



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday June 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 A Friend, Cllr M Eddy, Cllr J Murray, Cllr D Richardson, Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr S Waite-Gleave, Cllr P Findley, Cllr E Crockford, Cllr P Ludwig, Cllr T Grist, and Cllr P Jull.

Officer Present: Roland Aldred, Town Clerk.

63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs K Lee.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

65. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

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

66. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bond reported that a request had been made to discuss a petition around car parking charges on to an agenda for Walmer Town Council. The local press had contacted Walmer Town Council asking for a statement on an incident of camping and bonfires on the beach.

67. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, May 6th 2026.

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

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 1

68. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

No updates were provided

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

i. No members of the public were present.

ii. No KCC members were present

Cllr Chris Vinson of Dover District Council offered apologies.

70. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

Kent Police have provided information on the benefits of using what 3 words for providing locations.

3 arrests have been made in connection with the spate of motorcycle thefts in the local area.

Reports of forged £50 notes have been received locally.

The Deal High Street has had multiple reports of anti-social behaviour including abusing shop keepers and staff.

71. 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 –No minutes to receive.
 - c. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from the 17th March 2026.
 - d. Events Committee – Minutes from 22nd April 2026.
 - e. Planning Committee – Minutes from 7th April 2026.
 - 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 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

- ii. To receive any comments about the draft minutes of meetings taken place since the last council meeting.
 - a. Planning Committee – draft minutes from 5th May 2026.

RESOLVED – To note.

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr A Friend

For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

72. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. Children’s Festival on the 4th July 2026 any volunteers to assist on the day should contact the office.
- ii. A replacement tap was fitted at the allotments.
- iii. The Outdoor gym is progressing and an estimated start date for work is on the 22/6/26, work will take at least 3 weeks depending on weather. The office is working on agreeing the compound license.

Cllr L Ludwig further updated that there will be small opening ceremony for the Gym when completed and then induction courses will be provided for interested members of the public.

73. FINANCIAL REPORT

i. Monthly bank balances.

Financial information as at 27/05/26

Charity Bank	£104,485.29
Redwood bank	£104,000.41
Unity Trust current	£325,533.97
Unity Trust Deposit	£34,830.39
Total	£568,850.06

ii. Committee Budgets

Committee budget vs spends 2026/27 as at 30/04/26

Committee	Budget	Spend	notes
Amenities and Environment	£28,000.00	£ 2,982.00	includes CEWG
Events	£16,500.00	£ 558.99	
Finance and General purposes	£ -		
Human Resources	£ -		
Planning	£ -		
Walmer in Bloom	£26,800.00	£ 2,842.76	includes Hawkshill and Peace Garden

iii. Monthly Finance report

Balance at start of month £575,096.91

Payments				Receipts			
Who	For	Amount	Budget Header	Who	For	Amount	Budget Header
British Gas	Utility Bill	£73.03	Office Premises	Eventbrite	Brocante Payments	£848.65	Events
Viking	Stationary	£120.46	Admin	Mr L Rich	Payment for Children's Festival	£50.00	Events
Mitec	Telecoms	£150.29	Admin	HMRC	VAT Refund	£5,747.86	VAT Repayments
Public Works Loan Board	Loan Repayment	£7,563.40	Public Works Loan Board	Allotment Holders	Rent, Deposit and Insurance and key	£155.24	Allotments
Royal Marines Association	Grant Payment	£500.00	Grants and Donations	Deal Rugby Club	Rent for Drill Field	£926.94	Land Management
Apex Clean	Office Cleaning	£160.00	Office Premises				
Downs Sailing Club	Grant Payment	£500.00	Grants and Donations				
Ms A Allen	Deposit Refund for Allotment	£100.00	Allotments				
Spectrum Safety	Fire Extinguisher Check	£45.60	Office Premises				
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreaths	£142.50	Office Premises				
Mr D Halpin	Window Cleaning	£12.00	Office Premises				
HMRC (PAYE/NI)	Tax and National Insurance	£1,935.58	Salaries and Staff Costs				
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£3.00	Admin				
Swimsafety	Water Testing Kits	£1,008.00	Climate Emergency Working Group				
Hopkins	Defibrillator Testing	£249.48	Office Premises				
Walmer Churches	Hire Of Meeting Room	£88.75	Admin				
Kent Copier Services	Photocopier Hire	£117.54	Office Premises				
Staff	Salaries	£5,705.49	Salaries and Staff Costs				
Kent County Council Local Government Pension Scheme	Pension Payments	£1,821.52	Salaries and Staff Costs				
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	£11.20	Admin				
Total		£20,307.84		Total		£7,728.69	
Balance at end of month		£562,517.76					
This month spend		-£12,579.15		Last year		-£40,318.55	
% of yrs precept for month		4.84%		% of precept for month		-15.43%	
Total net spend YTD		-£28,528.88		Total spent LYTD		-£48,172.85	
% of precept YTD		10.98%		% of precept LYTD		-18.43%	

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 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

- iv. Members received a recommendation from the Walmer in Bloom Committee to increase the budget by £1470 from General reserves to cover the cost of column testing on roadside lampposts.

RESOLVED – To increase the Walmer in Bloom Budget by £1470.

Proposed by Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded by Cllr P Ludwig

For 13

Against 1

Abstain 1

74. GRANT

Members received a recommendation from the Finance and General purposes Committee to award a grant of £600 to the Deal and Walmer Carnival Association for prizes and entertainment at the Teddy Bears Picnic.

RESOLVED – To award the grant.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr D Richardson

For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

75. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members received written report from the Clerk on the DDC recommendations for the Community Governance Review. Members discussed the savings involved in the recommendation to reduce to 12 councillors, along with the potential costs, the level of representation, the balance between wards of the representation and low number of responses to the consultation.

RESOLVED – To respond to the second round of consultation for Community Governance review with:

“Without an associated ward boundary review the change in number of councillors recommended creates an imbalance that is unacceptable and Walmer Town Council wishes to remain with 15 members. Councillors on Walmer Town Council commit to a high level of volunteering both through events and other activities and therefore the public would be better served by 15 councillors.

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr A Friend

For 9

Against 4

Abstain 1

76. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

- i. Members received a written report from the Clerk regarding the annual request from Dover District Council to support the public conveniences in Walmer. Members discussed the previous agreement with Dover District Council that Marine Road would no longer be part of the request and the 150% increase in costs at Granville Road based on an unexplained increase in cost from £1500 to £18000 for water.

RESOLVED – To agree to pay the full requested amount for the facilities at Marke Wood, to reject the application for support for Marine Road facilities as agreed with DDC 4 years ago and to ask that the Clerk organise a meeting to discuss the £18,000 water bill received for Granville Road facilities and hold off any payment on these facilities until a meeting had taken place and full council had agreed a proposal.

Proposed by Cllr R Blackwell

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 11 Against 3 Abstain 0

- ii. Members discussed an e-mail received from Dover District Council about the future of the public toilets in Walmer option put forward included procuring a new contract or signing over the toilets to Walmer Town Council.

RESOLVED – Member requested that we take up Dover District Council on their offer of a meeting to discuss the future of public conveniences in Walmer, Members felt that none of the options put forward were suitable.

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr P Ludwig

For 13 Against 1 Abstain 0

Cllr E Crockford left the room

77. AGAR

- i. Members received an audit report from the internal auditor.

NOTED – members noted the report.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 13 Against 0 Abstain 0

Members asked that the recommendation around the requirement for 3 quotes be brought to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

Cllr E Crockford returned to the meeting.

- ii. Members received the annual Governance Statements for 2025/26 which the Clerk read out in the meeting which forms part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR).

RESOLVED – To answer yes to questions 1-8 and 10 and as Walmer Town Council do not manage any trust funds to answer N/A to question 9 and ask the Chairman and Clerk to sign the AGAR.

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr A Friend

For 14 Against 0 Abstain 0

- iii. Members received the Accounting Statements for 2025/26 which form part of the AGAR.
RESOLVED – To agree the statement for 2025/26 and ask the Chairman to sign the AGAR.
Proposed by Cllr M Eddy
Seconded by Cllr A Friend
For 14 Against 0 Abstain 0

78. LIVE STREAMING MEETINGS

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk and the Chairman on a request from a resident for Walmer Town Council to stream meetings live. Members received information on outline costs including additional staffing time at meetings and cost of equipment.

79. CONFIDENTIAL TO BE HELD UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (admission to meetings) ACT 1960

RESOLVED – To move in to a Confidential session to discuss matters of a confidential nature.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend
Seconded by Cllr M Eddy
For 14 Against 0 Abstain 0

80. HR MATTERS

Members received a written recommendation from the Human Resources Committee on the competition of a staff members training plan.

RESOLVED – To agree to the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee increasing the staff members salary by one SCP scale and agreeing the new job title.

Proposed by Cllr J Murray
Seconded by Cllr A Friend

81. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1st July 2026.

Signed: Date: