

WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Parish Council held on Wednesday, 8th September 2021 at Deal Parochial C of E School, Walmer.

Present Councillors:

Cllr J Murray (Chair), Cllr M Eddy (Vice-Chair), Cllr T Byfield, Cllr Mrs S Fisher, Cllr P Jull, Cllr D Thompson. Cllr Mrs S Le Chevalier, Cllr B Gardner, Cllr J Lonsdale, Cllr P St Ange, and Cllr C. Weale

Officers Present:

Richard Styles, Clerk

6210. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr G Bearman. Cllr Miss A Herring. Cllr P Heath. Cllr Mrs M Beard-Gould.

6211. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6212. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The Chairman read out the Council statement and policy on openness and transparency.

6213. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr James Murray reported the following: -

- Office closure for 2 weeks following the move to No 62, The Strand.
- A review of all contracts held by Walmer PC.
- Complaints received about the conduct of the Chairman.
- Brocante – Successful and the event format and date will be reviewed by the events Cttee.
- Asst Clerk, Mrs Plews, has left WPC and the Chairman thanked her for her past work and commitment to the Council.

6214. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 7th July 2021.

RESOLVED: That both set of minutes be approved.

Proposed by: Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by: Cllr Fisher.

6215. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

- Minute 6206: Thermal Imaging camera. The Council agreed to go ahead with the purchase of this instrument which will cost up to £1,000, and that the Climate emergency working group will recommend the appropriate model and how it will be deployed.

Proposed by: Cllr Eddy,

Seconded by Cllr Lonsdale.

RESOLVED

6216. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF WALMER

- i) None of the members of the public present wished to speak.
- ii) Cllr Bond gave a report on DDC and KCC matters as follows:
 - Progress was being made to resolve speeding in Station Road and that temporary traffic lights would be fitted at the junction of Station Road and Dover Road. These lights may act as a trial to something more permanent.
 - He urged the public to respond to the consultation on HWRC's in Kent.

RESOLVED: Note the report.

6217. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

- i) Cllr Weale as WPC's police liaison Cllr gave the following report.
 - PCSO Herod is leaving Deal/Walmer for Thanet.
 - A community speed watch group will need to be trained and issued with equipment that is either borrowed or purchased, as a way of increasing public awareness and cooperation in reducing speeds in Walmer
 - Work is going on to reduce anti-social behaviour in various parts of Walmer and the details will go on the website.
 - He invited WPC (now WTC) to apply for some of his members grant to help fund a speed camera.

RESOLVED: Report received and noted.

- ii) Councillor Surgeries: the matter will be reviewed at the October meeting. Chairman asked for comments beforehand.

6218. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

Members received the reports and agreed minutes as follows:

- a. Amenities + Environment – **Nothing reported.**
- b. Finance + General Purposes -**Agreed minutes 16th June 2021.**
- c. Walmer in Bloom – **Agreed minutes 29th June 2021.**
- d. Events – **Agreed minutes 5th July 2021.**
- e. Planning – **Agreed minutes 15th June 2021.**
- f. Climate Emergency working group – **Agreed report 11th August 2021.**

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note the reports.

Proposed by: Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by: Cllr Murray.

6219. REPORT OF THE CLERK

This item was taken with the financial report.

6220. FINANCIAL REPORT

- The Clerk outlined various items that had come to his attention such as the contract for the copier/printer and Insurance for No 8 The Strand. These matters had been resolved, but that he and the Chairman of the F+GP Cttee would review all current council contracts and make sure they are fit for purpose.
- The cash balances held by the council were described and that work was ongoing regarding the management of bank accounts.
- The Chairman of the F+GP Cttee stated that Cllr auditor appointments would be reviewed at the next F+GP Cttee meeting.
- Members received the report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

RESOLVED: members agreed to note the report

- 11 Payments were received and approved.

RESOLVED: members agreed to approve the payments.

Proposed by: Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by: Cllr Murray.

6221. INVITATIONS & EVENTS

- Deal Town Council 'Charter Day' – To be attended by Cllr Weale as Civic representative.

6222. ADAPTION/REFURBISHMENT/REPAIR OF NEW COUNCIL OFFICES

- The report was in 2 parts current and future.
- All works required to convert the building into Council offices are complete, with the final invoice now due.
- The work to reduce the carbon footprint and increase the building's resilience will be based on the 'Conker' report and other possible options. The Climate

Emergency Working Group will issue a report in conjunction with the Clerk on how this may be achieved in due course.

- The Council was asked whether it wanted CCTV to be fitted at No 62, The Strand.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be empowered to engage with Eagle security to fit a suitable CCTV system to cover the building front and rear.

Proposed by Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by Cllr Murray.

6223. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS

- The Clerk reviewed the Council Standing orders and found them fit for purpose and inconformity with the NALC model standing orders. His only recommendation was to reformat the standing orders without altering any wording, so that they can be more easily referenced.

Noted.

6224. CHANGE OF STYLE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council agreed to change the style of the Council from Walmer Parish Council to Walmer Town Council with immediate effect, and that from now on any documents reading 'Walmer Parish Council', shall be taken, or read as saying 'Walmer Town Council'.

Proposed by Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by Cllr Byfield.

RESOLVED

There were 9 Cllrs in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

6225. Exclusion of the Public under the Public bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960

RESOLVED: Under the terms of the Public bodies (Admission to meetings) act 1960 by virtue of the business to be transacted involving contractual terms for Walmer Town Council staff

Proposed by Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by Cllr Murray.

6226. WTC STAFF STRUCTURE

- The council received the reports from the Clerk and the recommendations of the HR Cttee.
- It was resolved to accept the staff structure and succession process as indicated within the reports and to authorise the Clerk to engage with the Kent Messenger group for an online and press campaign to recruit a new Deputy Town Clerk. The cost of the campaign to be no more than £1640 + vat.

Proposed by: Cllr Weale.

Seconded by: Cllr Gardner.

RESOLVED

6227. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 6th October 2021, Deal Parochial School, Walmer.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed: Date: