



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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

Web site: www.walmercouncil.co.uk E-mail: clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk

Tel: 01304 362363

Dated this day 12th February 2026

To: Councillors: Cllr P Ludwig, Cllr L Ludwig, Cllr S Waite-Gleave, Cllr E Crockford, Cllr D Richardson.

Non-voting members: Mrs D Bogue, Miss A Late.

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Walmer in Bloom Committee** to be held on **Tuesday 17th February 2026** at No 62 The Strand, Walmer, CT14 7DP at 5.30pm to transact the business set out below.

Mr Roland Aldred

Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in respect of business to be transacted on the agenda.

Where a Member has a new or registered Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (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 at 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 taken 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 a DPI in the matter, they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Where a Member is declaring an Other Significant Interest (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 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.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2026.

Attach 1

4. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF WALMER**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- i. To Note: Verbal update from Chairman.

6. ADMIN REPORT

- i. To Note: Update from admin regarding actions.
- ii. To Note: Year Planner.

Attach 2

7. WALMER IN BLOOM CAMPAIGN

- i. Leaflet Drop.
- ii. Future Proofing for WIB.
- iii. Tech Solutions.

8. HAWKSHILL

- i. To discuss the surface water and gravel runoff from Hawkshill Camp Road. Attach 3
- ii. To receive a recommendation to change the status of Hawkshill to a Local Wildlife Reserve. Attach 4
- iii. To discuss installing boundary posts

9. WALMER PEACE GARDENS

- i. To Note: Update from WPG Committee.

10. PLANTERS

- i. Quantity and cost of paint for planters.
- ii. Disposal of planter.

Attach 5

11. ISSUES FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

17th March 2026 at 5:30pm.



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Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Walmer in Bloom Committee held on 15th 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 Meadowside 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 25th May and will be up for 14 weeks and to be removed by the 1st 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 Hawkhill.

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 Hawkhill.

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

17th February 2026 at 17:30.

The meeting closed at 19:00

Signed _____

Dated _____

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**Item: Walmer In Bloom Update Report****Date: 11th February 2026****Meeting: Walmer In Bloom****From: Admin Clerk**

1. A quote has been received for the movement of the planter at the Corner Café, the moving date is Monday 16th February.
2. Youngs and Chapman have been informed regarding the acceptance of their quotes.
3. F&GP agreed to the use of Invicta and Leaf tree as preferred contractors, both companies have been informed.
4. Red Dog were given the go ahead for the tree cutting at Hawkshill, this took place on the weekend 7-8 Feb.
5. Invicta Arboriculture have been informed that their survey quote was successful, the survey has been booked for 13th February.
6. Leaf Tree has been informed their quote was successful, a meeting between them and the WPG committee has been booked for 12th February.
7. The WIB trophy and SSEIB Gold certificate have been put on a shelf in the front office for display.
8. An appointment was made with Sean's Sharpening for sharpening of council tools, this has been completed.
9. Admin and Mr S Coates co-ordinated regarding purchase of new plants for Hawkshill, this was completed and the plants have been delivered.
10. Competition brief has been sent out to the local schools with a deadline for end of March.
11. Admin contacted Ripplevale school regarding new planters for this year, he will be approaching Senior Leadership Team with our request.
12. Deal Radio have been contacted regarding radio slot for the campaign, Admin is awaiting a response.





Item: Proposal to convert Hawkshill to a Local Nature Reserve.

Date: 16/12/25.

Meeting: Feb Walmer in Bloom.

From: Roland Aldred.

The Climate Emergency Working Group resolved to bring forward a recommendation to convert Hawkshill Freedown from its current status as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI see below*) to a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The reasoning behind this was to strengthen the protection status of Hawkshill Freedown in both planning and to allow the council to set legally enforceable bylaws. Further it was felt that this aligns fully with our commitments both to nature recovery and to natural carbon capture. Natural solutions to climate change in kent are supported by the KCC report voted though by Kent County Council in March 2021.

*SNCI's are now referred to a Local Wildlife Sites or LWS. There is no need to remove the LWS status in order to add a LNR status many sites across the country operate with both.

As the committee responsible for the management of Hawkshill, Walmer in Bloom need to make the decision as to whether to attempt to move forward with the proposal.

What are the benefits designating sites LNR's?

There are two main benefits to changing the status to a LNR. Within the planning process a LNR receives stronger protection against development with adversely effects the reserve. With an SNCI this a material consideration in the planning process, meaning that when considering an application the status must be taken in to account. The LNR status affords protections as stated in the local plan.

The LNR status also allows for bylaws to be created that can legally be enforced. Rules can be set without the need of bylaws but these will continue as is at present to be not legally enforceable (outside of rules set under other statutes). To add bylaws a strict process must be followed, which takes a number of months to complete, advertising in local papers for a month must be undertaken.

Dover District Councils bylaws would then apply if they were the authority that made the application to the secretary of state to assign the status of Local Nature Reserve. If as in past examples Dover were to delegate power Walmer Town Council could create bylaws for the LNR.

What other changes would there be?

There would be no additional administrative requirements in terms of cutting trees in the situation where either members require that trees are cut or in an emergency.

Public access to as much of the land as possible is encouraged on LNR's, you are still able to set aside areas which are sensitive to the public. Currently this is how the plateau is operated with full public access, the area of woodland is not so open. This is not a legal right to access all areas and must be balanced between access and wildlife protection

Can this be undesignated at a future date?

Yes the principle authority can after consulting with Natural England revoke the status. This should only occur if it is deemed necessary. Reasons for revoking designation include:

- The land is required for an essential development scheme, such as a road-widening project.
- The site has been given a higher level of protection, such as being declared a National Nature Reserve (NNR), in which case the LNR status must be de-declared.
- A breach of the original nature reserve agreement has occurred, jeopardising proper management.

This is an increase on the LWS status where you only need apply to Dover District Council. The only general reason removal of designation on a LNR will be granted is in the situation where the sites nature conservation interest has deteriorated to the point where it no longer meets the established criteria.

What are the requirements for an LNR?

There are six requirements in order to designate an area a Local Nature Reserve

1. **Local Importance:** The area must be important for wildlife, geology, education, or public enjoyment at a local level.
2. **Local Authority Control:** The council must own the land, lease it, or have a formal agreement with the landowner.
3. **Public Access:** At least part of the LNR should be accessible to the public for learning and enjoyment.
4. **Consultation:** You must consult with Natural England before declaring the LNR.
5. **Management Plan:** A detailed plan covering biodiversity, education, access, funding, and objectives is required.
6. **Formal Declaration:** The site is formally declared by the local authority (or local council with delegated powers) and announced locally.

We would fit the requirements 1-5 once we have consulted with Kent Wildlife trust. Item 6 would only be after all other requirements are satisfied that they are met Dover District Council would then be asked to make a declaration on our behalf. Alternatively DDC may grant WTC the power to declare the freedown a LNR.

The management plan agreed last year would not need further updating for this process, The author of the management plan is one of KWT LWS surveyors and therefore should be inline with the requirements.

What costs are involved?

Kent Wildlife Trust would charge for the consultation at approximately £330, for two days work. We have reached out to Dover District Council for any costs that would be applicable in making this application but have not yet received a response. A notice would be required to put in the local newspaper once the process is completed

There may be additional costs associated with work required following the Kent Wildlife Trust consultation.



Amy Cottage
Reach Road
St Margarets-at-Cliffe
Kent
CT156AP

9th February 2026

Quotation

Dear John Miles,

Thank you for asking Red Dog Garden Services to provide this quotation for disposing of the planter outside of The Corner Cafe.

Emptying the planter and disposing of the shell and moving the internal plastic planter to Walmer Peace Gardens.

To do these works will be £75.00

I can do this at your earliest convenience.

Kindest regards

Chris Dawson

Mobile: 07879 878421

www.reddoggardenservices.co.uk
info@reddoggardenservices.co.uk

Environment Agency Registered Waste Carrier: CBDL274023