

WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

62 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7DP

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WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Parish Council held on Wednesday, 6th October 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 B Gardner. Cllr J Lonsdale. Cllr P Heath, and Cllr Mrs M Beard-Gould.

Officers Present:

Richard Styles, Town Clerk

6228. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Miss A Herring. Cllr P St Ange. Cllr C. Weale. Cllr G Bearman.
Cllr Mrs S Le Chevalier.

6229. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6230. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The Council statement and policy on openness and transparency was taken as read.

6231. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr James Murray reported the following: -

- Nothing reported, because all relevant matters were dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

6232. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 8th September 2021.

RESOLVED: That minutes be approved.

Proposed by: Cllr. Beard-Gould.

Seconded by: Cllr. Fisher.

6233. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

- Cllr Heath reported that Sandwich Town Council own a speed watch camera and are willing to lend it to Walmer as part of a speed watch scheme.

6234. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF WALMER

- i) None of the members of the public present wished to speak. There were no members of the public present.
- ii) Cllr Bond and Cllr Murphy, gave their apologies and no KCC/DDC report was provided.

6235. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

- i) No report given.
- ii) Councillor Surgeries: the matter will be reviewed in January 2022 and in the meantime Cllr Fisher has agreed to organise a relaunch if Cllr surgeries are to return in mid-2022.

Proposed by: Cllr Beard-Gould.

Seconded by: Cllr Eddy.

RESOLVED

6236. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

Members received the reports and agreed minutes as follows:

- a. Amenities + Environment – **Agreed minutes 26th May 2021.**
- b. Finance + General Purposes - **None.**
- c. Walmer in Bloom – **Agreed minutes 20th July 2021.**
- d. Events – **Agreed minutes 27th July 2021.**
- e. Planning – **Agreed minutes 6th July and 10th August 2021.**
- f. Climate Emergency working group – **Agreed report 31st August 2021.**

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note the reports.

Proposed by: Cllr. Eddy

Seconded by: Cllr. Beard-Gould.

Items that were reported were:

- Brocante: will take place on August bank holiday in 2022.
- Walmer in Bloom: The Council will acquire a voters list so that winners can be informed more easily.
- Planning: Now on a 4-week, monthly schedule.
- CWEG: EV charging point now installed at the Drill Field.
- A+E: telephone box on the Strand still awaiting response from BT.
- Historic panels: No more information as DDC is not responding.

6237. REPORT OF THE CLERK

- The Clerk in response to the council's decision at the last meeting arranged quotations for a replacement photocopier to replace the current machine and lease agreement. The quotations were set out in a document, and it was agreed the KCS would supply a Konica Minolta C450i over a 5-year lease period.

Proposed by: Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by: Cllr Beard-Gould.

RESOLVED

- Dover + Deal Chamber of Trade: Cllr Jull explained the process by which members obtained representation on the management of the Chamber of Trade. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the chamber nominating a member to report on the activities of the chamber. All Cllrs would be invited to indicate their willingness to represent the Council on the Chamber of Trade.
- Cllrs Heath and Jull declared their interests as Directors of the Chamber of Trade.

6238. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Members received the report of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.
- The Chairman, Cllr Murray, commended the staff for achieving a 'clean sheet' (no requirements from the external auditor) on the AGAR this year. This has not happened for several years.

RESOLVED: members agreed to note the report

Proposed by: Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by: Cllr Beard –Gould.

- Payments were received and approved.

PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Staff	Salaries -October	£4159.66
HMRC	Tax + NI	£1,174.03
KCC LGPS	Pensions	£1,336.67
D. Halpin	Emergency basket + planter watering + 2 months window cleaning at No 8	£180.00
S. Chapman	Basket + planter watering contract	£475.20
PKF Littlejohn	External audit fee	£480.00
Walmer PCC	Hire St Saviours Parish meeting	£36.00
Eagle Security	Burglar alarm- 62 The Strand	£1,596.00
Matthew Croud	Tree camp removal Hawkshill	£180.00
Deal Community Carnival Assoc	Brocante donation	£100.00
Total		£9717.56

RESOLVED: members agreed to approve the payments.

Proposed by: Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by: Cllr Beard-Gould.

6239. ADAPTION/REFURBISHMENT/REPAIR OF NEW COUNCIL OFFICES

- The Clerk reported that the Council had now moved into No 62 The Strand. All works had been completed on time and to budget. A few remaining minor works remain to be done but will be completed soon.
- The Clerk recommended that RJW construction be appointed the maintenance contractor for a period of 3 years on an as needed basis.

RESOLVED:

Proposed by Cllr. Eddy

Seconded by Cllr. Thompson.

6240. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS

- None reported at this meeting.

Noted.

6241. INVITATIONS & EVENTS

- RBLI armistice day and Remembrance Sunday events.

6242. CHAPLAIN FOR THE COUNCIL

The Council agreed to ask Canon Seth Cooper to be the Council's chaplain for 3 years and thereafter chaplains from other religious persuasions may be appointed as necessary.

RESOLVED:

Proposed by: Cllr Beard-Gould.

Seconded by Cllr Eddy.

6243. RECOVERY OF WALMER AERODROME WW1 FLYERS MEMORIAL REPORT

The Clerk was instructed to investigate the ownership of the land where the old memorial now stands with a view to acquiring the land and the memorial in the interest of the community and for the wellbeing of the memorial, which was built by a grateful community as a mark of respect for those young men flying from Walmer Aerodrome who gave their lives.

RESOLVED:

Proposed by Cllr Eddy.

Seconded by: Cllr Thompson

Confidential to be held under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The meeting moved that the remaining business be held in private session and that the public be asked to withdraw.

Proposed by Cllr Murray

Seconded by: Cllr Eddy.

RESOLVED

6244. RECRUITMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

- The Clerk reported that there had been over 20 applications and that ~~4~~ **five** names had been shortlisted for interview. The interviews would take place on Thursday 7th October. It is hoped that an appointment will be made shortly afterwards.

6245. LEASE NO 8 THE STRAND

- A confidential report was received outlining the circumstances behind the formation of the lease, the current position of both parties to the lease and actions that might be taken. The Council considered the document and entered a debate about the report and what actions should be undertaken, from which the following actions were agreed:
- A letter by recorded delivery is to be sent to Mrs Margaret Johnson, the land lady of No 8, The Strand, requesting a meeting between herself and the Council.
- Advice is to be sought from the Monitoring Officer and the District Auditor on the dubious circumstances surrounding the setting up of the lease which had not been presented to the Council for approval.
- The Council's insurance company to be informed of the possibility of legal action, in this matter.

RESOLVED:

Proposed by: Cllr Eddy.
Seconded by: Cllr Byfield.

6246. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 3rd November 2021, 7 pm, Deal Parochial School, Walmer.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Signed: Date: