



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday February 4th 2026 – 7.30 pm at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.

Present Councillors: Cllr T Bond (Chairman), Cllr M Simpson, Cllr L Ludwig, Cllr M Eddy, Cllr A Friend, Cllr J Murray, Cllr D Richardson, Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr S Waite-Gleave, Cllr P Findley, Cllr P Ludwig, Cllr T Grist and Cllr P Jull.

Officer Present: Roland Aldred, Town Clerk.

450.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs K Lee and Cllr E Crockford.

451.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr T Bond declared a VAOI in respect of item 468 as he uses Mr Atherton as his solicitor.

452.OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The Chairman reminded all those present of the openness and transparency statement.

453.CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Cllr Bond reported:

- i. At the most recent DDC meeting it was reported that Colliers Gate to Betteshanger Country Park would be re-opened.
- ii. Walmer Town Council received a request from the Rugby Club, the Club asked if Walmer Town Council could sign a form confirming security of tenure for the Drill Field. This was in respect of a grant application they were making. Due to time constraints, there wasn't the ability to put this in front of members, so the Clerk and Chairman completed the form to allow the application to go ahead.

454.MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, January 14th 2026.

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes and ask the chairman to sign these.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 1

455.REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk reported that the required signage for the access road had been sourced and will be ordered.

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

- i. No members of the public were present.
- ii. Cllr Martin Paul of KCC reported:
 - a. That, following difficulties in obtaining a response from the Environment Agency regarding requests for further detail on the causes of the poor water quality test results from 2024/25, a Freedom of Information request has now been answered and investigations are still ongoing.
 - b. Cllr Paul still has £2400 left in his members grant fund.

Cllr Chris Vinson of Dover District Council offered apologies.

457.CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

No relevant information to Walmer on the most recent reports. However, the description of the suspect from the theft of the sign at Hawkshill matches a suspect in another investigation.

458.COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
 - a. Amenities & Environment – no minutes to receive.
 - b. Finance & General Purposes – minutes from the 26th November 2025.
 - c. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from the 18th November 2025.
 - d. Events Committee – Minutes from 19th November 2025.
 - e. Planning Committee – Minutes from 9th December 2025
 - f. Climate Emergency Working Group – No minutes to receive.

RESOLVED – To accept the minutes of the committees.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 13 Against 0 Abstain 0

- ii. To receive any comments about the draft minutes of meetings taken place since the last council meeting.
 - a. Finance and General purposes – minutes from the 22nd January 2026.
 - b. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from the 15th January 2026.
 - c. Planning – minutes from the 6th January 2026.

RESOLVED – To note

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 13 Against 0 Abstain 0

459. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. That he had attended an information session with a representative of Somerset ALC, covering how Community Networks and Community Committees operate in Somerset under devolution.
- ii. That the Clerk also attended a briefing with DDC on the latest Infrastructure Funding Statement and Infrastructure Delivery Plan. A new portal is being setup to review the information on the Funding Statement. Members requested once the updated Funding Statement is completed that the Clerk put a table together of Section 106 funding available in Walmer. The Delivery Plan will be updated in 2026, and a consultation will take place with stakeholders including the Town and Parish Councils.
- iii. At the January meeting of Dover District Council, it was decided that the 2026 Community Governance review terms of reference, will only include the number of members on a Town/Parish Council. As this does not constitute a full Community Governance review, there will be a recommendation in the implementation plan for the new devolved authority to run one with a suggested date of September 2026.
- iv. The purchase of a badge of office had run in to difficulties, due to the changing price of silver the cost had increased by £160. Members requested this be brought back to the March meeting.

NOTED

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

460. FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Monthly bank balances.
Members received the bank balances

Financial information as at 28/01/26

Bank

Balances

Charity Bank	£104,485.29
Redwood bank	£104,000.41
Unity Trust current	£121,842.56
Unity Trust Deposit	£30,900.32
Total	£361,228.58

RESOLVED – Members agreed to note the bank balances, committee budget positions and monthly finance updates.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr A Friend

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

461. GRANTS

Members received a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to award a Grant of £100 to the Deal Society for use in advertising the Heritage Days events.

RESOLVED – To award the grant of £100.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr A Friend

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

462. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Members received written draft of a Communication Strategy.

RESOLVED – To accept the Communication Strategy.

Proposed by Cllr D Richardson

Seconded by Cllr L Ludwig

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 2

463. ICT POLICY

Members received a draft Information Communications policy based on a recommended version from NALC.

RESOLVED – To amend 9.1.4 to remove the word agreements and one apostrophe. Once these updates have been completed to accept the policy

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr R Blackwell

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 2

464. MEETING DATES

Members received a draft calendar for meetings for 2026/27.

RESOLVED – To accept the draft calendar with the amends shown on the paperwork

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

465. TOWN OF CULTURE 2028

Members received a written report detailing an invite sent to all Town and Parish Councils across Britain inviting them to participate in the 2028 Town of Culture. Members discussed if there were any ideas that could be used to participate.

NOTED

466.CONFIDENTIAL TO BE HELD UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (admission to meetings)

ACT 1960

Members agreed to move in to a private session.

RESOLVED – To move in to a private session.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr P Ludwig

For 5 Against 0 Abstain 6

467.OUTDOOR GYM

Members received a written report from the Outdoor Gym Working Group detailing the quotes received and the scoring of the quotes.

RESOLVED – To award the contract to Kompan at a cost of £120,000 and to authorise the Clerk and Chairman to sign the contract once the planning permission and lease were completed. Members also agreed to in the event we are unable to raise the full £120k to fund to balance of up to £36k from reserves.

Proposed by Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded by Cllr J Murray

For 13 Against 0 Abstain 0

Members received an update on the planning permissions including a requirement for a biodiversity net gain study to be carried out.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to set a budget of £5000 to cover additional costs of the gym. Members also agreed to instruct Arborweald to go ahead and complete a biodiversity net gain study for the planning application at a cost of £1000.

Proposed by Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded by Cllr P Findley

For 12 Against 1 Abstain 0

Members reviewed a report from officers about sponsorship of the Gym. Members discussed the financial climate and the timings. Members asked to defer any agreement.

Members received a head of terms agreement from DDC regarding leasing the land on which the gym will be sighted.

RESOLVED – Members instructed officers to contact DDC to put a lease together for review by the Council.

Proposed by Cllr D Richardson

Seconded by Cllr L Ludwig

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 1

468.DRILL FIELD LEASE

Cllr Friend left during this item and was not present for the vote.

Members received written legal advice from the appointed solicitor on the Drill Field lease.

RESOLVED – To engage Mr R Atherton to review the current draft lease and provide suitable advice. The previously set cap in cost of £750 to the rugby club will be maintained and any additional cost above the cap will be borne by Walmer Town Council.

Proposed by Cllr P Findley

Seconded by Cllr M Simpson

A recorded vote was requested

For – Cllrs Findley, Simpson, P Ludwig, Murray, Eddy, Blackwell and Waite-Gleave
Against – Cllr Jull
Abstain – Cllrs Grist, L Ludwig, Bond and Richardson.

469.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4th March 2026.

The meeting closed at 21.20

Signed: Date: