

**WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 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 J Lonsdale, Cllr P Jull, Cllr D Thompson, C Weale, P St Ange, Mrs M Beard-Gould, Cllr Mrs Le Chevalier, Cllr G Bearman and Cllr P Heath

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

**The meeting was opened with a prayer from the Reverend Seth Cooper.**

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2022/23 AND SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE.**

Before opening proceedings, Cllr Murray explained that he was retiring as Chairman this year as he had completed his two year term of office and the two year term has been agreed from 2018 onwards in order to improve the Council's governance and to refresh its collective thinking. He then asked for nominations that had been received before the deadline. Only one nomination received and validated.

**RESOLVED** – Cllr Eddy was elected Chairman of Walmer Town Council for 2022/23 by a majority of 11 for and 2 against.

Proposed – Cllr Gardner

Seconded – Cllr Murray

**2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2022/23**

Cllr Eddy asked for nominations received before the deadline. Only one nomination received and validated.

**RESOLVED** – Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould was elected Vice Chairman of Walmer Town Council for 2022/23 by unanimous vote.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Byfield

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr B Gardner – attending European Bridge Congress.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Le Chevalier declared a VAOI in item 18 i. a. as a member of the Royal Marines Association. Cllrs Mrs Beard-Gould and Bearman declared a VAOI in item 18 i. c. as friends of Deal Music and Arts.

## **5. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

The Chairman read out the statement published in the agenda.

## **6. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB COMMITTEES & REPRESENTATIVES**

A list of the current Member of the committees of Walmer Town Council was viewed. A new Grievance appeals panel is to be created.

**RESOLVED** – Given the imminent election and the vacancies caused by suspension, the committee and other places would remain as they are until the next meeting of the Town Council by which time there would be a newly elected councillor. 11 For 1 against and 1 abstention.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Bearman

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The new Chairman gave thanks to members for their support, and thanks to Cllr Murray and Cllr Mrs Le Chevalier as the last two chairmen of the council for their work.

## **8. MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 6 April 2022.

**RESOLVED:** That minutes be approved.

Proposed by Cllr Murray

Seconded by Cllr Weale

## **9. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Eddy reported that he had been informed the election for the Wellington Ward has been called for by Cllr and Mrs Vinson and by Cllr and Mrs Heath among others.

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

- i. One member of the public raised the question of fencing potentially being put up around the area at the end of York and Albany Avenue and what the councils' plans were for the area. Cllr Eddy replied that nothing had been decided in terms of future for the area the options are still being reviewed.
- ii. Cllr Bond of Kent County Council gave a brief report from Kent County Council.

## **12. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS**

PCSO Skirrow gave a report to the meeting on crime and anti-social behaviour in Walmer.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to note the report.

## **13. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES**

Members received the reports and agreed minutes as follows:

- i. Amenities + Environment – No minutes to report
- ii. Finance + General Purposes – No minutes to report
- iii. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from March 22, 2022

Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould raised the idea of having a memorial policy for placing benches/trees etc..

**RESOLVED** – Clerk to write a policy for council approval

Proposed – Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

- iv. Events Committee –minutes from March 24, 2022  
Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould asked for volunteers for upcoming events.
- v. Planning Committee – minutes from March 8, 2022  
Cllr Murray reported improved working relations with Dover District Council
- vi. Climate Emergency Working Group – Minutes from April 5, 2022  
Cllr Lonsdale reported that there will be a meeting next week and in answer to a question that the free tree project is still being worked on.

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to receive the minutes.

Proposed Cllr Murray

Seconded Cllr Weale

#### 14. REPORT OF THE CLERK

- i. The update on No 8 The Strand is that the potential tenant is still awaiting a response from Mrs Johnson about potential uplift in rent stated in the contract. Tersons are to contact Mrs Johnson to try to get this resolved.
- ii. Clerk reported that a letter of claim from Cllr Heath had been received by the council. The letter stated that claimed costs could be as high as £25,000. As this was a serious matter after taking legal advice from a solicitor meeting was held with a Barrister over Zoom. Barrister stated that Walmer Town Council had a strong case as procedure had been followed and that the three month period for sending to judicial review had passed.
- iii. Clerk met with Martin Leggatt of Dover District Council in relation to grants Walmer Town Council pays toward the upkeep of the three public toilets in Walmer. Cllr Jull raised concern that the toilet on Marine Road would continue to be open year-round.  
**RESOLVED** – Clerk is authorised to pay this years grant and move forward with getting a head of agreement to support Marke Wood and Granville Road toilets, on the basis that Dover District Council will support Marine Road toilets year round.  
Proposed – Cllr Eddy  
Seconded – Cllr Murray
- iv. Clerk advised members that the fencing at both Campbell Road and Stony Path have been repaired and that we will not be putting a gate in as we can access through the fence easily enough. Final part of preparation for Stony Path requires the steps from Campbell Road allotments to be repaired.  
**RESOLVED** – Members approved the £2000 to repair the stairway and add handrails.  
Proposed – Cllr Byfield  
Seconded – Cllr Eddy  
**RESOLVED** – The members commended the work Cllr Byfield has done in relation to the allotments  
Proposed – Cllr Murray  
Seconded – Cllr Eddy

## 15. FINANCIAL REPORT

### i. Bank Balances

Bank Balances at 19/4/22

Unity Bank	£246,220.37
Lloyds Bank	£ 77,795.79
Co-op Bank	£ 75,493.44
Natwest Current	£ 37,176.13
Natwest SIBA	£ 10,897.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>£447,582.91</b>

**RESOLVED** - Members noted the balances and the Clerk authorised to take whatever action he felt necessary to ensure the funds are released.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould

### ii. Payments and orders

#### Payments for authorisation

Item	Paid to	Amount
Clerk Expenses (zoom,Mercury and Phone)	Clerk	£ 29.99
Permission to Hang WIB baskets	KCC	£ 30.00
Retainer	Wellers Hedley	£ 2,000.00
Return of Allotment deposit	Resident	£ 100.00
Window Cleaning	D Halpin	£ 10.00
Subscription	Planning Magazine	£ 395.00
Wages	Staff	£ 5,394.07
Tax	HMRC	£ 2,757.39
Pension	KCC LGPS	£ 1,716.92
Allotment insurance	SWCAA	£ 180.00
Photocopier	KCC Konica	£ 176.36
Historic Panels	DDC	£ 2,816.00
Secure Shedding	Castles	£ 60.00
Cllr Allowances	J Murray	£ 900.00
Cllr Allowances	S Le Chevalier	£ 270.20
Cllr Allowances	M Beard-Goud	£ 270.20
Cllr Allowances	D Thompson	£ 369.60
Cllr Allowances	J Lonsdale	£ 282.20
Cllr Allowances	M Eddy	£ 270.20
Cllr Allowances	W Gardner	£ 270.20
Cllr Allowances	P Jull	£ 360.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 18,658.33</b>

**RESOLVED** - Members approve payments

Proposed - Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould

Seconded – Cllr Mrs Le Chevalier

- iii. Approve and Authorise the Annual Governance and Audit return

**RESOLVED**- Members agreed to the signing of the AGAR

Proposed – Cllr Murray

Seconded – Cllr Bearman

- iv. Request from the Event Committee to increase its budget for 2022/23

To facilitate the Queens jubilee event an additional £4000 would be required for the budget.

**RESOLVED** – Members approved the additional £4000 budget to come from reserves

Proposed – Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

- v. Members heard a proposal to allow elected councillors the choice of having a Cllr allowance or to use the money for a ward grant. Those who were co-opted as they are not eligible for an allowance would have access to a ward grant.

**RESOLVED** – In principle subject to revising the rules around what the ward grants are allowed to be spent on and the approval process.

Proposed Cllr Mrs Fisher

Seconded- Cllr Weale

## 16. INVITATIONS AND EVENTS

Invitation to the unveiling of the Goodwin Sands historic panel

Invitation to the Royal Marines concert

## 17. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members received the terms of reference for all committees and working groups

**RESOLVED:** Members agreed to accept the terms of reference for all committees en bloc.

Proposed by Cllr Eddy

Seconded by Cllr Mrs Beard-Gould

## 18. GRANTS

- i. Consider grant applications

- a. Deal Royal Marines Association

Applied for a grant to assist with costs for the musicians for the Royal Marines Day memorial concert

**RESOLVED** – Members approved the grant for £250

Proposed – Cllr Heath

Seconded – Cllr St Ange

- b. 2235 (Deal Squadron) Air Cadets

Applied for a grant for computer equipment for use on flight simulators

**RESOLVED** - Members approved the grant for £400

Proposed - Cllr Mrs Le Chevalier

Seconded – Cllr Jull

- c. Deal Music and Arts

Applied for a grant to help with artistic fees

**RESOLVED** - Members approved the grant for £400

Proposed - Cllr Murray  
Seconded – Cllr Eddy

- ii. Members heard a proposal to create a separate nature or green grant scheme in addition to existing grant schemes.  
**RESOLVED** – Members in principle agreed to such a grant scheme subject to a fuller proposal being put forward  
Proposed – Cllr Lonsdale  
Seconded – Cllr Mrs Beard Gould

**19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 7 pm, Deal Parochial School, Walmer.

The meeting closed at 20.45 pm.

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