



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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

Tel/Fax: 01304 362363

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

Dated this 2nd day of April 2026

To All Councillors

You are hereby summoned to attend the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** of **WALMER TOWN COUNCIL** to be held on **Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 7.30 pm – Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer** to transact the business shown on the Agenda below.

Cllr Trevor Bond
Chairman Walmer Town Council

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME**
- 2. APPOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th April 2025** Attach 1
- 4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**
- 5. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES**
- 6. PRESENTATION FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS**
- 7. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE & DISCUSSION WITH TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING ISSUES OF CONCERN UPON WHICH THE PARISH COUNCIL MAY ACT.**

If a detailed response is required on a specific matter, it would be helpful if the resident gave prior notice with details in writing by Monday 13th April. You can e-mail questions to clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk.

If you are not going to be present at the meeting to ask the question, you may e-mail the Clerk. The e-mail must include your name and address. Walmer Town Council can only answer questions that relate to matters over which the Council has authority over.

- 8. MEETING CLOSES**



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL
62 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7DpP

Tel/Fax: 01304 362363

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

**DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on
Wednesday, 16th April 2025
at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer at 7.30 pm**

621. APOLOGIES.

Cllrs Lee, Richardson, Eddy, P Ludwig, L Ludwig and Simpson offered apologies which were accepted.

622. WELCOME.

Cllr Trevor Bond, Chairman of Walmer Town Council welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained the fire evacuation procedure.

623. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 17 April 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr Waite-Gleave

For 9

Against 0

Abstain 0

624. CHAIRMANS REPORT.

Cllr Bond Chairman of Walmer Town Council reported

- No 8 the Strand Walmer Town Council's old office has been successfully licenced to another organisation removing all financial burden from the Council for the office.
- Another fantastic year for events put on by the Town Council.
- The outdoor gym project has gained momentum, and we hope to see everything in place by this time next year.
- The Peace Garden is moving forward a management plan is being worked on in the meantime the area has been transformed, the work has been carried out by dedicated volunteers.
- An updated management plan has been agreed for Hawkshill.

Future projects being worked on

- The outdoor gym will provide a free outdoor exercise space in the heart of the community.
- The project at Stoney Path to provide a biodiverse area within the built-up space of the town is progressing.
- The required licence for Churchill Avenue for work to start is in the later stages of being produced and will provide a further biodiversity site within the Town.
- From the Highways Improvement Plan two projects, one to provide more drop kerbs and one to connect the Skylark trail to Sustrans 1 are being worked on with Kent County Council and Dover District Council.
- Walmer Town Council have agreed to contribute additional funding to the new playground at Marke Wood, this funding will allow Dover District Council to increase the provision for play in the playground and should be open for the Children over the next month.

Cllr Bond wishes to thank the Councillors for their efforts over the last year in delivering a successful year for Walmer Town Council. The volunteers who work tirelessly helping deliver events and especially those at the Peace Garden and Hawkshill who put in hours of work to maintain and improve the two areas. And finally, the staff at Walmer Town Council whose work makes all the events and projects possible.

625. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES.

- i. Amenities and Environment – Cllr Findley - Committee Vice Chairman
Cllr Findley reported on the role of committee within the council structure. As part of the highway's improvement plan the committee have been working on a plan with KCC on improved accessibility on Dover Road, to provide additional dropped kerbs and tactile paving. As well as the improvements to Dover Road the committee has been working on plans to connect the Skylark Trail to Sustrans 1. In the last year signage to Liverpool Road was installed around Meadowside to improve safety for pedestrians. The committee has identified areas for tree planting on the roadside. The committee was previously involved in the outdoor gym project but has passed this on to the full council. Amenities and Environment is also the parent committee for the Climate Emergency Working Group and projects conceived in the working group have been recommended to full council.
- ii. Climate Emergency Working Group – Cllr Waite-Gleave – Working Group Chairman
Cllr Waite-Gleave reported the working group aspect of the meeting allowed more freedom, and the working group was invested in exploring ideas to improve the environment. The working group has been reviewing ideas to reduce carbon from residents, visitors and the council itself the Thermal Imaging Service is continuing to operate and still having significant take up through the available months. Other councils who have spoken to us about the service are now offering comparable services. Partnerships with Kent Resilience forum KALC and the Kent forum have been formed and allow a sharing of ideas. Projects to restore nature and retain trees have been discussed and in partnership with other committees where possible put in place. A campaign "Walmer Against Plastic Pollution" is due to start soon. Walmer Council has signed up to the Motion for the Ocean. Following a poor sea water test Walmer Council

will be taking water samples between April to Oct from Walmer Beach, the first of which was taken today.

iii. Events – Cllr Grist Committee - Chairman

Cllr Grist reported that Walmer Town Council had run three events last year all of which had been hugely successful. The Children's Festival had more vendors than previous years with most new vendors from local community groups, the 2025 event looks to be larger still with more community groups getting involved. The hugely successful Brocante ran with nice weather. And the final event of the year was the Christmas Classics and Carols, this was a much-amended programme focusing more on music from past and present designed to be more inclusive. Cllr Grist wished to thank the volunteers at the events and the staff particularly Mrs Simmons the events officer who works tirelessly to bring these events together.

iv. Finance and General Purposes – Cllr Jull Committee - Chairman

Cllr Jull explained the responsibilities of the committee regarding the operation of the Council. He reported that new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been agreed following review, amendments and recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes committee. Following recommendations from the Committee many grants were awarded to worthy causes within Walmer, many of whom were represented in the meeting.

v. Planning – Cllr Murray Committee - Chairman

Cllr Murray explained the role Walmer Town Council plays in the planning application process. Further to the statutory role to ensure our comments take in to account the local view while still being material in nature for these to be considered at the decision-making process Walmer Town Council puts out yellow notifications near application properties to encourage people to attend the Walmer Town Council meetings that occur monthly to give their views. The process of review by Walmer Town Council is that two members will review documents and if required view the site in person before giving a report. Members of the committee and members of the public will then be given a chance to ask questions and speak before a decision is reached.

vi. Walmer in Bloom – Cllr Crockford – Committee Vice Chairman

Cllr Crockford reported that an updated management plan had been agreed for Hawkshill, she wished to thank Mr Coates for his time in putting together the updated plan. Volunteer numbers at Hawkshill have increased following a successful haymaking event in November and a thank you to all volunteers for their work was given. A successful partnership with the volunteers from Gazen Salts has allowed us to be able to cut the plateau in a more environmentally friendly manner. Dover District Council support has allowed us to add signage to the plateau about waste removal as well as a new noticeboard. A tree inspection was carried out and a small number had to be removed for safety reasons. successful year of the Walmer in Bloom competition was completed. Currently members are working on this year's competition which will see changes in the way nominations are received for judging. New chains for the hanging baskets were purchased as the old ones were at the end of their useful life.

626. PRESENTATION FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS.

- i. Astor Theatre – thanked the council for the grant that had been used to keep the cost of use of the spaces for community groups down over the year.
- ii. Marke Wood Gardeners – thanked the council for the grant which had been used for plants that have now been planted in Marke Wood. The next area of focus for the group will be the rose garden.
- iii. Kent Air Ambulance- thanked the council for the grant. The grant was used toward operating costs, this is equivalent to the cost of fuel for two lifesaving call outs for the air ambulance. The Kent air ambulance is one of the oldest services in the country and attends over 3000 missions per year with a cost to operate of £20.4 million. 88% of this cost is raised by the community.
- iv. Royal Marine Association – thanked the council for the award of a grant the money was used to feed the Bandsmen, security and volunteers for the “Band of HM Royal Marines Memorial Concert and Rededication Service.”
- v. Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts – thanked the council for the grant which was used to provide new nesting boxes and information leaflets. Already one of these boxes has housed swifts who are habitual nesting birds (each year they come back to the same nesting locations). There has been a 50% decline in swifts over the last 10 years and they are specialist nesters meaning the swift boxes are vital to helping bring back the population numbers of this bird.
- vi. Dover and Deal Tennis CIC – thanked the council for the grant which allowed the organisation to offer free children’s tennis lessons at Marke Wood. Dover and Deal Tennis CIC has been recognised by the LTA for their work in the community and has been shortlisted for an award.
- vii. Cinque Ports Football Club – thanked the council for the grant, which was used to purchase equipment, currently they operate four teams that have been very successful with 2 cup finals to come and 2 league titles that are being chased. The club is looking to expand with a £72k grant agreed to add two additional pitches on Marke Wood. Mr Davies the representative also wished to thank the Air Ambulance representative as one of the Cinque Ports players had been saved by the Air Ambulance in the last year.
- viii. Dover and District Beekeeping association – thanked the council for the grant the money was used to create traps to capture Asian Hornets, these are an invasive species that kill honey bees. In 2023 35 nests within the Dover area were discovered and destroyed in partnership with DEFRA in 2024 this number fell to only 7 nests discovered.

627. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE AND DISCUSSION WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS REGARDING ISSUES OF CONCERN WHICH THE TOWN COUNCIL MAY ACT.

No questions were posed by members of the public

628. MEETING CLOSES

Meeting closed at 20.20.