



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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

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DRAFT Minutes of the Events Committee held on Wednesday 28th January 2026 at No. 62 The Strand, Walmer at 5.30pm.

Present: Cllr Tony Grist (Chairman), Cllr Diana Richardson, Cllr Louise Ludwig, Cllr Adrian Friend and Cllr Mark Simpson. Cllr Elinor Crockford arrived at 5.45pm.

Officer Present: Lynne Simmons, Events Officer.

440. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

None.

441. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No interests were declared.

442. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY.

The Chairman reminded those present of the terms of openness and transparency.

443. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2025.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Friend

Seconded by Cllr Richardson

For 3 Against 0 Abstain 2

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

None.

445. EVENTS BUDGET.

i. Events budget 2025/26.

Members received the Events Budget for 2025/26.

NOTED

ii. Events Budget 2026/27.

Members received the agreed Events Budget for 2026/27.

NOTED.

446. REVIEW CHRISTMAS CAROLS & CLASSICS EVENT DECISION 2025.

- i. Members received a handout from the officer containing details of online posts via social media, and enquiries received directly into the office (one telephone call and two emails), regarding the decision to pause the Christmas event in 2025. Members discussed the volume of responses received, and the rationale for the decision made to pause the event.
- ii. **MOTION FAILED** - A proposal was made to not run a Christmas event in 2026.
Proposed by Cllr Richardson
Seconded by Cllr Ludwig
For 2 Against 3 Abstain 1

Members then discussed ways in which to actively seek feedback from Walmer residents before a final decision is made for 2026.

RESOLVED – The officer was asked to design and prepare a public consultation survey, to present back to the next Events meeting for further discussion and committee approval.

Proposed by Cllr Grist
Seconded by Cllr Friend
For 6 Against 0 Abstain 0

447. CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL 2026

- i. Members discussed the officer’s report provided and noted the progress made.

The officer provided a verbal update on the potential for providing a “sports activities” area for local youth sports clubs during the afternoon. The idea would be to offer local youth community organisations specific timeslots (eg 30mins or 1-hour sessions) during the afternoon, where they could demonstrate sporting drills, activities and “have a go” sessions to engage with local families.

RESOLVED – Members agreed that the officer should approach four local youth clubs covering rugby (Deal & Betteshanger), football (Cinque Ports), cricket (Deal & Victoria Barnes) and martial arts (Invicta), to gauge if there would be an interest in this proposal.

Proposed by Cllr Richardson
Seconded by Cllr Friend
For 6 Against 0 Abstain 0

Members considered the request made by Deal Music and Arts for the provision of a children’s activity sourced from the Children’s Festival, to support the Music and Arts Festival “Town Take-over” event which is taking place on the same day, Saturday 4th July 26.

RESOLVED – A proposal was made to decline this request. Members felt unable to support this request as all agreed it isn’t feasible for the Children’s Festival to support a second event in a separate location, given the limited resources available.

Proposed by Cllr Grist
Seconded by Cllr Richardson
For 6 Against 0 Abstain 0

The officer also provided an update on the four catering vendors who have now confirmed attendance at the festival. The officer was actioned to continue to explore other options to widen the food choice available. The local pizza place Holy Dough was mentioned as a specific local food provider who may be interested in attending.

NOTED.

Members also discussed the resources budget set aside of £200 which will be used for the purchase of items such as stones for painting, acrylic pens and so on to support the event.

RESOLVED – A proposal was made to delegate the responsibility of purchasing resources for the Children’s Festival up to a value of £200, to the officer.

Proposed by Cllr Friend

Seconded by Cllr Richardson

For 6 Against 0 Abstain 0

448. FUTURE/OTHER EVENTS.

- i. The officer provided a brief overview of the proposed launch event for the Outdoor Gym, the potential timeline involved and that there would be a firmer understanding of project delivery dates by the next committee meeting in March 26. In the meantime, preparations would continue to ensure readiness for a timely launch event.

NOTED.

- ii. Cllr Simpson provided an update on the DDC Armed Forces Day event planned for 2026. This event will be held in Victoria Park, Deal and is planned for the weekend of the Royal Marines bandstand concert on Walmer Green.

NOTED.

449. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 5.30pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 18.40pm.

Signed

Date