 2021/22.

RESOLVED: Members agreed that the next Financial and General Purposes meeting would be on 21 January 2021.

- iii) Members received the Independent Internal Auditor's Interim Audit Plan with Comments and Findings for the year ending 31 March 2021 and consider any action necessary.

RESOLVED: To note the excellent six-monthly internal audit report and Councillors thanked staff for their work.

6062. KALC

Members received information on the Community Award Scheme 2021 and consider nominating a member of the community for an award.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note and/or nominate members of the Community.

6063. CO-OPTION

- i) Members received an update on the process to fill the two current vacancies on the Council – closing date 14 January 2021.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to defer this matter until after the closing date for applications and revisit at a later date in February.

6064. LAND AT STATION ROAD

- i) Members considered the two quotes from the local solicitors who would carry out the transfer of ownership.

RESOLVED: Resolved to accept the quote of £150.00 to £200.00 + VAT from Hardmans & Co.

- ii) Members were briefed by Cllr Eddy on the potential use for electronic charging on the above land.

RESOLVED: To approach KCC for support with funding for electric chargers.

6065. SEED FUNDING FOR SAFE BICYCLE LOCK-UP AT WALMER STATION

Members were briefed by Cllr Eddy.

RESOLVED: That the request for partial funding (£6000.00) be put to the Finance and General-Purpose Committee for a recommendation to Council.

6066. COMMUNITY HOUSING AT ALBANY AND YORK

Members received an update from Clague's and consider an additional fee.

RESOLVED: To agree the request from Clague's for additional £750.00 for DDC preapplication costs.

6067. GENERAL DATA AND PROTECTION

Members discussed and developed a policy for the recording of on-line council meetings including retention period.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk draft a policy paper on the recording of Zoom meetings.

6068. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE (GPC)

Members received the report on GPC.

RESOLVED: to re-adopt, once a new qualified Clerk is appointed.

6069. OFFICE REVIEW

Members considered the report submitted.

RESOLVED: To note that the office review had been postponed and the company so informed.

6070. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 03 February 2021 at 7 pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed:

Date: