

WALMER TOWN COUNCIL
62 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7DP
Tel: 01304 362363
Web site: www.walmercouncil.co.uk E-mail: clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at Deal Parochial C of E School, Walmer.

Present Councillors:

Cllr J Murray (Chair), Cllr M Eddy (Vice-Chair), Cllr T Byfield, Cllr Mrs S Fisher, Cllr P Jull, Cllr J Lonsdale, Cllr Mrs M Beard-Gould, Cllr P St Ange, Cllr P Heath, Cllr D Thompson, Cllr C Weale, Cllr G Bearman and Cllr Mrs S Le Chevalier.

Officers Present: Richard Styles, Town Clerk Roland Aldred, Deputy Clerk

6299. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Miss A Herring: work and personal commitments. Cllr B Gardner on holiday.

6300. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs. Jull declared a VAOI and Heath declared a DPI on 6309 - ii as members of the Chamber of Trade. Cllr Eddy declared an interest in Items 6308 related to Clean Cut Gardening.

6301. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The Council statement and policy on openness and transparency was taken as read.

6302. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Murray had nothing to report because all items were covered in other agenda items.

6303. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 12th January 2022.

RESOLVED: That minutes be approved.

Proposed by: Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by: Cllr G Bearman

6304. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

Member received a report on the progress of switching banks and getting correct signatures on existing bank accounts.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note the report

6305. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF WALMER

- i. Mrs Richardson thanked the clerk for replying to her e-mail but wished to make the point that given the current financial situation, that the council should have considered holding any precept increases.
- ii. Cllr. Bond of Dover District Council reported:
 - a) Fifty new businesses have now taken up residence in Discovery Park.
 - b) The recycling centre in Deal's booking system will now be available to book up to an hour before you visit and can book up to three trips daily.
 - c) The Local Plan has been further delayed and await a new deadline for this being produced.
 - d) On February 10th at 13.30 there will be a public meeting in regard to traffic management on Station Road Walmer.

6306. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

- i. Members received a report from PCSO Kerry Skirrow on anti-social and criminal activities in Walmer.
RESOLVED: Members agreed to note the report.
- ii. Cllr Murray reported that PCSO Skirrow will be starting PCSO surgeries from this month and asked that if any councillors wished to join and felt with COVID it was safe to do so to make contact.

6307. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

Members received the reports and agreed minutes as follows:

- i. Amenities + Environment – No minutes to report
- ii. Cllr Eddy thanked Cllr Byfield for the work he had done drawing options on Station Road.
- iii. Finance + General Purposes – No minutes to report
- iv. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from Oct 26th, 2021
- v. Events Committee – minutes from Nov 16th, 2021
- vi. Planning Committee – No minutes to report
- vii. Climate Emergency Working Group – Minutes 19 Jan 2022

Cllr Lonsdale reported that we had recently had the go ahead for the cycle rail scheme at Walmer Train Station.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Lonsdale and the Climate Emergency Working Group on their diligence and perseverance to bring **this excellent** scheme to fruition.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to receive the minutes.

Proposed by: Cllr Murray

Seconded by: Cllr Eddy

6308. REPORT OF THE CLERK

AdvantEDGE is progressing with training to start this month, three additional units including one that will allow us to have an in-house booking system for events are included.

- Clerk has managed to secure a 25% discount on the training costs.

- Kent County Council has contacted the council regarding the border of land at Hawkshill on Liverpool Road, the border heading from the Hawkshill car park toward Kingsdown is overgrown and is encroaching on the road.
- Due to the time sensitive nature of this (nesting season is coming up) Clerk requested we suspend standing order 19d to allow contact with Clean Cut Gardening Services to get a quote for cutting back.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to suspend standing order 19d to allow just one quote to be received.

Proposed by: Cllr Mrs Le Chevalier

Seconded by: Cllr Thompson

A letter has been sent to the Cabinet Office (Royal names dept) to request the name change at the drill field.

The EV charging point spaces are still being used as parking for non-EV cars.

Clerk to investigate contractors for parking enforcement

RESOLVED: Members agreed for Clerk to investigate parking enforcement

Proposed by: Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by: Cllr Lonsdale

Clerk thanked Cllr Mrs Fisher for attending the office to share her skills in disability inclusion on both the web and on the agenda/minutes with the office staff.

The Chairman commented on the fact that councillors were becoming more pro-active in suggesting and implementing proposals to improve our service to the community and gave an undertaking to members that all suggestions would be gratefully received and considered fully.

6309. FINANCIAL REPORT

i. Walmer Town Council Bank Balances at 18/01/22

NatWest SIBA	£ 10,897.01
NatWest Current Account	£ 37,121.13
Co-operative Bank	£ 75,468.63
Unity Bank	£ 52,790.48
Lloyd's bank	£ 77,795.79
Total	£254,073.04

ii. Payments made

Cllr Heath left the room due to declared interest.

Item	Paid to	Amount
Telecoms No 8 and No 62	Mitec	£202.67
Quarterly Rent	M Johnson	£1,500.00
Document Shredding	Castle Security	£84.00
Allotment Refund	L M Knight	£100.00
Salaries	Staff	£6,000.73
Tax + NI	HMRC	£1,341.36
Pension Payments	KCC LGPS	£1,652.18
York and Albany cut back	Clean Cut Gardening	£800.00
Copy Hardmans archive	Hardmans Solicitors	£42.00

Allotment Refund	Connaughton	£100.00
Insurance No 8	M Johnson	£159.74
Expense Claim - 2 Memory Sticks	Cllr Murray	£29.98
Chamber of trade membership	Deal+ Walmer Chamber of Trade	£30.00
AdvantEDGE Software	Edge IT	£1,100.40
AdvantEDGE Training and set up	Edge IT	£638.40
Total		£13,781.46

RESOLVED: Clerk to contact Chamber of trade to ascertain the benefits of membership to Chamber of trade, all other payments were approved

Proposed by Cllr Eddy

Seconded by Cllr Bearman

6310. INVITATIONS AND EVENTS

No invitations received

6311. LOGO COMPETITION

A shortlist of three designs to put out in the public domain was voted on by members, designs selected were numbers 9, 14 and 16.

Members were impressed with the artists who submitted designs to the competition and wished to show thanks.

RESOLVED: Members would like to thank all artists who submitted designs for consideration

Proposed by Cllr Murray

Seconded by Cllr Eddy

6312. TRIM TRAIL

Cllr Murray gave details of the revised Trim Trail proposal consisting of eleven machines along the seafront, the number eleven was selected to honour the eleven marines who lost their lives in the bombing of the barracks in Walmer.

RESOLVED: To increase the current amount of fund to £11,000 effectively £1,000 per machine

Proposed by: Cllr Eddy

Seconded by: Cllr Lonsdale

6313. NO 62 THE STRAND

Quotes still being received, item to be postponed until March meeting

6314. Confidential to be held under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The meeting moved that the remaining business be held in private session and that the public be asked to withdraw.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to move to a private session

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by: Cllr T Byfield

6315. NO 8 THE STRAND

Members voted in an anonymous ballot on the various options available to council regarding the governance surrounding the original setting up of the lease on the former office at No 8 The Strand.

RESOLVED:

- To refer the matter to the appropriate authorities.
- To suspend a serving councillor involved in the original decision from council committees and/or representing the Council on any outside bodies and to communicate that to the relevant person.
- To engage legal advice with a view to recovering any losses that the Council may have suffered.
- To publish the report on which these resolutions were based.

6316. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 2nd March 2022, 7 pm, Deal Parochial School, Walmer.

The meeting closed at 20.25 pm.

Signed: Date: