



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL
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**DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Walmer Parish Council held on
Wednesday, 19 May 2021
at St Saviours Church, The Strand, Walmer at 7.00 pm**

Present Councillors:

Cllr M Eddy
Cllr G Bearman
Cllr P Heath
Cllr M Simpson

Cllr M Beard-Gould
Cllr T Byfield
Cllr S Le Chevalier
Cllr C Weale

Officer Present:

Mr Richard Styles, Clerk
Mr Roland Aldred, Deputy Clerk

207. WELCOME

Cllr Mike Eddy, Chairman Walmer Town Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

208. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19 MAY 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19 May 2021 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 Heath

Seconded – Cllr Weale

209. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Mike Eddy thanked everyone who makes up the Walmer Town Council team for a successful

year and gave a brief overview of the past year. (See report 1)

210. REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

- i. **Finance and General Purposes** – Cllr Eddy, Chairman of the F&GP Committee, reported that the tranche of the council tax that Walmer Town Council receives had gone up by 19 pence per week for a Band D resident, this was set when inflation figures were at 5% this has now increased to 9% based on the CPI. (See report 2)
- ii. **Human Resources** – Cllr Weale, Chairman of the HR Committee, reported that it had been a productive year since he took over in May. After having appointed a new Clerk at the end of the year, they had successfully recruited a new Deputy Clerk. One of the projects the committee have worked on is succession planning to ensure the office is more robust at dealing with any unexpected departures of staff. The other major project has been setting a target remuneration scheme to ensure that office staff have targets to develop within the council and that these targets have a knowledge benefit to the operation of the Council. The Deputy Clerk has already been started on the targeted remuneration and other members of staff will follow. Members wished to thank Cllrs Weale and Beard-Gould for their hard work in getting these two projects up and running.
- iii. **Planning** – Cllr Beard-Gould, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, reported that the members of the committee had evaluated and voted on 103 planning applications over the last year, this involved members spending time reviewing documents for applications and in many cases site visits.
- iv. **Amenities and Environment** – Cllr Eddy, Chairman of the Amenities and Environment Committee, reported that a lot of work had been done on the allotment site, and in particular wish to thank Cllr Byfield who had put in a lot of time and expertise in making this happen. Work continues on the Highway's Improvement Plan. (See report 3)
- v. **Climate Emergency Working Group** – Cllr Eddy, Vice chairman of the Climate Emergency Working Group, presented a report from Cllr Lonsdale. Since forming, the Working Group have been busy with many projects. The thermal imaging camera scheme visited over 30 houses in March and has been put on hold due to the weather but will be commencing again in autumn. Walmer Town Council is working with Dover District Council on a project on the seafront in increase biodiversity within the town. Sites are being reviewed for Urban Nature Reserves with Kent Wildlife Trust due to visit areas this week. Free Beebombs for Walmer residents has proven very popular with over 120 requests for Beebombs having been received. The Working group wish to thank Cllr Le Chevalier for acting as Clerk for the meetings. Cllr Eddy wish to thank Cllr Lonsdale who has brought in over £40,000 in grants this year. (See report 4)
- vi. **Walmer In Bloom** – Cllr Le Chevalier, Chairman of the Walmer in Bloom Committee, reported that Walmer in Bloom is going ahead this year. Judging is set for July and any help would be gratefully received in early July. Cllr Le Chevalier wished to thank Cllr Thompson, Mr Oram and Mrs Recas for their work at Hawkshill. (See report 5)

- vii. **Events** – Cllr Beard-Gould, Chairman of the Events Committee, reported that during the last year the Brocante had been run in August rather than May as COVID restrictions were lifted. This worked very well and has been agreed to run Brocante in August again this year. We are looking at a full year of events starting with the Best of Kent (daytime)/Queens Jubilee concert (evening) on the 4th of June. There will be a Children’s Festival in July and the following last year’s very successful Carol Concert in December with a repeat of this in late December.

212. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE & DISCUSSION WITH PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

No members of the public were present.

Cllr Eddy thanked those present for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm

Signed:Date: