#### WALMER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Walmer Parish Council held on Wednesday, 7 October 2020 via Zoom Video Conference.

### **Present Councillors:**

J Murray Miss Herring Mrs Beard-Gould

M Eddy D Symons P Heath

J Lonsdale Cllr B Pitcher P St Ange D Thompson

#### **Officer Present:**

Mrs K Holroyd (Clerk) Ms S Plews (Technical support)

#### 5991. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies with reason were accepted from Cllr Mrs Le Chevalier

## 5992. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

#### 5993. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

To remind those present of the following: -

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the council, committees and sub committees is established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014. This is in addition to the rights of the press and public to attend such meetings.

While those attending meetings are deemed to have consented to the filming, recording or broadcasting of meetings, those exercising the rights to film, record and broadcast must respect the rights of other people attending under the Data Protection Act 2018.

Any person or organisation choosing to film, record or broadcast any meeting of the Council or a committee is responsible for any claims or other liability from them so doing.

#### 5994. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Murray reported that he has been busy corresponding with residents over the proposed office move and has also helped a resident who was struggling to contact the relevant person to remove vegetation growing over into her garden. He also reported that he had received notice from Cllr Miss Herring of her intention to stand down as vice chairman of the Council at the next meeting. This is due to securing full time employment which will prevent her from dedicating the amount of time that the role demands. All congratulated Miss Herring on the appointment and agreed that a new vice chairman would be voted in at the next meeting.

## **5995. MINUTES**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30 September 2020.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.

# 5996. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Eddy questioned whether Cllr Heath ought to have declared a DPI at minute 5986 Purchase of Freehold Property for the Purpose of Parish Offices since he owns and rents out properties on The Strand. Cllr Heath confirmed he no longer owns any property on The Strand. Cllr Eddy questioned whether Cllr Heath had any business relationship with Margaret Johnson, the current landlord. Cllr Heath denied any business relationship but stated he is a long-standing friend of Mrs Johnson - as are other councillors - due to her being a parish councillor and vice chairman of the Council for a long time. He is a director of the Chamber of Trade and declares this as the necessity arises during all meetings.

## 5997. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF WALMER

- i) Members agreed to suspend the meeting for up to 15 minutes to allow discussion with members of the electorate of the Parish of Walmer present at the meeting. No-one wished to speak.
- ii) Members received a report from the KCC and DDC Members for Walmer. None were in attendance. Cllr Vinson had sent apologies.

## 5998. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

i) Members were due to receive information from the PCSO and Community Warden but none had been received at the office. Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould reported that pavement parking continues to be a nuisance at the top of Drum Hill. She has reported it to the PCSO and has also made enquiries about the possibility of tree planting in the area to stop it.

## **RESOLVED:** Members agreed to note

ii) Monthly Surgeries: currently suspended

#### 5999. WALMER IN BLOOM

Members received the report of the Chairman and the draft minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 September 2020. Members agreed that the baskets had been very good this year.

RESOLVED: That the quote for Young's Nursery to produce the hanging baskets for summer 2021 be accepted at a cost of £763.84.

#### 6000. PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members received the report of the Chairman and the draft minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2020. The chairman commended the Assistant Clerk for her efforts in chasing plans up but voiced frustration at DDC for sometimes submitting incomplete plans for the committee's consideration. Cllr Bond, DDC member for Walmer had joined the meeting by this point and noted the comment.

**RESOLVED:** Minute 4111 that the Council become a Tree Charter branch.

## 6001. AMENITY & ENVIRONMENT GROUP

i) Members received the report of the chairman and the draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2020.

# **RESOLVED:** Members agreed to note

i) Members considered a request from the Climate Emergency Working Group that £4000 be allocated as match funding towards the KCC Parishes EV Charging points scheme. Cllr Lonsdale confirmed that the money may not be needed but that having it available would ensure the application was looked upon favourably.

RESOLVED: That £4000 from the budget "New Projects" be ringfenced for possible match funding for EV charge points.

## 6002. REPORT OF THE CLERK

i) Members received an update on key issues over the last three weeks. The Clerk reported that the DDC community networking meetings which she had been attending and finding useful were moving to a Friday morning and she would no longer be able to attend.

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr St Ange in his role as Police Liaison Councillor would attend the meetings if possible.

ii) Members received an update on the co-option process and agree a date for a Human Resources Committee meeting to review the applications.

RESOLVED: Now that three completed applications had been received an HR committee meeting can be organised held to meet with the candidates.

iii) Members received an update on the new website.

The Clerk confirmed that the new accessible website is nearly ready and should be signed off by the committee under delegated powers soon. In the meantime, she had also learnt that the old website will continue until January 2021.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to note.

## 6003. FINANCIAL ISSUES

i) Members received the report of the Responsible Financial Officer and consider payments and orders as detailed.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

(i) That payments dated 30 September 2020 be authorised as detailed below:-

Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
WIB Baskets	Young's nurseries	890.40	0.00	890.40
Office Telephone	BT	92.14	18.43	110.57
Office photocopier	KCC Ricoh	338.23	67.65	405.88
External audit of annual return	PKF Littlejohn LLP	400.00	80.00	480.00
Survey Y & A	Graham Ford	150.00	0.00	150.00
Office water - 8 the Strand	Business stream	29.83	0.00	29.83
adjustments to chairman's chain	Vaughtons	10.52	2.10	12.62
Buildings insurance	M Johnson	152.82	0.00	152.82
Office Rent	M Johnson	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
alarm repair	Eagle security alarms	18.00	3.60	21.60
Volunteer support warden	KCC	585.00	0.00	585.00
sundries for window	Cllr M Beard Gould	6.22	1.25	7.47
Finance and Legal Conference	KALC	50.00	10.00	60.00
Window cleaner	David Halpin	10.00	0.00	10.00
Clerk's Conference	KALC	50.00	10.00	60.00
	Total	4,283.16	193.03	4,476.19

## (ii) That income dated 30 September 2020 be noted as detailed below:-

Description	Supplier	Net	VAT	Total
Bank interest	NatWest Bank	0.08	0.00	0.08
	Total	0.08	0.00	0.08

(iii) That the financial position of the Council as at 30 September 2020 be noted as detailed on the summary of receipts and payments and statement of monies available in the Council's bank accounts as shown below:-

Nat West Current	£ 77,442.09
Lloyds Bank	£ 76,613.48
<b>Cooperative Bank</b>	£ 75,192.86
NatWest SIBA	£ 10,895.54
HSBC bond	£ 75,313.77
<b>Unity Trust Bank</b>	£ 67,608.85

ii) Members received confirmation that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return has been concluded by the external auditor with no issues arising.

# RESOLVED: members agreed to note.

## 6004. PUBLIC CONSULTATION - BORROWING APPROVAL

i) Members received a template document from MHCLG regarding the public consultation and considered additional information to be added to the leaflet to assist local residents and inform their decision. The chairman invited comments on the draft leaflet which had been circulated earlier that day. All councillors were given the opportunity to comment. It was clarified that a meeting would take place with KALC the following day to discuss the agreed leaflet to ensure due process was being properly adhered to. The fine detail would be discussed with KALC but it was anticipated that one leaflet would be delivered to each house in Walmer and one response per household permitted.

RESOLVED: That various suggestions and comments from councillors be added into the leaflet in the interests of clarity and that once agreed by KALC the leaflet be sent to print for delivery to every house in Walmer. Cllr Heath was unable to support this proposal without seeing the finished leaflet first.

#### 6005. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Signed: Date:	