



62 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7DP

Tel: 01304 362363

Web site: [www.walmercouncil.co.uk](http://www.walmercouncil.co.uk) E-mail: [clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk)

Dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

You are hereby summoned to attend the **COUNCIL MEETING** of **WALMER TOWN COUNCIL** to be held on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.**

**At 7.30pm.**

**Roland Aldred  
Town Clerk**

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**AGENDA**

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
To receive any apologies.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive any declarations of interest from Members in respect of business to be transacted on the agenda. Attach 1
3. **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 1998. 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.
4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**  
Update on various matters from the Chairman.
5. **MINUTES** Attach 2  
To approve the minutes of the Council meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**6. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

To receive a report on the actions from the last meeting.

**7. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF WALMER**

- i) To agree 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 on items of the agenda. Any items not on the agenda that members of the public wish to speak on will be noted for consideration of including on a future agenda.
- ii) To receive a report from the DDC/KCC Members for Walmer.

**8. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS**

To receive a report from the Police on crime and anti-social behaviour in Walmer.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES**

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
  - a. Amenities & Environment – minutes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025. Attach 3
  - b. Finance & General Purposes – No minutes to receive.
  - c. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Attach 4
  - d. Events Committee – No minutes to receive.
  - e. Planning Committee – Minutes from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Attach 5
  - f. Climate Emergency Working Group – Minutes from 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Attach 6
- ii. To receive any comments about the draft minutes on Walmer Town Council's website. The following draft minutes are available on the website:
  - a. Amenities and Environment – draft minutes from the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
  - b. Walmer in Bloom – draft minutes from the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
  - c. Events Committee – draft minutes from the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
  - d. Planning Committee – draft minutes from 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

**10. REPORT OF THE CLERK**

To receive a report from the Clerk on matters received.

**11. FINANCIAL REPORT**

For noting:

- a. Bank balances. Attach 7
- b. Committee budgets. Attach 7
- c. Monthly statement for February 2026.

**12. GRANTS**

Attach 8

To receive recommendation from the Amenities and Environment Committee relating to biodiversity grant from Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts for £498.76.

**13. CHAIRMANS BADGE**

Attach 9

To updated costs for a decision on the style, material and cost of a Chairmans badge.

- 14. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW** Attach 10  
To receive a written report on the Community Governance Review for 2026 conducted by Dover District Council and to ask members to make comments.
- 15. OUTDOOR GYM** Attach 11  
To receive a written update on the Gym project and agree up to £7500 (up from £5000) to cover Biodiversity Net Gain elements of planning.
- 16. TOWN OF CULTURE 2028** Attach 12  
To receive a request for Walmer Town Council to support a bid from a third party group to make a bid for Deal (with elements of Walmer included) for the Town of Culture 2028.
- 17. OFFICE WINDOW ADVERTISING SPACE** Attach 13  
To receive a proposal to add a video screen advertising board to the office window to tidy up the look of the office.
- 18. ACCESSIBLE BEACH PROJECT** Attach 14  
To a recommendation from the Amenities and Environment Committee, along with information and plans on Dover District Councils proposed accessible project, and a request for £5,000 contribution to the improved project.
- 19. COUNCIL MAGAZINE** Attach 15  
To receive a proposal from Cllr Murray to put together a Council magazine.
- 21. CONFIDENTIAL TO BE HELD UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (admission to meetings) ACT 1960**  
To move to a private session to hear matters of a confidential nature.
- 22. DRILL FIELD LEASE** ENC 1  
To receive written advice from Council Solicitors on the Drill Field lease and agree next actions
- 23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
1<sup>ST</sup> April 2026.

## Declarations of interest

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest in the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

### Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared an OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which the members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken, on the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

### Voluntary Announcement of Other Interest (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone they should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on matter under consideration

### Note to the code:

Situations in which a member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the wellbeing of a Member, relative or close associate, employer ect. but not their financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer ect would probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.



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**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup> 2026 – 7.30 pm at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.**

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

**Officer Present:** Roland Aldred, Town Clerk.

**450. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs K Lee and Cllr E Crockford.

**451. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr T Bond declared a VAOI in respect of item 468 as he uses Mr Atherton as his solicitor.

**452. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

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

**453. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Bond reported:

- i. At the most recent DDC meeting it was reported that Colliers Gate to Betteshanger Country Park would be re-opened.
- ii. Walmer Town Council received a request from the Rugby Club, the Club asked if Walmer Town Council could sign a form confirming security of tenure for the Drill Field. This was in respect of a grant application they were making. Due to time constraints, there wasn't the ability to put this in front of members, so the Clerk and Chairman completed the form to allow the application to go ahead.

**454. MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 2026.

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

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 12                      Against 0                      Abstain 1

#### 455. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk reported that the required signage for the access road had been sourced and will be ordered.

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

- i. No members of the public were present.
- ii. Cllr Martin Paul of KCC reported:
  - a. That, following difficulties in obtaining a response from the Environment Agency regarding requests for further detail on the causes of the poor water quality test results from 2024/25, a Freedom of Information request has now been answered and investigations are still ongoing.
  - b. Cllr Paul still has £2400 left in his members grant fund.

Cllr Chris Vinson of Dover District Council offered apologies.

#### 457. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

No relevant information to Walmer on the most recent reports. However, the description of the suspect from the theft of the sign at Hawkshill matches a suspect in another investigation.

#### 458. 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 – minutes from the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  - c. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  - d. Events Committee – Minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  - e. Planning Committee – Minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025
  - 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 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

- a. Finance and General purposes – minutes from the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.
- b. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- c. Planning – minutes from the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**RESOLVED** – To note

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### 459. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. That he had attended an information session with a representative of Somerset ALC, covering how Community Networks and Community Committees operate in Somerset under devolution.
- ii. That the Clerk also attended a briefing with DDC on the latest Infrastructure Funding Statement and Infrastructure Delivery Plan. A new portal is being setup to review the information on the Funding Statement. Members requested once the updated Funding Statement is completed that the Clerk put a table together of Section 106 funding available in Walmer. The Delivery Plan will be updated in 2026, and a consultation will take place with stakeholders including the Town and Parish Councils.
- iii. At the January meeting of Dover District Council, it was decided that the 2026 Community Governance review terms of reference, will only include the number of members on a Town/Parish Council. As this does not constitute a full Community Governance review, there will be a recommendation in the implementation plan for the new devolved authority to run one with a suggested date of September 2026.
- iv. The purchase of a badge of office had run in to difficulties, due to the changing price of silver the cost had increased by £160. Members requested this be brought back to the March meeting.

#### NOTED

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### 460. FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Monthly bank balances.  
Members received the bank balances

Financial information as at 28/01/26

Bank  
Balances

Charity Bank	£104,485.29
Redwood bank	£104,000.41
Unity Trust current	£121,842.56
Unity Trust Deposit	£30,900.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>£361,228.58</b>



**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 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### **461. GRANTS**

Members received a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to award a Grant of £100 to the Deal Society for use in advertising the Heritage Days events.

**RESOLVED** – To award the grant of £100.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr A Friend

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### **462. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

Members received written draft of a Communication Strategy.

**RESOLVED** – To accept the Communication Strategy.

Proposed by Cllr D Richardson

Seconded by Cllr L Ludwig

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 2

#### **463. ICT POLICY**

Members received a draft Information Communications policy based on a recommended version from NALC.

**RESOLVED** – To amend 9.1.4 to remove the word agreements and one apostrophe. Once these updates have been completed to accept the policy

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr R Blackwell

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 2

#### **464. MEETING DATES**

Members received a draft calendar for meetings for 2026/27.

**RESOLVED** – To accept the draft calendar with the amends shown on the paperwork

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### **465. TOWN OF CULTURE 2028**

Members received a written report detailing an invite sent to all Town and Parish Councils across Britain inviting them to participate in the 2028 Town of Culture. Members discussed if there were any ideas that could be used to participate.

**NOTED**

#### **466. CONFIDENTIAL TO BE HELD UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (admission to meetings)**

##### **ACT 1960**

Members agreed to move in to a private session.

**RESOLVED** – To move in to a private session.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr P Ludwig

For 5                      Against 0                      Abstain 6

#### **467. OUTDOOR GYM**

Members received a written report from the Outdoor Gym Working Group detailing the quotes received and the scoring of the quotes.

**RESOLVED** – To award the contract to Kompan at a cost of £120,000 and to authorise the Clerk and Chairman to sign the contract once the planning permission and lease were completed. Members also agreed to in the event we are unable to raise the full £120k to fund to balance of up to £36k from reserves.

Proposed by Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded by Cllr J Murray

For 13                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

Members received an update on the planning permissions including a requirement for a biodiversity net gain study to be carried out.

**RESOLVED** – Members agreed to set a budget of £5000 to cover additional costs of the gym. Members also agreed to instruct Arborweald to go ahead and complete a biodiversity net gain study for the planning application at a cost of £1000.

Proposed by Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded by Cllr P Findley

For 12                      Against 1                      Abstain 0

Members reviewed a report from officers about sponsorship of the Gym. Members discussed the financial climate and the timings. Members asked to defer any agreement.

Members received a head of terms agreement from DDC regarding leasing the land on which the gym will be sighted.

**RESOLVED** – Members instructed officers to contact DDC to put a lease together for review by the Council.

Proposed by Cllr D Richardson

Seconded by Cllr L Ludwig

For 12                      Against 0                      Abstain 1

#### **468. DRILL FIELD LEASE**

Cllr Friend left during this item and was not present for the vote.

Members received written legal advice from the appointed solicitor on the Drill Field lease.

**RESOLVED** – To engage Mr R Atherton to review the current draft lease and provide suitable advice. The previously set cap in cost of £750 to the rugby club will be maintained and any additional cost above the cap will be borne by Walmer Town Council.

Proposed by Cllr P Findley

Seconded by Cllr M Simpson

A recorded vote was requested

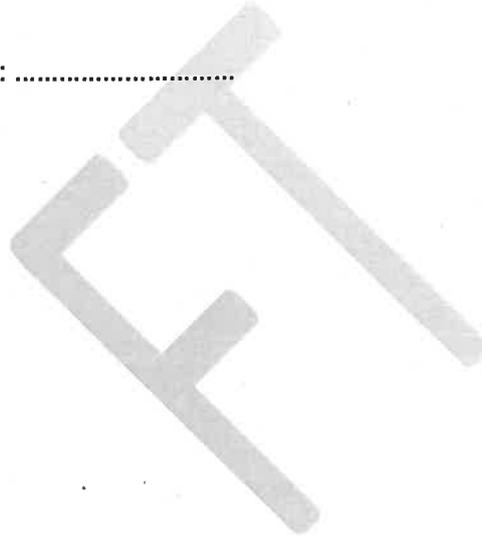
For – Cllrs Findley, Simpson, P Ludwig, Murray, Eddy, Blackwell and Waite-Gleave  
Against – Cllr Jull  
Abstain – Cllrs Grist, L Ludwig, Bond and Richardson.

**469.DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The meeting closed at 21.20

Signed: ..... Date: .....





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### MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenity and Environment Committee held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 at 7pm at Elizabeth House, St Marys Road, Walmer.

#### Present Councillors:

Cllr M Eddy (Chair), Cllr P Findley, Cllr S Waite-Gleave, Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr D Richardson, Cllr M Simpson, Cllr P Jull and Cllr P Ludwig.

Non-Voting co-optee present – Mr M Knott.

Officer present: Roland Aldred –Town Clerk

Cllr P Jull was absent at the start of the meeting

#### 369. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr L Ludwig.

#### 370. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the terms of various rights to record and transmit the transactions of the meeting under the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

#### 371. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

#### 372. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received the minutes of the committee meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

#### AGREED

That the minutes are a true record and are approved.

Proposed by Cllr P Findley.

Seconded by Cllr R Blackwell.

For - 6                      Against - 0                      Abstain - 1

Cllr Jull Arrived

**373. REPORTS ON MATTERS FROM LAST MEETING**

The Clerk reported that:

Going through the section 106 and highways improvement requirements in relation to the granting of planning permission for Millers Retreat is underway but there are a lot of documents to go through, the Clerk is attempting to complete this for the February meeting. Sustrans have changed their name to Walk Wheel Cycle Trust.

The office door will be replaced in early February

KCC are reviewing options for the potential project to increase awareness of people crossing near Walmer Castle.

**374. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public were present.

**375. HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- i. Members received a copy of the current HIP.

**NOTED**

Cllr Findley requested that a map of the roads of Walmer and a copy of the full data of the speed survey be provided to him for review.

- ii. Members received information on requests made to the Council for consideration to add to the HIP.

- a. Members received a written report on public correspondence regarding issues of speeding traffic on Court Road.

**AGREED** – To chase for a review of the road and its condition

Proposed – Cllr R Blackwell

Seconded – Cllr M Simpson

For - 8                      Against – 0                      Abstain 0

- b. Members received a written report about issues with the drainage measures put in place along Kingsdown Road.

**AGREED** – To ask the Chairman of the Amenities and Environment Committee to write to KCC requesting that the issues be resolved to prevent further flooding issues.

Proposed – Cllr P Findley

Seconded – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

For - 8                      Against – 0                      Abstain 0

- c. Members received a written report discussing the low level of lighting in the alleyways between Salisbury Road and Dover Road and Salisbury Road and Church Street.

**AGREED** – Officers have reviewed the pathway which has lighting partially blocked by overhanging trees. Officers have reported the overhanging trees via the KCC portal, and the Dover Road pathway is awaiting works, while the Church Street pathway is to be reviewed for work. Members have asked that once work is completed the officer to review the lighting situation again. The issues have been reported to Kent Police under the safety team to try to get this resolved as quickly as possible.

Proposed – Cllr P Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr L Ludwig

For 6

Against – 0

Abstain 0

- iii. New items to be considered at next meeting.

Cllr S Waite-Gleave requested an item be brought to discuss for the HIP on Belmont, details will be provided to the Clerk.

**376. ACCESSIBLE TOILETS**

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk and Mr Knott on the emergency cords in the accessible toilets in Marine Road and Granville Street toilets. The emergency cords when pulled should set off an alarm which alerts passers-by to the emergency, these cords do not connect to any outside organisation. On testing the cords in the two toilets in Walmer. Mr Knott found that Marine Parade alarm went off periodically, Granville Road alarm did not. No help was forthcoming once alarm cords were pulled. Inside the toilets signage gave a telephone number to call to the contracted cleaners upon calling the number he was informed that they did not deal with emergency situations.

**AGREED** – To ask the Chairman of the Amenities and Environment Committee to write to Dover District Council explaining the issues faced, asking what the DDC policy is in regard to the emergency cords and emergencies in the toilets and asking what actions they plan to take.

Proposed – Cllr P Findley

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For - 8

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

**377. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

Members received two written recommendations from the Climate Emergency Working Group:

- i. To sign up to the Kent Sustainable Community Network.

**AGREED** – To ask the Clerk to sign up to the network and to pass on the log in details to members to share the useful resources.

Proposed – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr R Blackwell

For - 8

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

- ii. To agree the Climate and Ecological Emergency Action plan

**AGREED** – To agree the action plan showing the projects recently completed, those that are started but not completed and those that Climate Emergency Working Group are still working on the proposal for (these will need to be agreed at Committee/Council before any actions can be taken).

Proposed – Cllr P Findley

Seconded – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

For - 7

Against – 1

Abstain – 0

**378. BATHING WATER**

- i. Southern Water role in planning

Members received a written report from the Clerk as requested in November's Full Council meeting detailing the role of Southern Water in the planning process.

**AGREED** – To ask the Chairman of the Amenities and Environment Committee to write to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Secretary of State, copying in Mike Tapp MP and Southern Water. Asking that recommendation 72 of the

independent Water Commission report (Pub June 3, 2025) be implemented as soon as possible. Recommendation 72 states "The role of water companies in the planning process in England should be strengthened to ensure they have sufficient sight and influence over upcoming developments. The Right to connect should be reviewed."

Proposed – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For – 8

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

ii. Sites of water testing

Members received a written report on the sites of testing of the Environment Agency within the Deal and Walmer area.

AGREED- To write to the Environment Agency, the Secretary of State for the Environment and Emma Hardy MP – Water minister within Defra, copying in Mike Tapp MP. The letter will ask for further regular testing of waters other than those designated for bathing and for testing for more than just Intestinal Enterococci and Escherichia Coli.

Members requested that an item be brought to next meeting to discuss locations of the defibrillators and the current maintenance of these.

The meeting was closed at 20.15

**379. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

February 26, 2026.

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date



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**Minutes of the meeting of the Walmer in Bloom Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 62 The Strand, Walmer, at 5.30 pm.**

**Present:**  
Cllr L Ludwig (Chairing)  
Cllr P Ludwig  
Cllr D Richardson  
Cllr E Crockford

**Officers present:** John Miles (Administration Officer)

**420. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr S Waite Gleave, Miss A Late and Mrs D Bogue

**421. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None Submitted.

**422. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes be taken as an accurate record.

Proposed by: Cllr D Richardson

Seconded by: Cllr P Ludwig

For 4                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

**423. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF WALMER**

None.

**424. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- i. **NOTED:** Members of the committee received a verbal report from the Chairman.
  - a. Several fallen trees and other greenery are to be cut to allow the creation of a pathway on the Meadows side facing side of Hawkshill.
  - b. A sign was stolen from the entrance to Hawkshill during the holidays, the police have been informed.
  - c. Volunteers have planted agapanthus from their own gardens and as well as other new flowers in the planters on Canada Road.
  - d. There has been no update about the removal of the planter at the Corner Café, Admin is to request an update from the Clerk.
  - e. The committee received a report by Mr S Coates about the activities and volunteer work at Hawkshill between October and January.
  - f. The memorial tree planted last year is thriving.

**Actions:** Committee is concerned that a decision from September has not been completed and can it be chased up as soon as possible. Admin to inform Clerk about this and request that a final choice is made.

**425. ADMIN REPORT**

- i. **NOTED:** Members of the committee received a copy of the Admin Officer's report

**426. WALMER IN BLOOM CAMPAIGN**

- i. **NOTED:** To confirm bids and designs from Youngs and Chapman.  
**RESOLVED-** Both bids have been agreed on, Admin to contact both companies to inform them of requirements for the campaign.  
Youngs are to be asked to choose the colour/flower scheme for the basket.  
Chapman to be informed that the baskets are to be installed the weekend after 25<sup>th</sup> May and will be up for 14 weeks and to be removed by the 1<sup>st</sup> September.  
Proposed by: Cllr D Richardson  
Seconded by: Cllr P Ludwig  
For 4                  Against 0                  Abstain 0  
**Actions: Admin to inform Youngs and Chapman regarding acceptance of their quotes.**
- ii. To approve the purchase of compost for use in council planters.  
**RESOLVED-** Purchase of compost agreed  
Proposed by: Cllr D Richardson  
Seconded by: Cllr P Ludwig  
For 4                  Against 0                  Abstain 0
- iii. To approve the purchase of a small trophy  
**RESOLVED-** Purchase of trophy agreed  
Proposed by: Cllr D Richardson  
Seconded by: Cllr P Ludwig  
For 4                  Against 0                  Abstain 0
- iv. Contacting schools regarding poster competition and change of brief.  
**RESOLVED-** The Downs and Parochial Schools are happy to continue on with the competition as already laid out. The Beacon School will be joining the competition this year. There will be no change this year with the competition brief  
**Actions: Admin to look into erection of a shelf for the trophy and SSEIB Gold certificate.**

**427. HAWKSHILL**

- i. To confirm tree survey quotes.  
**RESOLVED-** Quote by Invicta Arboriculture has been approved.  
Proposed by: Cllr P Ludwig  
Seconded by: Cllr D Richardson  
For 4                  Against 0                  Abstain 0  
**Actions: Admin to inform Invicta Arboriculture regarding acceptance of their quote.**
- ii. To confirm quote for tree cutting at Hawkshill.  
**RESOLVED-** Quote by Red Dog Gardening has been approved.  
Proposed by: Cllr P Ludwig  
Seconded by: Cllr D Richardson  
For 4                  Against 0                  Abstain 0  
**Actions: Admin to inform Red Dog Gardening regarding acceptance of their quote.**
- iii. Preferred tree surveyor and hedge cutter.  
**RESOLVED-** Recommendation to be sent to F&GP to approve Invicta Arboriculture and Leaf Tree Services as preferred contractors for Hawkshill.  
Proposed by: Cllr D Richardson  
Seconded by: Cllr P Ludwig

For 4                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

**Actions: Admin to inform both companies if approved by F&GP, including ongoing requirements.**

**Admin to forward report to F&GP.**

iv. Hawkshill Sign.

**RESOLVED- The current sign is not to be replaced, in case there are classification changes, then a new sign may be authorised. In addition, several signs may be rationalised and combined onto one post if/when the sign is replaced.**

v. Requirement for additional hedge plants. To agree a budget to be spent delegating authority to the officer who will liaise with Mr Coates.

**RESOLVED- A budget of £150 has been authorised for purchase of hedge plants. Authority has been delegated to the officer to liaise with Mr Coates and confirm requested plants.**

Proposed by: Cllr P Ludwig

Seconded by: Cllr D Richardson

For 4                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

**Actions: Admin to contact volunteer to order plants.**

vi. Requirement for Tool Sharpening

**RESOLVED- A budget of £150 has been authorised for sharpening of Hawkshill tools.**

Authority has been delegated to the officer to approach Sean's Sharpening for a booking.

Proposed by: Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded by: Cllr D Richardson

For 4                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

**Actions: Admin to contact Sean's Sharpening regarding a booking.**

**428. WALMER PEACE GARDENS**

i. WPG representatives were not able to attend the meeting.

ii. To confirm quotes for Tree Cutting.

**RESOLVED- Quote by Leaf Tree services has been approved.**

Proposed by: Cllr P Ludwig

Seconded by: Cllr D Richardson

For 4                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

**Actions: Admin to inform Leaf Tree Services regarding acceptance of their quote.**

**429. PLANTERS**

i. Cllr L Ludwig met with Mr Gabriel regarding the RNLI planter, he plans to remake the ones that are there and will be pricing up what is used.

**RESOLVED- A budget of £200 has been authorised for the reimbursement to Mr Gabriel for materials as and when requested.**

Proposed: Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded: Cllr P Ludwig

For 4                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

**430. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**

I. Quantity and cost of paint for planters.

II. Leaflet Drop.

III. Year Planner.

IV. Tech solutions for competition.

**431. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 17:30.

The meeting closed at 19:00

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_



**WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

62 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7DP

Web site: [www.walmercouncil.co.uk](http://www.walmercouncil.co.uk) E-mail: [clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk)

Tel: 01304 362363

**Minutes of the meeting of Walmer Town Council Planning Committee held on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 7.00pm at Elizabeth House, St Mary's Road, Walmer.**

**Present: Councillors:**  
Cllr J Murray (Chair)  
Cllr R Blackwell  
Cllr T Grist  
Cllr T Bond  
Cllr M Simpson

**Officers present:** John Miles (Administration Officer)

**391. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Lee and Cllr Waite Gleave offered apologies that were accepted.

**392. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None Received

**393. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

All those present were reminded of the Rights and Obligations under the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

**394. A SHORT GUIDE TO PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS**

Resolved- Noted

**395. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

Proposed: Cllr R Blackwell

Seconded: Cllr M Simpson

For: 5            Against:0            Abstain: 0

**396. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE**

None Received

### 397. PLANNING DECISIONS

Reference	Site	DDC	WTC	Description
25/01155	20 Cavalry Court Walmer CT14 7GF	Grant Planning Permission	No Objection	Replacement door (Retrospective)
25/01222	29 Ardent Avenue Walmer CT14 7UE	Grant Planning Permission	No Objection	Erection of a detached garden room
25/01188	King Charles Court Lord Warden Avenue Walmer CT14 7LD	Grant Consent	Walmer Town Council Objects to this application on the following grounds. 1. The application has no valid case for the crown raising of Tree T5.	T5 False Acacia - crown raise to 6 metres over footpath and highway; T6 Ash - prune back the canopy on the eastern side to previous pruning points; T10 Ash - remove the north eastern facing limb overhanging the footpath, all the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 1 of 1959.
25/01159	Street Record North Barracks Walmer Kent	Grant Consent	Walmer Town Council Objects to this application on the following grounds. 1. The application has no valid case for the crown raising of Tree T5.	Rolling consent to re-pollard one London Plane (T1), the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 9 of 1998, and located to the west of 25 Trafalgar Drive, by an additional 1 metre below the previous pruning points initially, followed by the re-pollarding back to previous pruning points on four further occasions over a maximum period of fifteen years (one occasion every 3 years). Rolling consent to re- pollard back to previous pruning points of one London Plane (T5), the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 9 of 1998, and located to the north of 1 Coventry Gardens, followed by the re-pollarding back to previous pruning points on four further occasions over a maximum period of fifteen years (one occasion every 3 years).

### 398. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – NEW

- i. **DOV/25/01318- Shortwood House, Station Road, Walmer, CT147QR**  
Erection of a single storey side extension, replacement windows, outdoor kitchen, fire, log store, and terrace (existing conservatory, shed and greenhouse to be demolished).  
**Resolved** – Walmer Town Council supports this application  
Proposed: Cllr R Blackwell  
Seconded: Cllr T Bond  
For: 5                      Against:0                      Abstain: 0
- ii. **DOV/25/01291- 25 Herschell Square Deal CT14 7SU**  
Erection of a single storey side/rear extension  
**Resolved** – Walmer Town Council supports this application  
Proposed: Cllr T Grist  
Seconded: Cllr R Blackwell

For: 5                      Against:0                      Abstain: 0

- iii. **DOV/25/01283- The Berry, 23 Canada Road, Walmer, Deal**  
Change of use from public house to residential dwelling, alterations to rear ground floor window/door and erection of cycle/bin store  
**Resolved – No Objection**  
Proposed: Cllr T Bond  
Seconded: Cllr R Blackwell  
For: 3                      Against:2                      Abstain: 0
- iv. **DOV/25/01303- Flat 9, Leelands House, Grams Road, Walmer**  
Crown lift to 3 metres and crown reduce by 3 metres overall of 2 Silver Birch (G1) the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 1 of 1965.  
**Resolved –Objection**  
Walmer Town Council Objects on the following grounds  
1. There is no valid reason for the works as laid out in the application.  
Proposed: Cllr T Grist  
Seconded: Cllr T Bond  
For: 5                      Against:0                      Abstain: 0
- v. **DOV/25/01311- Pump House, Liverpool Road, Walmer, Kent**  
Crown lift to 4 metres above ground level of one Pine (T1) the subject of Tree Preservation Order No 1 of 1959.  
**Resolved –Objection**  
Walmer Town Council Objects on the following grounds  
1. There is no valid reason for the works as laid out in the application.  
Proposed: Cllr M Simpson  
Seconded: Cllr R Blackwell  
For: 5                      Against:0                      Abstain: 0
- vi. **DOV/25/01313- Fairlight, 68 Wellington Parade, Walmer, Deal**  
Erection of 2 single-storey rear extensions, rear terrace, new window openings, and boundary parapet wall. Construction of courtyard steps, detached single-storey car port with office, and detached single-storey self-contained annex with detached single storey garage. Creation of a new vehicular access and associated boundary wall  
**Resolved – No Objection**  
Proposed: Cllr M Simpson  
Seconded: Cllr T Bond  
For: 3                      Against:2                      Abstain: 0
- vii. **DOV/25/01344- Castle Cottage, 30 Wellington Parade, Walmer, CT14 8AB**  
Erection of single storey rear and side extensions, erection of a link extension to existing outbuilding and associated external alterations  
**Resolved – No Objection**  
Proposed: Cllr T Grist  
Seconded: Cllr M Simpson  
For: 5                      Against:0                      Abstain: 0

### **399. TREE APPLICATIONS.**

**Resolved –** The decision was made by the Committee to compose a letter to be sent to DDC planning department regarding the numerous applications for tree works that do not contain sufficient information about the locations and reasons for the works.  
Proposed: Cllr R Blackwell

Seconded: Cllr M Simpson  
For: 5          Against:0          Abstain: 0

**400. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 19:45

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Signed ..... Dated .....



**WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

62 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7DP

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Tel: 01304 362363

**Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 62 The Strand, Walmer, at 7.10 pm**

**Present:** Cllr S Waite-Gleave (Chairing)  
Cllr R Blackwell  
Cllr P Findley

**Officers present:** John Miles (Administration Officer)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- Apologies received from Cllr M Eddy and Mrs S Fisher

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- None Submitted.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- **Resolved:** That the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> September be taken as an accurate record.
    - Proposed by: Cllr Blackwell
    - Seconded by: Cllr Findley
- For 3                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- **Noted:** Working group received update from Admin
- **Noted:** Working group received update from Chairman
  - More information about the change of Hawkshill designation has been received.
  - A document regarding the Kent Sustainable Communities Network will be prepared for submission to A&E committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.
  - Plans for the WTC meeting at Deal TC 27/11 for Cllrs of 2 local councils and DDC staff & Cllrs about reducing use of harmful pesticides with guest speaker Nick Mole of Pesticide Action Network. Invitations have gone out, replies will be encouraged.
  - Updates were received about the water filling station and the Churchill Avenue Site.
  - Cllr Waite Gleave to forward admin a copy of the Community Pollinator Toolkit received from Kent Plan Bee.

**5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

- None Submitted.

## 6. ONGOING PROJECTS

### Climate and Ecology Action Plans

- **Noted:** The Climate and Ecology Action plans have been updated; final draft versions are to be submitted to the A&E committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.

### DDC Climate and Nature Forum

- **Noted:** Working group received update from Chairman about the DDC C&N Forum meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025.
  - Presentation from Kent Community energy about work with local groups on installing solar cells on publicly owned buildings. Small grants are offered to help non-profit organisations improve energy efficiency.
  - Discussion on trees on new developments, need for developers to ensure new planted trees are cared for and healthy for at least three years.
  - Discussion on water resilience in Kent and the need for improved water treatment and new infrastructure.
  - Suggestion from WTC regarding car clubs in the local district to reduce car ownership costs for residents in new out-of-town developments, DDC to attract car club providers to the area.
  - Repeat offer from the DDC officer regarding local groups wanting to offer thermal surveys, East Kent Climate Action to take up offer.
  - C&N Forum were updated about WTC works.
    - Draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plans
    - DDC agreed on the WTC water refill station; costings from potential installers being gathered.
    - A new national warm homes local grant scheme has been signed up to by Dover and Dartford Councils.

### Coastal Recovery

- **Noted:** Working group were informed about the results and the final set of water tests and compared to the earlier tests. All four tests came out as 'Excellent'.
- WTC Cllrs attended the meeting with Southern Water representative on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Cllr Findley referred to the fact that beaches south of Deal Castle beach are not 'designated bathing areas' and therefore EA are not required by law to do the weekly testing between May and Sept that they do north of Deal Castle. More information would be available if Walmer beach and others were a 'designated bathing area'.

### Transport

- **EV Points**
  - **Noted:** The working group were informed about the updated numbers and profit share from the EV points at Canada Road.
  - Future EV possibilities to be revisited in May 2026.

### Thermal Camera & Energy Saving

- **Noted:** Thermal Camera update has been given to the working group.
  - Leaflets have been distributed, more to be delivered to Lower Walmer and into Middle Walmer.
  - EKCA have begun their own Thermal Camera scheme for wards of Middle Deal, Mill Hill, North Deal.

- Thermal Camera has been recalibrated and is ready for use.
- Information about the DDC website link to national warm home grant to be added to the Thermal Camera info sheet.
- WTC office to be done.

#### **Waste & Pollution Reduction**

- **Noted:** WalAPP certificate has been redesigned and is ready for use, Cllr Waite Gleave to distribute to relevant local businesses in Jan / Feb 2026. List to be drafted by chair.

#### **7. NEW PROJECTS**

- No New Projects Suggested
  - CEWG to contact Ramsgate Town Clerk regarding their tree donation project.
  - It is advisable to promote WTC Nature and Biodiversity small Grants to local community groups.

#### **8. POSSIBLE FUTURE INITIATIVES.**

- None Suggested

#### **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 19:00 at No 62 The Strand.

The meeting closed at 20:10

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Financial information as at 24/02/26  
Bank Balances

Charity Bank	£104,485.29
Redwood bank	£104,000.41
Unity Trust current	£29,874.22
Unity Trust Deposit	£111,842.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>£350,202.48</b>

**Committee budget vs spend 2025/26 as at 31/1/26**

Committee	Budget	Spend	notes
Amenities and Environment	£ 25,400.00	£ 2,423.38	includes CEWG
Events	£ 15,000.00	£ 8,045.48	
Finance and General purposes	£ -	£ -	
Human Resources	£ -	£ -	
Planning	£ -	£ -	
Walmer in Bloom	£ 23,300.00	£ 6,237.07	includes Hawkshill and Peace Garden

The following applications have been reviewed by the Climate Emergency Working Group

**Applications for a Biodiversity Grant**

Applicant	Details of project	Amount applied for	Relevant Documentation provided	A&E Recommendation
Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts	To complete third of three year project to increase population of Swifts. To provide 10 nesting boxes and additional promotional literature (posters and leaflets).	£498.76	Yes	£498.76



Item: Chairmans badge.  
Date: 23/2/26.  
Meeting: March 2026 Full Council.  
From: Roland Aldred.

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At the February meeting the Clerk reported that the cost of the new badge of office for the Chairman had risen beyond the initial quote significantly due to increases in the price of silver. Silver prices continued to rise through January but have since dropped somewhat

The price would now be £1125 for the silver gilt plated badge of office up from the original £965 agreed.

Alternatively there is a base metal gilt plated version at a cost of £833 which has remained at the same price as the original quote.

#### Options

To agree to purchase the silver gilt version of the badge at the new price of £1125 and delegate an additional £150 to the Clerk to spend based on the price of silver fluctuating.

To amend the proposal considering new information of the change of price to purchase the cheaper base metal version at £833.

*Members to decide.*



Item: Community Governance Review Update  
 Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
 Meeting: Full Council Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
 From: Roland Aldred

Dover District Council considered the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review (CGR) at its meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The decision made at this meeting is below:

- *To hold the CGR based upon the number of councillors allocated to each Town and Parish Council / council ward.*

Appendix 1 of this summary report is the CGR communication recently received from Electoral Services, Dover District Council. Further details regarding the background and rationale for the scope of the CGR agreed by DDC can be found within this document. The communication from Electoral Services also advises that Walmer Town Council's input during the review is welcomed and sets out some questions to help us decide whether we wish to recommend any changes for DDC to consider. These are:

1. Do you struggle to find people to stand as candidates?
2. Do you have a lot of vacancies and uncontested elections?
3. Do you struggle to staff your committees due to low councillor numbers?
4. Do you struggle to remain quorate?
5. Has population growth in your area increased the amount of time you have to spend on council work?
6. Will increasing or decreasing your councillor numbers lead to less elections? (Elections should be taking place every 4 years; if elections are continually uncontested and vacancies continually co-opted, it could be argued that there is a 'democratic surplus' of councillors and reducing the number of seats would improve this.)

Supporting Data

The data table below is sourced from NALC published guidance on recommended number of councillors.

Walmer	Current	Feb-21	Est 2031
Electorate totals	6595	6608	6624
Electors per member	440	441	442

NALC recommended levels puts Walmer Town Council in their 6500-7700 bracket, for which they recommend 14 councillors. They also advise that for an electorate of 6624 (2031 estimate) there should be no more than 15 Councillors.

In the May 2023 elections, the 15 seats that make up Walmer were all contested. In the 2019 elections only one ward of three councillors was contested and there was one vacancy in the Wellington Ward.

Options

- To make no comments on the CGR.
- To respond that no changes are required, ie that 15 is the correct number of councillors for WTC.
- To respond and request that the number of councillors is amended: to make a proposal that Walmer Town Council is made up of a specific number of councillors (not 15), giving reasons why.

*Members to decide.*



Dear Town/Parish Clerk

### **Community Governance Review**

A Community Governance Review is the legal process used to consider parish arrangements, as outlined in the Local Government and Public Involvement Health Act 2007 ("the 2007 Act"). The Council has a duty to keep parish arrangements under review and the means to do this is by running a Community Governance Review (CGR). The main aim of this CGR is to ensure that the towns/parishes in our area remain robust, representative and able to meet the challenges that lay before them. Furthermore, the Council needs to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the areas that town/parish councils represent.

Any changes arising from a CGR must allow for enough time to be implemented prior to the scheduled town/parish council elections in May 2027.

Dover District Council considered the terms of reference for the CGR at its meeting held on 28 January 2026. In setting the Terms of Reference, the Council considered the views of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in conducting a CGR. The MHCLG has confirmed that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for our area will be based on a mixture of parish, district and county boundaries. This is different to the assumption that we had been operating under when initially planning the CGR that parish boundaries would not be used as building blocks in the development of the LGR proposals.

The Structural Changes Order (SCO) which sets in law the changes to be made is currently expected for September, although an announcement in respect of the chosen unitary model is expected from the MHCLG in 'early summer', which will provide clarity as to what, if any, boundary changes may be needed for the unitary. Due to this information, running a CGR now that includes options to amend internal or external boundaries, warding, grouping, ungrouping or abolishing parishes raises the potential risk of conflicting with LGR proposals in this area.

Dover District Council made the decision at its meeting held on 28 January 2026 to hold the Community Governance Review (CGR) based upon the number of councillors allocated to each town and parish council / council ward. This does not interfere with LGR and can be accommodated in plenty of time for the 2027 parish elections. In acknowledgement that a full CGR is not being conducted, the requirement to hold a full CGR including options to amend wards, groupings and internal and external boundaries will be included on the Implementation Plan to be taken forward by the new unitary authority.

The Elections Team will be administering the CGR on behalf of Dover District Council and will report the results of the consultation to the Electoral Matters Committee for them to make their recommendations to Full Council.

Your Council's input during the review would be welcomed – your councillors are in the best position to know if changes are needed. There are some guided questions included in this information to help you to discuss the options available and decide whether you wish to recommend any changes for DDC to consider. If you do not wish to make any changes to your councillor numbers, please respond to the review with this information, to ensure your views are considered.

As mentioned previously, the aim of the CGR is to look at the levels of representation at each council and compare current levels to those recommended by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Details are given for comparison in Appendix 1.

Draft recommendations will be decided by Full Council based on the results of the initial consultation. At that stage you will be able to comment on the proposals put forward and your reasons for agreeing / disagreeing with them. A copy of the Terms of Reference for the review has been included for your information, which includes a draft timetable and details of how to respond.

If you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Elections Team using the details below. We will always help where we can.

Kind regards



Tracy Gibbs

**Electoral Services Manager**

**Elections Team Helpline: 01304 872344**

**Email: [elections@dover.gov.uk](mailto:elections@dover.gov.uk)**

NALC recommended councillor numbers:

<b>Electors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Councillors</b>
Up to 900	7	10,400	17
1,400	8	11,900	18
2,000	9	13,500	19
2,700	10	15,200	20
3,500	11	17,000	21
4,400	12	18,900	22
5,400	13	20,900	23
6,500	14	23,000	24
7,700	15	over 23,000	25
9,000	16		

## Guided Questions – Community Governance Review

Town/Parish Council

Should the number of councillors on your existing council be changed?

If yes, please indicate what the proposed number of councillors should be and the reasons for the proposal.

Please refer to NALC's recommended councillor levels and electorates detailed in Appendix 1, and the list of uncontested elections and vacancies in Appendix 2. A copy of the NALC numbers can be found in the document above and in the Terms of Reference.

Points for consideration:

- Do you struggle to find people to stand as candidates?
- Do you have a lot of vacancies and uncontested elections?
- Do you struggle to staff your committees due to low councillor numbers?
- Do you struggle to remain quorate?
- Has population growth in your area increased the amount of time you have to spend on council work?
- Will increasing or decreasing your councillor numbers lead to less elections? (Elections should be taking place every 4 years; if elections are continually uncontested and vacancies continually co-opted, it could be argued that there is a 'democratic surplus' of councillors and reducing the number of seats would improve this.)

Item: Outdoor Gym Project  
Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
Full Council Meeting Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
From: Lynne Simmons on behalf of the outdoor gym working party

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The latest updates on progress relating to the Outdoor Gym project are set out below.

### 1. Lease Agreement

Following the full council meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026, DDC were instructed to issue a draft lease based on the Heads of Terms as agreed by members.

We requested a delivery date for this document and were initially advised of a significant backlog of work within the Legal department of DDC. We have therefore pressed for our lease to be given priority, given the impact of missing the installation timeline for Summer 26.

We have this week been advised that despite the forthcoming departure of a further member of the Legal team in mid-March 26, they will endeavour to issue the lease by 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Officers will continue to keep on top of this situation to ensure that further delays are kept to a minimum. The possibility of DDC outsourcing this work has also been muted, should the internal capability of the department prove incapable of drawing up the draft lease in an acceptable timeframe.

As work cannot commence on site until this formal agreement is in place, each week of delay is now impacting our project installation date and putting at risk our existing quote (valid for 90 days from 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026).

### 2. Planning Application – BNG Assessment

Having initially instructed the ecologist to proceed with the BNG Assessment as requested by DDC Planning, there has now been further information provided by the ecologist which means that this situation is more complex than first envisaged.

The site sits within “Coastal Vegetated Shingle” which is classified a priority habitat, a high distinctiveness habitat which makes it one of the most difficult habitat types on which to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain. Because of this classification, any loss would technically need to be compensated for with the same habitat type which is extremely difficult to recreate. The ecologist has advised that, in this scenario, no reasonable amount of on-site planting would achieve the mandatory 10% gain. Essentially it would require a very bespoke management plan similar to that for the existing Kingsdown & Walmer Beach Management Plan which covers the area of beach south of the RNLI lifeboat station. In addition, the site also lies within 7km of a designated RAMSAR (wetlands) site (Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay) which adds a further sensitivity to works affecting coastal locations.

Several conversations have taken place about how to proceed to achieve the best chance of success. The complete set of fairly limited options at this point appear to be as follows:

1. Purchase off site statutory bio-diversity credits - essentially a financial contribution towards the required 10% gain. Our site roughly equates to the purchase of a 0.2 credit which would in monetary terms amount to a payment of around £5k, although this could feasibly be more. Purchasing a partial credit may be difficult to source and availability may be limited. The bio-diversity gain is also unlikely to be within a local site.

2. Consider re-locating the gym to an area which is not designated as Coastal Vegetated Shingle, ie not on the beach. This was previously discussed and discounted for several valid reasons and would also mean that the project would effectively need to start again with a new quote, planning application, lease and so on.
3. Seek advice and support from the Senior Environment Officer at DDC, Stefanie Bramley. We have emailed and discussed this situation briefly with Stefanie after taking advice from White Cliffs Partnership and DDC's Coastal Engineer. We are expecting her input to this issue during this week (w/c 23/2/26). There are several current plans for development of this area of the beach, including a boardwalk and sauna so we should not be the only project impacted by the relatively new set of statutory requirements. Our hope is that a mutually acceptable solution can be found which benefits and enhances local sites appropriately, to compensate for the impact to the coastal vegetated shingle on this particular stretch of the beach, which is not covered by the K&W Beach Mgt Plan and has been the site of various other developments over the years (beach huts, boat plots, Scout Hut, Hut 55 and so on).
4. Following the recent receipt of proposals for the accessibility boardwalk from DDC, we understand this similar beach development is being considered under Permitted Development (PD). We have taken further independent advice regarding how applicable the PD legislation is to our development, with the result that we have written to DDC Planning and have set out a rationale which demonstrates how this legislation can be applied for the outdoor gym. Installing the gym using PD avoids the trigger for a BNG assessment.

Whilst we await the input from Stefanie Bramley and the response from DDC Planning, we have not yet given the final go-ahead for the formal BNG assessment to be completed. Assuming there will be a solution found for the way forward, we will instruct the survey/assessment should we need to, at the earliest opportunity.

Members should note that a separate request has been received from DDC for £5k contribution towards funding of planting enhancements to the proposed boardwalk on the beach. This broadly matches the estimate we have been given for the cost of purchasing a partial bio-diversity credit to compensate for our development and is in the same location.

Members will appreciate the need for the working party to work with a degree of flexibility to find the right and acceptable solution to solve this problem.

**Proposal:** *That members increase the previously agreed budget sum of £5k (agreed to enable delivery of this additional planning requirement), to a revised budget figure of up to £7.5K, should it be needed, delegated to the officer (clerk), to ensure an acceptable solution can be agreed and moved forward at the earliest opportunity.*



Item: Town Of Culture.

Date: 24/02/26.

Meeting:.

From: Roland Aldred.

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Below is an e-mail from the Deal Society who have set up a Town of Culture Steering Group to facilitate an application for Deal (to include Walmer).

At this point the bid is only at the expression of interest stage. The Deal Town of Culture Steering Group are asking Walmer Town Council to support their bid. At this time no resource or financial implications are being requested although they may at a later date.

"The 'Town Summit', led by the Deal Society, at the Astor Theatre in December last year generated a lot of energy and enthusiasm about ways in which the community of Deal can be involved in the improvement of the town. An early success story was the transformation of the Old Factory Shop in the High Street into a pop-up art gallery. This project, which has been very well received by shopkeepers and the public, was a collaboration between the Deal Society, South East Artists and the Deal Arts Club, with the support of the owners of the building and their professional agents. It is only one small project but its delivery in just 36 hours, a week before Christmas, demonstrated the power of collaboration through community partnership.

You will have heard that the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched the first **UK Town of Culture Competition**. I am part of a small Steering Group working on making a bid for Deal (including Walmer). My purpose in writing is that we would like to include Walmer Town Council in our wider Deal Partnership and gain your in principle support. I understand from our chat earlier that this will need to be reported to the Walmer Town Council on 4th March, 2026.

I don't want to burden you with too much detail and will provide you with a short overview. Should you wish to read further, the full details of how the competition will work are set out on the DCMS website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-town-of-culture-2028-expression-of-interest/uk-town-of-culture-2028-expression-of-interest-guidance-for-bidders>

There is a lot of work involved in making a case for Deal and the timescales are tight. As a first step, we have registered as a bidder and the competition is currently in the **Expression of Interest (EOI)** phase.

- **March 31, 2026:** Deadline to submit an Expression of Interest.
- **Spring 2026:** Shortlist of towns announced.
- **Summer/Autumn 2026:** Shortlisted towns develop and submit full bids.
- **Early 2027:** Overall winner announced.

- **2028:** The winning town hosts its six-month cultural program.

The prizes in the competition are substantial and could fund a very attractive cultural program in Deal and Walmer and possibly a lasting development project, such as an arts and community facility.

- **Winning Town:** Receives **£3 million** to deliver its program in 2028.
- **Two Finalists (Runners-up):** Receive **£250,000** each to implement parts of their proposals.
- **Shortlisted Towns:** Each receives a **£60,000** grant to help fund the development of their final, detailed bid.

There are now two main tasks facing the Steering Group.

- **Deal Partnership:** we must quickly establish a broad partnership of interested and supportive bodies including local authorities, business groups, community organisations, clubs and societies involved in heritage, arts and culture.
- **Expression of Interest:** we need to think through and formulate our bid for consideration by partners and submission by 31st March.

As I said at the beginning, we would like to include Walmer Town Council in the Deal Partnership. There are no resource implications for the Town Council, although as the project progresses we would be pleased to hear from anyone who feels that they could help.

**At this stage, all we need is for you and your Council to be aware of our proposal to enter the competition and give your support to it in principle.**

We will be up against some stiff competition and a significant number of towns have already expressed interest. Some of them have well established town partnerships and greater resource capacity to make their bid. Some may have geo-political advantages. Notwithstanding that, we feel that we can make a very compelling case for Deal based on its rich history, artistic and cultural connections, traditions, customs, reputation and events which define the town's identity, spirit and sense of place.

If we are shortlisted, we will be awarded a £60,000 grant to support us in developing and strengthening our full submission. Even if we are not shortlisted, this exercise will test our capacity and preparedness to improve our case in future Town of Culture and other funding competitions.

I am sure that when you consider the potential benefits of creating a Deal Partnership, of the power of collaboration and of taking part in The Town of Culture Competition, you will want to join us. I look forward to receiving your Council's in principle support.

Best regards,

Deal Town of Culture Steering Group"

*Members to decide whether or not to offer support to the bid.*



**Item: Purchase of Digital Information Screen**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Meeting: Full Council**

**From: Admin Clerk**

As part of the tidying up process of the office frontage, officers have investigated a digital screen for the front window to replace all of the posters stick in the window. At No 8 The Strand we had one combined digital screen and an A3 poster window box for posters. A recent check on the status of the screen indicated that it no longer functioned.

Replacing the damaged screen could allow for the visual advertising of council events, local goings on, notices from emergency services, charity events and official notifications. This would also allow for a heavy reduction of posters and notices that are routinely posted in the windows, cutting down on unnecessary clutter and further reducing materials cost in the office.

A number of display monitors are available at approximately the same price of £365-385 (ex VAT). A local company in Sandwich can supply a combined monitor screen, media player and licence and is available for £400 (ex VAT). This company will also install the screen but we do not have a confirmed costing for this at this time. A copy of the rough quote has been included here for completion.

A member of their staff will be visiting the office on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February to look over the work required and to provide a quote.

All displays can be purchased in landscape or portrait.

We are awaiting quotes for installation and will update this at the meeting if quotes have been received.

Option	Price	Size	Delivery	Location	Warranty	Tech Support
1	£365	32in	£20	Cambridgeshire	3 Year warranty	lifetime tech support
2	£365	32in	£24.90	Surrey	3 Year warranty	lifetime tech support
3	£365	32in	£42.5	Surrey	3 Year warranty	lifetime tech support
4	£385	32in	Free	Shrewsbury	3 Year warranty	lifetime tech support
5	£400	32in	Unknown	Sandwich	1 Year warranty	3 months free and then case by case.

*Members to decide on purchase of monitor screen.*



Item: DDC Accessible Beach Project.  
Date: 11/02/26.  
Meeting: Feb 2026 Amenities and Environment.  
From: Roland Aldred.

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As you are aware following Cllr Vinson's update at the January Full Council meeting Dover District Council are looking to construct an accessible beach area for wheelchair users.

Below are the comments from DDC officers about what they are looking to achieve and reasons behind this.

*"You may have already heard but the council is looking to improve wheelchair access onto the beach following requests from local members of the public. Consequently, I attach the above proposal that looks to install the boardwalk opposite Marine Road just past the paddling pool and Hut 55. The reason for this location is mainly for the access and parking on Marine Road, which can incorporate further blue badge parking if deemed successful. The beach also remains at its widest point being unaffected by winter storms which allows good opportunity for improved access to the beach and an area where wheelchair users can rest and enjoy the extended coastal viewpoints.*

*The Councils coastal budget is looking to provide as much access as feasible and so with the attached engineering solution the design can reach 45m off the promenade. However, the Council is keen to enhance the area further with some indigenous low maintenance coastal planting beds, timber wind breaks and benching possibly (plan attached). I appreciate this sits close to your boundary lines, but I think members would agree to see the full potential of this project and so I would appreciate it if you would share this with your members and see if each Council would be willing to make a small contribution? I have estimated the enhancements to be approximately £10k total and so if each Council could consider a £5k contribution it could make all the difference.*

*If you could let me have your thoughts and what members think by end of February that would be great as the council is looking to go out to tender in March."*

Dover District Council officers have been made aware that this would need to be discussed at the full council meeting in March.

Currently there are no standards or guidelines in place for beach accessibility other than where possible access should be provided. The Beach Access Project (<https://beachaccessproject.co.uk/>) are working to get government guidelines put in place to around accessibility to beaches. The clerk made contact with Will Behnna who set up the Beach Access project, the ideal circumstance is always to have access to the water from the accessibility project. This will depend on the topography and geography of the beach as to

whether or not this is realistic. Will's view on Walmer beach without having visited was that it sounded unlikely to be a realistic target given the steep banking and movement of beach material. The basic requirements according to the Beach Access project are:

- Accessible Toilets – Served by Marine Road.
- Disabled car parking spaces – suggested by DDC to be installed as part of the project.
- A flat wood or composite Surface – provided by the project.
- Changing facilities where access to the water is provided – no access to water is provided.

Additional features that could be considered included

- Shelter from sun
- Beach wheelchairs
- Pop up gazebo changing areas

Some pictures of other beach access project on shingle across the country



Bexhill



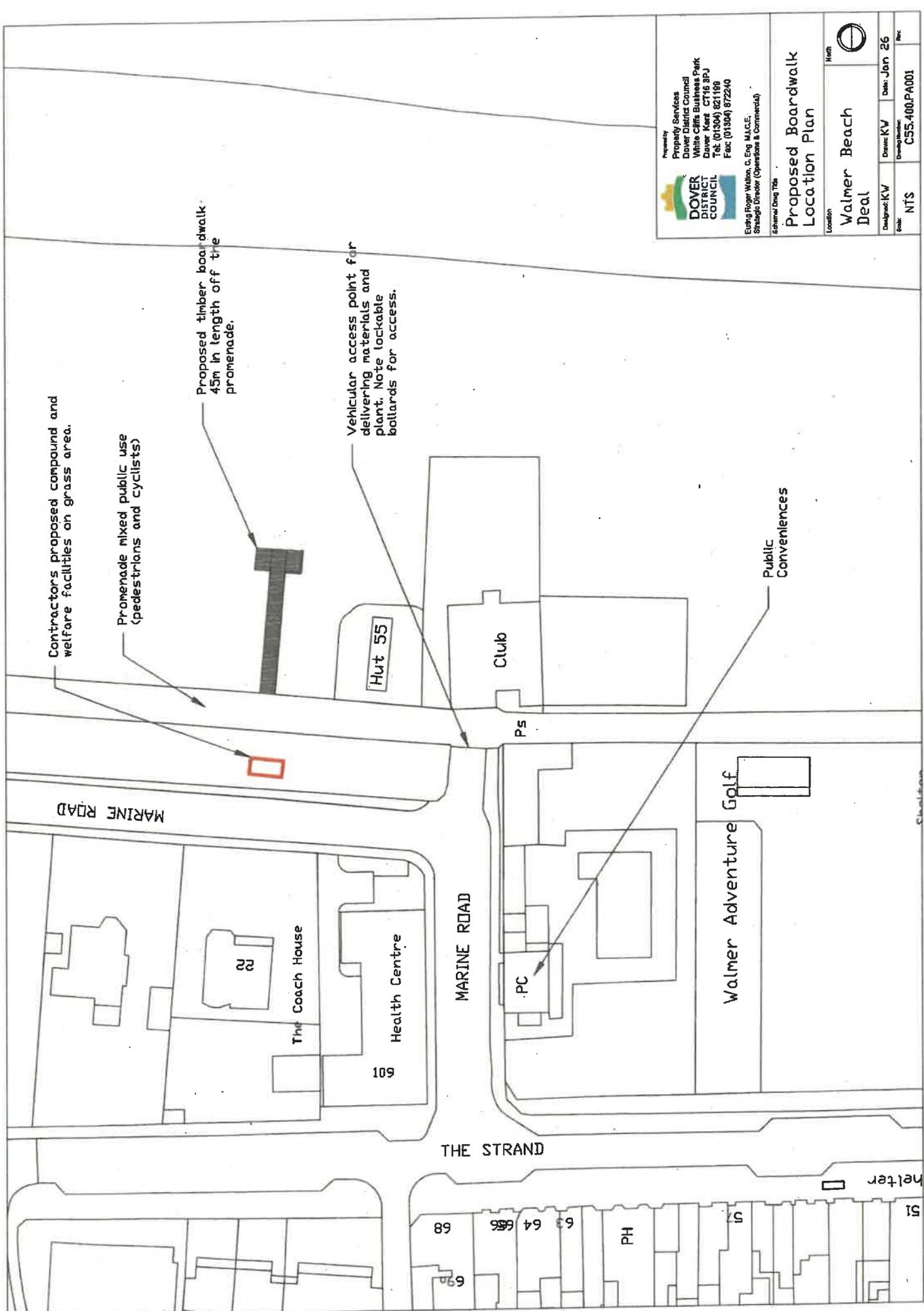
Southend

Members of the Amenities and Environment Committee reviewed the item, heard input from the Deal Speaking up Group and made the following recommendations.

The recommendation of the Amenities and Environment committee is to respond to the consultation with:

To offer a contribution of £5,000 to Dover District Council for the accessible beach project with the recommendation that it look to improve the project to more reflect the Bexhill project design.

*Members to decide.*



Proposed by  
 Property Services  
 Dover District Council  
 White Cliffs Business Park  
 Dover Kent CT16 3PJ  
 Tel: (01304) 821188  
 Fax: (01304) 872240

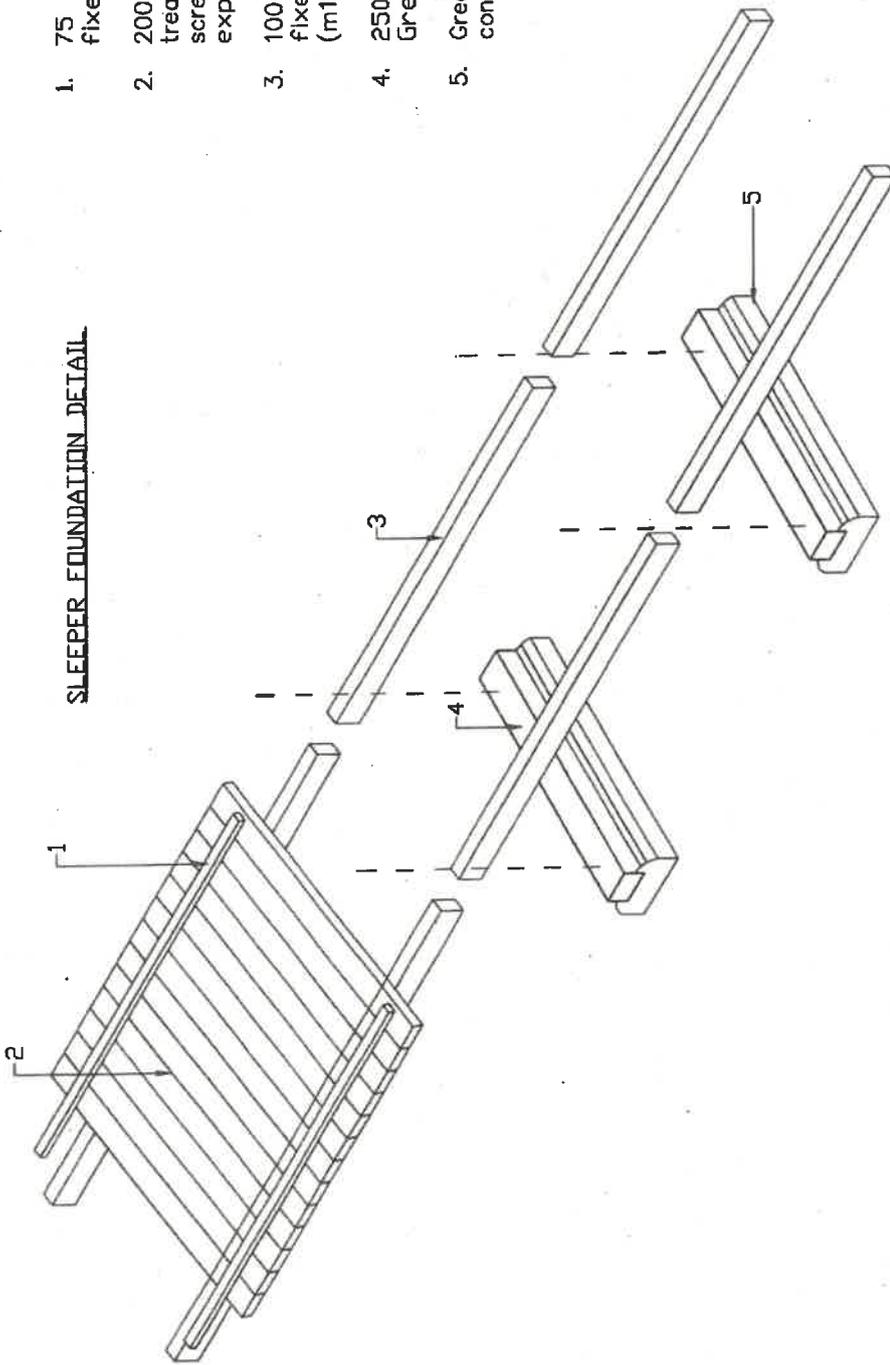
Ernie Roger Walton, C. Eng. M.A.C.E.  
 Strategic Director (Operations & Commercial)

Proposed Boardwalk  
 Location Plan

Location	Walmer Beach Deal	North	
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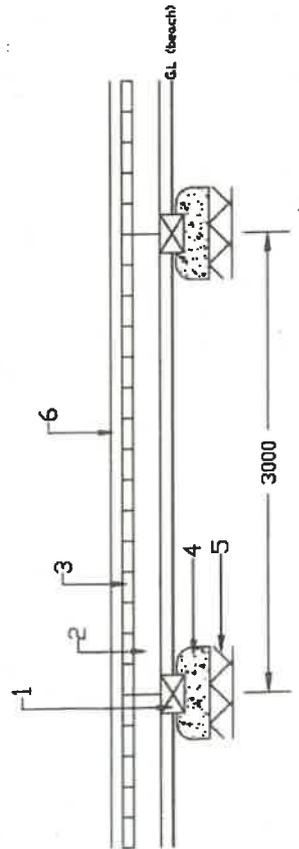
Design: KV	Date: Jan 26	Rev:
Scale: NTS	Drawing Number: CSS-400-PA001	

**SLEEPER FOUNDATION DETAIL**



1. 75 x 50mm HC4 treated timber edging strips fixed to decking with stainless steel screws.
2. 200 x 75 x 2400mm HC4 Treated timber decking treads fixed to sleeper joists with stainless steel screws. Allow 5-8mm between each board for expansion.
3. 100 x 175mm treated Greenheart timber joists fixed internally with stainless steel coach screws (m12) & Galvanised truss clips.
4. 250 x 150 x 2000mm treated reclaimed Greenheart sleepers.
5. Greenheart sleepers to be haunched in C25 concrete 600mm mass trench fill.

**SLEEPER FOUNDATION SECTION DETAIL**



1. 17 number of 250 x 150 x 2000mm treated reclaimed Greenheart sleepers.
2. 34 number of 100 x 175 x 3000mm treated Greenheart Joists fixed internally with stainless steel coach screws (m12) & Galvanised truss clips.
3. 220 number of 200 x 75 x 2400mm HC4 Treated timber treads fixed to sleeper joists with SS Screws.
4. Joists laid on haunched C25 mass concrete 600mm wide trench.
5. Concrete haunching to be laid on 150mm compacted type 1 to form sub base.
6. 75 x 50mm treat HC4 treat timber to form edging strips. Fixed to decking with stainless steel screws.



Presented by  
**DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
 Property Services  
 Dover District Council  
 White Cliffe Business Park  
 Dover Kent CT16 3PU  
 Tel: (01304) 821188  
 Fax: (01304) 872240

Ernie Roger Walton, C.Eng. M.I.C.E.  
 Strategic Director (Operations & Commercial)

Schematic Draw Title

**Boardwalk Construction Details**

Location

**Walmer Beach Deal**

North



Drawn: K.V

Checked: K.V

Date: Jan 26

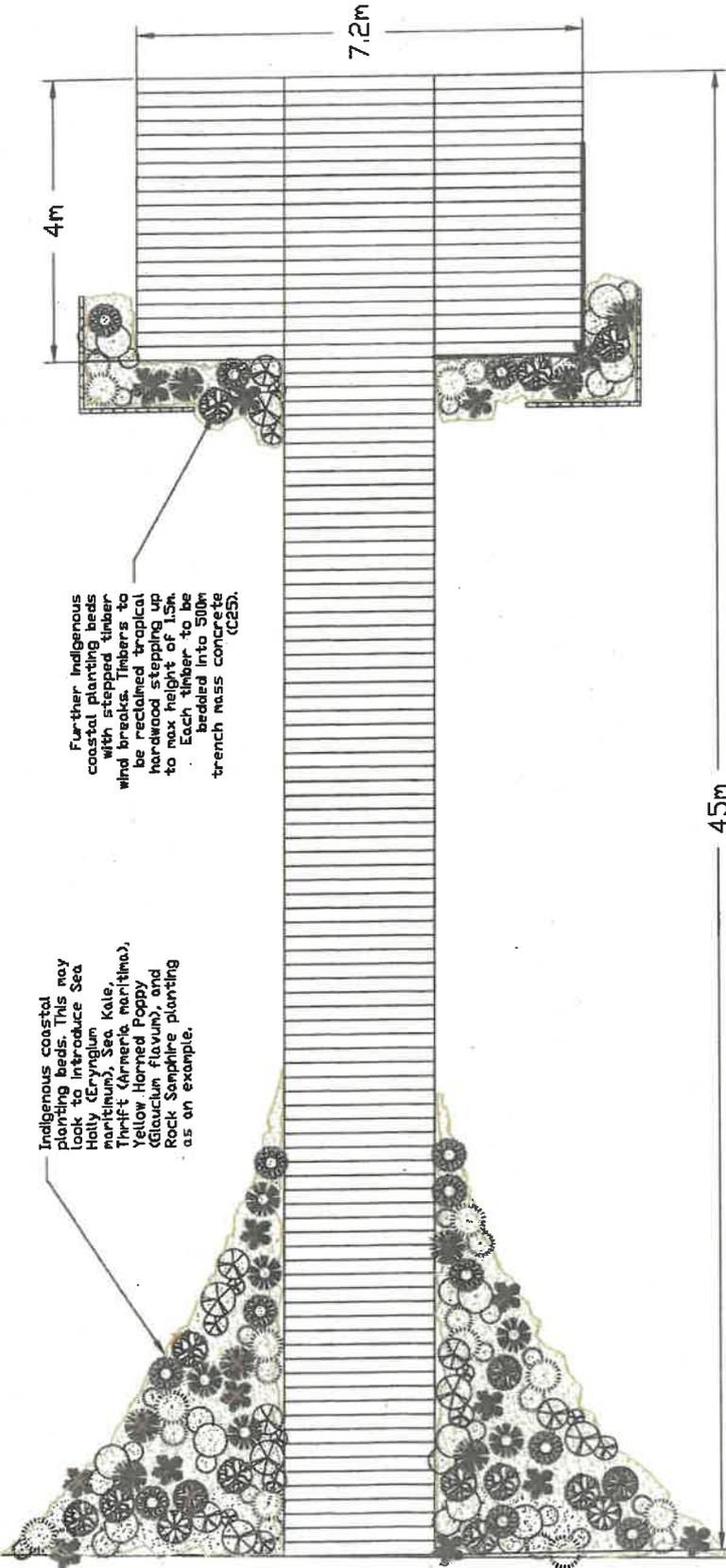
Scale: NTS

Drawing Number: C55-400-PA003

Rev:

Indigenous coastal planting beds. This may look to introduce Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*), Sea Kale, Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Yellow Horned Poppy (*Glaucium flavum*), and Rock Samphire planting as an example.

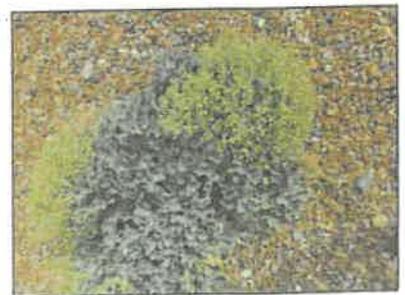
Further indigenous coastal planting beds with stepped timber wind breaks. Timbers to be reclaimed tropical hardwood stepping up to max height of 1.5m. Each timber to be bedded into 500mm trench mass concrete (C25).



Yellow Horned Poppy



Sea Holly



Sea Kale



Property Services  
Dover District Council  
White Cliffs Business Park  
Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ  
Tel: (01304) 821189  
Fax: (01304) 872240

Author: Roger Walden, C. Eng. M.I.C.E.  
Strategic Director (Operations & Command)

Soilmark/Drwg Title

Proposed Boardwalk  
Plan

Location

Walmer Beach  
Deal

North



Design: KV

Dover: KV

Date: Jan 26

Rev:

Scale: NTS

Design Number: CSS-400/PA002



Item: In house magazine.

Date: 23/02/26.

Meeting: Mar Full Council 2026.

From: Cllr J Murray.

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## **Background**

Until September 2016 the then Walmer Parish Council published a twice-yearly news sheet which was distributed to all residents. The cost was in the region of £800 per annum.

In July of 2016 the Parish Council entered into an agreement with the publishers of Rural Roundup - a free monthly printed and online local magazine - under which the council was guaranteed at least three pages of editorial content plus free advertising for events such as the Brocante and the Christmas Carol Concert. The Council also received 500 copies of the magazine which it distributed to around thirty local outlets. In return the magazine was able to apply for grants from the council.

Most of the outlets which received the magazine were businesses such as take away food outlets, a launderette, MOT test centres and GP surgeries - all places which involved customers waiting.

The choice of location meant that the potential readership of the magazine was greatly increased because after reading the magazine while waiting it would be left for other customers to read.

Response to the magazine was positive and communication with ratepayers was significantly improved.

The magazine changed hands sometime around 2020-2021 and after a while the Council decided it could no longer continue with the existing relationship and the magazine ceased printing and became available only on-line.

## **Detail of Proposal**

Because of developments in technology and the increased accessibility offered by the internet creating such a magazine is today a relatively simple technical task and many organisations now generate internal house magazines which can be accessed by staff, customers and the public on the organisation's website or through social media.

There are a number of advantages if Walmer Town Council decides to generate its own magazine including:

- Access for all staff to information and developments.
- Access for councillors to the work of committees which they do not serve on.
- Access for members of the public to the work the council is doing on their behalf.
- Access for media outlets to learn about and report on the work of the council.
- Accurate information to counter some of the inaccurate and incomplete reports circulated online.

Instead of all publicity information about the work of the council being distributed as press releases the in-house magazine would be a potential means of distributing information as well as, where appropriate, press releases. The in-house magazine would also create an archive of the work of the council.

The magazine could also be a channel for distributing information from third parties such as charities considered potentially helpful to Walmer residents.

### **Modus Operandi**

All councillors and/or committees would be invited to submit written material and, where available photographs, to the clerk who would, operating under the Council's Communications Policy, select material to be used.

Submitted material would be refined into a suitable format.

Edited material would be shared with the relevant people to check accuracy, quotes etc.

Material would be inserted into a magazine format using an easily available free template.

### **Production**

Initially the magazine would be produced four times a year.

### **Proposal**

*a) That Walmer Town Council produces an in-house magazine as set out in the background notes to this proposal which would be available through the internet and social media outlets.*

*b) That Walmer Town Council instructs its officers to prepare a final draft magazine to be presented to the next meeting for approval,*



## **Times of Walmer**

Brought to you by Walmer Town Council

Volume 1 Issue 1

Spring 2026

### **Outdoor Gym**

Walmer Town Council at its February meeting has given the go-ahead for a new outdoor free to use gymnasium to be built next to the pedestrian and cycle routes on Walmer Beach.

The proposal has received significant support from local people following a public consultation and now that virtually all of the preparation work has been completed Councillors are hoping that construction work will start as soon as Planning Permission is granted by Dover District Council.

The outdoor gym will include nine pieces of equipment providing over fifty different workouts guidance for use will be provided on a free app. The gym equipment which can be used by both casual passersby and the more serious keep fit enthusiasts at any time of the day will include calisthenics workouts, full body free weight training, a cardio-pulse zone with high energy activities and much more.

Cllr Louise Ludwig chair of the committee which is co-ordinating work on the project on behalf of the council said:

"I would like commend on behalf of the people of Walmer, the Councillors and office staff who have managed to overcome a maze of bureaucratic and technical hurdles and make this proposal a reality and on their behalf, I am delighted to be able to announce that we have a contractor standing by and are very close to being able to start work."

Councillor Trevor Bond, Chairman of Walmer Town Council thanked those working on the project and said:

"When we consulted the people of Walmer about this exciting project the response was overwhelmingly positive and welcoming. This support continued when we applied for planning permission and almost a hundred people took the trouble to put letters of support on DDC's Planning portal. I want to thank them for their support and look forward to welcoming them all to Walmer's new free outdoor gym in the near future."

W.



An artist's impression of the proposed outdoor gym on Walmer Beach

### **Free Heat Loss (Thermal Imaging) Campaign**

It's that time of year again. The nights are drawing in, and chill winds are sweeping the country closely followed by expensive increases in everyone's heating bills.

Increases made worse by the fact that any of us are spending money on energy which is simply pouring out of our homes through badly fitting doors or windows, missing or broken roof tiles, poor insulation and even through our letter boxes.

Well, we've got some good news for you. For the past three years local residents have avoided this expensive waste of heat [and money] by taking advantage of Walmer Town Council's free Thermal Camera Imaging Service.

If you want to join them in saving heat, then the first step is a survey of your house to find out whether or not you are actually losing heat.

To get your survey all you have to do is contact the Council's Office by telephone, 01304 362363, by email at [info@walmercouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@walmercouncil.co.uk) or by calling in to the office to arrange a convenient appointment.

Our Thermal Imaging expert will then call at your home and carry out a survey. If there are no heat leaks, then you can rest easy but if there are we will tell you what action you can take to remedy the problem.

So, act now to help ensure a warm winter for you and your family.



The photograph to the right shows how problems are identified by the Thermal Imaging Camera from none for blue areas to red for trouble spots.

### **A New Attraction for Tourists and Residents of Walmer and Deal**



Walmer's newest Art Gallery is up and running in an unusual and exciting location - a converted fisherman's hut on Walmer seafront. The gallery is located next to the busy footpath and cycle path on Walmer Green and is already proving to be a real attraction to passersby.

The gallery has been set up by artist Tom Burnham who, frustrated by the lack of exhibition space for local artists, had been searching for somewhere to exhibit the excellent work of local artists.

The search ended when he discovered that a long-standing professional fisherman friend was retiring and he jumped at the chance and bought the fishing hut. That's when the real hard work of setting up the gallery began for Tom who had to remove six tons of redundant fishing gear from both inside and outside the gallery.

Then came the task of converting the fisherman's hut into an elegant art gallery and overcoming the bureaucratic hurdles of obtaining planning permission for the conversion.

Tom explained: " Initially I was frustrated at the lack of somewhere to exhibit my own extensive collection but once the word got around amongst the local artistic community, I was delighted to be approached by other artists pleased to have an opportunity to exhibit their own work and already other delighted local artists are now exhibiting their work in the gallery.

Initial opening hours are weekends between 10am and 5pm.

### **Walmer Planning Committee continues to protect your interests.**

Walmer Town Council is a statutory consultee on planning matters. What this means is that whenever a planning application is made to the Planning Authority, Dover District Council, concerning Walmer they must consult with the local council.

In order to consider planning applications fully the council's planning committee meets every month to examine all new applications.

There are several steps carried out in this process.

The first is to attach yellow notices to prominent positions in the immediate vicinity of the application site.

As well as notifying local people of the application, the notice also gives the time, date and location of the meeting which will consider the application and invite interested parties to attend the meeting and contribute to the discussion.

Next step is to allocate two councillors to each application to forensically examine the application and report to the meeting at which a full discussion – including any comments that applicants or those against the application wish to make.

The meeting will then make a recommendation to the planning authority based only on legal planning matters.

Feedback from applicants and opponents has indicated that whether the recommendation supported them or not local people welcomed the fact that local knowledge was being fed into the Planning Authority to help them to make better informed decisions.

### **Remembrance**



Walmer Town Council Chairman Cllr Trevor Bond at the Deal Hospital Ceremony

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November a Remembrance service was held at Deal Victoria Hospital, organised by the British Legion Remembrance Secretary Malcolm Gibbons. With another event later held at Deal Cemetery in Hamilton Rd.

Both events began around 10.30, with two minutes of silence at 11.00.

Full details can be obtained on the British Legion website.

## Annual Bus Festival on Walmer Green

