



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday October 7th 2026 – 7.30 pm at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.

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

Officer Present: Roland Aldred, Town Clerk.

267.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs K Lee, P Findley, M Simpson, P Ludwig and J Murray.

268.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

269.OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

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

270.CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bond reported:

- That the Clerk had handed in his resignation.
- That the outdoor gym had been opened and was proving a massive success.

271.MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, September 2nd 2026.

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

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 9

Against 0

Abstain 1

272.REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

No reports were put forward.

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

No members of the public, DDC or KCC were present. Cllr C Vinson offered apologies.

RESOLVED – Members requested the Clerk write to Cllr Murphy of Dover District Council in relation to attending meetings.

Proposed by Cllr T Grist
Seconded Cllr E Crockford
For 6 Against 3

Abstain 1

274. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

Members received a verbal report from Cllr Crockford:

- An incident in Pilots Avenue is being investigated.
- Police continue to investigate criminal damage at local churches and are appealing for help.
- Continuing fraud bank impersonation scams.
- Support is being offered for victims of fraud.
- There were incidents of reported misuse of catapults/slingshots in the area.

275. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:

- a. Amenities & Environment – minutes from the 16th June 2026.
- b. Finance & General Purposes – No minutes to receive.
- c. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from 28th July 2026.
- d. Events Committee – No minutes to receive.
- e. Planning Committee – Minutes from August 4th 2026.
- f. Climate Emergency Working Group – Minutes from 2nd July 2026.

RESOLVED – To accept the minutes of the committees.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend
Seconded by Cllr M Eddy
For 10 Against 0

Abstain 0

ii. To receive any comments about the draft minutes of meetings taken place since the last council meeting.

- a. Amenities & Environment – minutes from the 24th September 2026.
- b. Planning Committee – Minutes from 8th September 2026.
- c. Climate Emergency Working Group – Minutes from 17th September 2026.

RESOLVED – To note.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend
Seconded by Cllr M Eddy
For 10 Against 0

Abstain 0

276. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. Local Government Reorganisation has been placed on pause by the Government. At present District Council elections are planned to take place in May 2027, no update on what if any the future of the Local Government Reorganisation will entail.
- ii. Following the second round of consultation for the Community Governance Review, officers' recommendation changed with regard to Walmer Town Council. The recommendation put forward to the Electoral Matters Committee was to stay with 15 councillors for Walmer Town Council. Members of the Electoral Matters Committee agreed, and this recommendation will now go to the Full council of Dover District Council.

- iii. That we are still awaiting Dover District Council responding to Walmer Town Councils request for a meeting to discuss Granville Road toilets. No money has been paid to date.
- iv. The Drill Field lease is still with the Rugby Club, and we are awaiting a response from the Club.

277.FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Monthly bank balances.

Bank Balances as at 01/10/26

Charity Bank	£104,485.29
Redwood bank	£104,000.41
Unity Trust current	£33,123.75
Unity Trust Deposit	£261,471.11
Total	£503,080.56

- ii. Committee Budgets

Committee budget vs spend 2026/27 as at 31/08/26

Committee	Budget	Spend	notes
Amenities and Environment	£28,000.00	£ 4,403.00	includes CEWG
Events	£16,500.00	£ 5,698.70	
Finance and General purposes	£ -		
Human Resources	£ -		
Planning	£ -		
Walmer in Bloom	£26,800.00	£ 9,483.52	includes Hawkshill and Peace Garden

iii. Monthly Finance report
Members received the monthly finance reports for June and July

Financial update for month of September 2026									
Balance at start of month		£517,350.84							
Payments	Who	For	Amount	Budget Header	Receipts	Who	For	Amount	Budget Header
KALC		Training	£60.00	Training	Alotment holder		Rent and deposit	£135.91	
HMRC		Tax and National Insurance	£1,950.20	Salaries and Staff Costs	Eventbrite		Brocante payments	£1,401.60	
Staff		Wages	£6,091.24	Salaries and Staff Costs	Redwood bank		Interest	£3,306.64	
Kent County Council Local Government Pension Scheme			£1,964.71	Salaries and Staff Costs	Alotment holder		Return of deposit	-£ 100.00	
Various		Gym Opening event sundries	£5.18	Events					
Red Dog Garden Services		Removal of bramble bush	£90.00	Outdoor Gym					
Chapman Landscaping		Watering for WIB	£884.00	Walmer in Bloom					
Timpson		Engraving	£16.24	Walmer in Bloom					
British Gas		Gas	£32.69	Running cost No 62 The Strand					
Apex Cleaning		Office Cleaning July	£200.00	Running cost No 62 The Strand					
Eagle Security		Alarm maintenance+monitoring	£432.00	Running cost No 62 The Strand					
Business Stream		Water	£129.33	Running cost No 62 The Strand					
British Gas		Electric	£75.44	Running cost No 62 The Strand					
Dave Halpin		Window Cleaning	£12.00	Running cost No 62 The Strand					
Apex Cleaning		Office Cleaning Aug	£160.00	Running cost No 62 The Strand					
Red Dog Garden Services		Installation of signs and posts at Hawkshill	£294.08	Hawkshill					
Garden Imports		Root Shovels	£94.14	Hawkshill					
B&M		Refreshments	£7.44	Hawkshill					
LPC Direct		Marker pens	£15.69	Hawkshill					
Denny Ltd		Vacuum Flasks	£43.87	Hawkshill					
Walmer Parish Churches		Grant	£500.00	Grants					
Tang So Doo		Grant	£500.00	Grants					
Various		Brocante Supplies	£136.49	Events					
Sea Café		Brocante refreshments	£29.10	Events					
Meta		Brocante Advertising	£31.22	Events					
Toilets		Brocante	£282.00	Events					
Carnival association		Donation Brocante+ Childrens	£209.21	Events					
Deal Bandstand		Donation	£59.22	Events					
DDC		Return of deposit	-£320.00	Events					
GM Pro Plumbing		Water Filling station	£684.00	Climate Emergency					
Red Dog Garden Services		Replacement standing pipe + Tap	£151.20	Allotments					
Clir Murray		Travel exp	£16.40	Travel exp					
Galagher insurance		Additional cost for Gym	£219.71	Insurance					
Unity		Bank charge	£14.20	Bank charge					
Mitec		Telecoms	£155.83	No 62 Running Costs					
B&M		Tea for office	£7.99	Admin					
Amazon		Sticky pads for mounting	£10.98	Admin					
Total			£15,245.80		Total			£4,744.15	
Balance at end of month		£503,080.56							
This month spend		-£10,501.65			Last year		-£19,489.04		
% of yrs precept for month		4.04%			% of precept for month		-7.46%		
Total net spend YTD		-£84,197.45			Total spent LYTD		-£109,494.05		
% of precept YTD		32.39%			% of precept LYTD		-41.90%		

RESOLVED – Members agreed to note the bank balances, Committee budgets and monthly finance reports for September.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 10 Against 0 Abstain 0

278.AGAR

Members received the completed AGAR and letter from the external auditor.

RESOLVED – Members noted the AGAR as completed and asked the Clerk to be mindful in the future of the need to initial changes.

Proposed by Cllr S Waite-Gleave

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 10 Against 0 Abstain 0

279.OUTDOOR GYM

Cllr L Ludwig reported the outdoor gym was officially opened on the 17th September the opening ceremony was well attended and the weather after earlier showers was perfect. Walmer Town Council then ran an induction week where fitness professionals were contracted to provide induction sessions, this included an occupational therapist who ran sessions for accessibility needs.

Over 230 inductions were carried out, and officers and staff present were blown away by the positive comments made by members of the public.

Of the 231 induction sessions top line data shows we hit target audiences over 60% of the inductions were for females, over 70% were over 55 years old and over 80% were new or lapsed gym users.

The Clerk further reported that online a district councillor following the success of the Walmer Outdoor Gym had been asking residents of his ward about whether they wanted to see an outdoor gym in Sandwich.

A full report will be produced based on the feedback for the next meeting of Walmer Town Council.

280.RECRUITMENT OF A NEW TOWN CLERK

Members received written report with recommendations from the Human Resources committee on the process of recruitment of a new Town Clerk following the resignation of the current Town Clerk.

RESOLVED – To ask the clerk to create a simplified equality and diversity form to send out as applications are received, it should be clear on the form that this is a voluntary exercise in competition and that the interviewing panel will not see these details.

Proposed by Cllr D Richardson

Seconded by Cllr E Crockford

For 9 Against 0 Abstain 1

RESOLVED – To agree recommendations A-C +E (with D having been dealt with on previous resolution)

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr S Waite-Gleave

For 9 Against 0 Abstain 1

281.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

4th November 2026.

The meeting closed at 20.25

Signed: Date: