



WALMER PARISH COUNCIL

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Walmer Paddling Pool

Following the recent announcement in the press regarding Walmer Paddling Pool, Walmer Parish Council have put together the following Q&A on this subject.

Who owns Walmer Paddling Pool?

Dover District Council owns the paddling pool.

Who pays for the paddling pool?

Some years ago Dover District Council asked Walmer Parish Council if it would contribute £5,000 to the costs of keeping the pool open otherwise Dover District Council would close it. We supported that request on condition that entry was free.

That arrangement lasted until earlier this year when Dover District Council announced that it was handing the paddling pool over to a private business and that Walmer Parish Council's support was no longer needed.

We have made a same arrangement with Dover District Council to keep the public toilets open and, including the paddling pool grant, have been paying out the best part of £40,000 each year on behalf of the people of Walmer for some years now.

Will people be charged for using the paddling pool?

We hope not. We have been delighted to be able to use ratepayers' funds for the benefit of local children. However, there is a suggestion that Dover District Council will allow the private company to charge up to £2 per child from next year.

Who will collect this money and who will benefit?

The private company will collect the money and it is assumed that Dover District Council will get a percentage of the income as the owners.

Who made this decision?

We do not know who made the decision at Dover District Council. Councillor Chris Vinson, as the Portfolio Holder for Finance on the District Council and a Walmer

representative, is best placed to answer this question and he can be contacted at cllr-chris.vinson@dover.gov.uk or by telephone on 07905 148202.

What has happened to the money set aside by Walmer Parish Council to support the District Council's paddling pool?

We were unaware of Dover district Council's plans until recently and because of that £5,000 was included in the budget to keep free entry to the paddling pool after it opened after the Covid Lockdown. This money is now available for other projects such as the proposed trim trail, electric vehicle charging points or as a contribution to getting secure bike storage at Walmer station.

People are saying that the £5,000 will be used towards the purchase of a new office building?

They are misinformed. The funding for the new office suite, which will have the benefit of not putting ratepayers' cash into the hands of private landlords, is already in place.