



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL  
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**Draft Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on  
Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer at 7.30 pm**

Cllr Jull was absent for the start of the meeting

**588. WELCOME.**

Cllr Trevor Bond, Chairman of Walmer Town Council welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained the fire evacuation procedure.

**589. APOLOGIES.**

Cllrs Lee, Crockford, Friend and Murray offered apologies which were accepted.

**590. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2025.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16 April 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed – Cllr Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For 7

Against 0

Abstain 3

**591. CHAIRMANS REPORT.**

Cllr Bond Chairman of Walmer Town Council reported that over the last year

- Walmer Town Council had organised another successful Brocante.
- The children's festival continues to a popular and successful event growing each year.
- The outdoor gym project has the required agreements in place, and we look forward to seeing the plans come to fruition this year.
- The lease for the Rugby Club has been returned to the club for review, and we hope to have this tied up soon.
- The Town Council financially supported Dover District Council in the redevelopment of the play park in Marke Wood.
- The Council have financially supported the Landmark Centre to ensure this community facility remains available to residents.
- The office now has signage to make it clear where Walmer Town Council can be reached.

- A drop kerbs scheme has been agreed that will benefit all of those with accessibility needs in Walmer.

Cllr Bond stated that residents are first and foremost in the decision-making process the council takes.

Cllr Bond wish to thank all the volunteers, Councillors and staff members whose work this year has been vital to making this another successful year for Walmer Town Council in delivering services, events and facilities to the residents.

## **592. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES.**

- i. Amenities and Environment – Cllr Eddy – Committee – Chairman  
Cllr Eddy reported that allotment charges had been held for 2026/27 having previously been held for 2025/26. The Climate and Emergency Working Group reports to the Amenities and Environment Committee and several projects has been undertaken from the work of the CEWG. Walmer Town Council works with Kent County Council on a highway's improvement plan, this is one of the major roles that the A&E committee undertake. A lot of work has gone in to a scheme of dropped kerbs initially identifying the needs on the major routes, this was done in connection with the Deal Speaking Up Group, we are thrilled to that there are to 20+ additional accessible crossings points added to two of the major roads in/out of Walmer. Following this a Mr Knott of the Deal Speaking Up Group has been co-opted on to the committee on a non-voting basis and will be working with officers to identify further additional accessible crossing points required. The Committee also following a report from Mr Knott identified an issue with the alarms in the accessible public toilets and Dover District Council are now reviewing the situation. The Committee planted some trees this year but are struggling to find new locations for planting, any suggestions from the public are welcome.
- ii. Climate Emergency Working Group – Cllr Waite-Gleave – Working Group Chairman  
The Climate Emergency Working Group have completed their Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan, and this was accepted by Council. Work is almost complete on bringing a new Water bottle filling station to the promenade to reduce plastic waste. The Walmer Against Plastic Pollution scheme is now in place. The Full Council recently voted through a motion to produce an Emergency Plan that originated in the CEWG. The Thermal Camera Scheme continues and because of this DDC were able to provide some insulating material for Walmer Town Council to distribute to residents. Work on reducing pesticide use in the area continues with Walmer Town Council organising a meeting for the local councils and Pesticide action and the Allotments having new wording regarding the use of pesticide added to the tenancy. Further information on pesticide free will be made available to allotment holders and the public though the year.
- iii. Events – Cllr Grist Committee – Chairman  
Two major events took place in 2025 the Brocante and the Children's festival both were hugely successful. The Brocante saw over 140 stall holders selling their wares in beautiful weather. The Children's festival was the largest to date with more community groups involved than ever before. The Christmas Carols and Classic events was paused for 2025 due to increased costs put on the Council by the new DDC events policy. For 2026, Brocante is back and after one week of sale the event is already heavily sold. The

Children's festival will be even larger with even more community groups getting involved. To coincide with the Walmer Town Council outdoor gym opening an event is being planned to offer guidance on how to use the machines. Walmer Town Council is seeking feedback from the public on whether to do a Christmas event.

iv. Planning – Cllr Simpson Committee - Vice Chairman

Cllr Simpson reported that as a statutory consultee on planning applications in Walmer members had dealt with many applications over the last year. Each application has two members review and make visits to the site as required to give a report on the application. At the meeting discussions around the application are had and any further information be it from a member or a member of the public are considered before a decision is made. These decisions are passed to Dover District Council who as the planning authority make the determination, they are required to consider the comments made by Walmer Town Council in making the final determination. Planning is varied with the number of applications being some months as low as three and others as high as eighteen. Each application is different to the last in scale, design and use.

Cllr Jull arrived at the meeting

v. Walmer in Bloom – Cllr L Ludwig – Committee Chairman

Cllr L Ludwig reported that Walmer in Bloom has three main functions to conduct the Walmer in Bloom competition, and to manage both Hawkshill and the Peace Garden. The Walmer in Bloom competition had a revamp this year with a new way of nominating and voting, this new method reduced the work of the few members who were going all over the Town reviewing thousands of gardens each and, allowed the resident of Walmer to be more involved in the competition by both nominating their favourite gardens and voting on the winners. A new awards ceremony at Walmer Castle was held where winners were treated to an afternoon tea. At Hawkshill work continues the new management plan. A significant number of new volunteers have come forward. A new pathway through the wooded area is close to completion this has been something Mr Coates who wrote the management plan has been planning and working on the design. At the Peace Garden lots of exciting moves forward with making this a tranquil haven have taken place, there has been planting of flowers and trees and small-scale events. Cllr Ludwig wished to put a special thanks to all the Volunteers at both the Peace Gardens and Hawkshill for all the time they give up working on these special areas of Walmer.

vi. Finance and General Purposes – Cllr Jull Committee - Chairman

Cllr Jull reported that finance and General purposes had reviewed standing orders and the financial regulations. A budget for 2026/27 had been produced and from this a precept had been agreed. The finance position of the council was reviewed in each meeting. The Walmer Town Council portion of each resident's council tax bill had been held for 2026/27.

**593. PRESENTATION FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS.**

- i. Royal Marine Association – thanked the council for the award of a grant the money was used to feed the Bandsmen, security and volunteers for the “Band of HM Royal Marines Memorial Concert and Rededication Service.”
- ii. Deal and Walmer Carnival Association– thanked the council for the grant which had been to fund entertainment at the Teddy bear’s picnic. The Carnival association wanted to thank both staff and members for their help through the year not just financially but with advice and volunteering.
- iii. Walmer and Deal Action for Swift- thanked the council for the grant which was used to provide new nesting boxes and information leaflets. This is the third year of the project, and the money is vital to the continued restoration of swift colonies in the area. The project from Walmer and Deal has been picked up on in other areas and now there are larger groups that have been formed because of the Walmer and Deal group in Thanet and Canterbury. 2025 saw the first birds nesting in the boxes Walmer Town Council helped provide in 2024 and has been increase in swift numbers in the area.
- iv. Deal Society – thanked the council for the award of a grant the money was used toward the Heritage Days events this is a national event, that allows people to look at parts of history not normally available. The 2026 event will take place between 11-20 September. If anyone has ideas about new events the Deal Society is keen to hear these.
- v. Deal and Walmer Community Association – thanked the council for the grant. The Deal and Walmer Community Association runs the Landmark Centre a community hub run for residents of Deal and Walmer. The centre had run in to financial issues and new trustees came in to operate the centre. Once a review was conducted it was clear that money needed to be raised and through Local Councils and private benefactors the centre has now been saved. DWCA wanted to also thank all the local volunteers who gave time to help with works on the centre at no charge. A look forward to welcoming the residents to the events, classes, visitors to the bar and café for the future.  
Members also received a presentation from the Downs Sailing Club who have a grant that is being reviewed
- vi. Downs Sailing Club – 2026 marks the 200 years of the Deal and Walmer Regatta and to celebrate this milestone, the Downs Sailing Club will be hosting the 2026 National Schools Sailing Association regatta. This is prestigious event that will see some of the best young sailors from across the country compete. There will be over 200 boats competing sailing twice a day for five days from the 19<sup>th</sup> July. The ambitious plans of the Downs include making this the first environmentally neutral competition ever held. The Downs wished to thank Walmer Town Council for advice provided on the environmental issues and wished to thank those who had provided reduced entry fees for the children such as English Heritage and Canterbury Cathedral.

**594. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE AND DISCUSSION WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING ISSUES OF CONCERN WHICH THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY ACT.**

No questions were posed by members of the public

**595. MEETING CLOSES**

Meeting closed at 20.15.