



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 7th February 2024 at No 8 The Strand, Walmer.

Present Councillors: Cllr T Bond (Chairman), Cllr Mrs L Ludwig, Cllr M Eddy, Cllr T Grist, Cllr P Ludwig, Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr J Murray, Cllr D Richardson, Cllr Waite-Gleave, Cllr Findley and Cllr P Jull.

Officers Present: Roland Aldred, Town Clerk

Cllr Murray was not present for the opening of the meeting

457. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Crockford, Lee, Friend and Simpson offered apologies that were accepted.

458. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Murray arrived at the start of this item.

Cllr Findley declared an OSI in relation to item 469iia as he has been working with Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts.

459. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The Chairman reminded all those present of the openness and transparency statement.

460. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that the items on the agenda covered all that was needed to be reported.

461. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 10th January 2024.

RESOLVED: That minutes be approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr Waite-Gleave

Seconded by Cllr Eddy

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

Cllr Grist requested that minutes record the number of members for, against and abstentions.

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

- i. No members of the public were present.
- ii. Cllrs Murphy and Vinson offered apologies. Cllr Bond reported that there was no items from KCC to report.
Cllr Eddy asked what the situation with the KCC budget was, particularly in relation to the Community Wardens. Cllr Bond answered that a new structure was being put in place to ensure all areas have access to a Community Warden.
Cllr Waite-Gleave asked if the any budget cuts would effect Deal Library. Cllr Bond responded that he had heard no mention of cuts in relation to Deal Library.

464. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

Cllr L Ludwig reported the Kent Police would be operating a drop in community engagement clinic on the 13th February at Marke Wood and on the 23rd February at the RNLI station. Following conversations with out local PC that Deal Town Centre had been targeted by begging groups and that the Police advice was if anyone wished to give they should do so through a charity such as Porchlight. A Serious crash occurred on the 7th January at the Dover Road-Liverpool Road Junction and an appeal for any witness has been launched. Walmer Speedwatch is now up and running. A new online tool called "Streetsafe" has been launched this is for reporting non emergency safety concerns in public spaces.
Cllr Blackwell added that if you see a rough sleeper there is an online reporting tool "Streetlink" that will connect the rough sleeper with support services.

465. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
 - a) Amenities + Environment – minutes from Nov 22nd , 2023.
 - b) Finance + General Purposes – minutes from Nov 29th, 2023.
 - c) Walmer in Bloom – minutes from Oct 17th, 2023.
 - d) Events Committee – minutes from Dec 5th, 2023
 - e) Planning Committee – minutes from Dec 12th, 2023.
 - f) Climate Emergency Working Group –No minutes to present.
 - g) Public Engagement Working Group – no meeting held.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note the minutes of all the above committees.

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr L Ludwig

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

- ii. To receive any comments about the draft minutes of meetings taken place since the last council meeting.

Cllr Eddy reported from Amenities and Environment that a positive meeting had taken place with KCC highways on the subject of the HIP.

RESOLVED: to note

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Findley

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

466.REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported

- i. The Lloyds Bank account is now closed, Finance and General purposes will be putting a recommendation together at the next meeting for where to deposit the money, meanwhile it is in the higher interest deposit account.
- ii. The internal auditor visited last week and a report will hopefully be available for the March meeting.
- iii. Staff will be doing training with Vision ICT on the website tomorrow.
- iv. The Uk Prosperity Fund grants have been accepted.
- v. The Clerk will be on annual leave next week.

467.FINANCIAL REPORT

i. Bank Balances

Members received the bank balances

Bank Balances as at 31/1/24

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Lloyds bank | £ - |
| Unity Trust current | £ 32,022.53 |
| Unity Trust Deposit | £ 240,427.94 |
| Total | £ 272,450.47 |

ii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the January 2024 monthly financial reports

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----|--------------|
| Balance at start of month | £304,129.52 | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Payments | | | Receipts | | |
| Who | For | Amount | Who | For | Amount |
| Business Stream | Water Bill for No 8 | £73.63 | | | |
| Staff | Salary | £4,587.06 | | | |
| HMRC | Tax and National Insurance | £1,272.17 | | | |
| KCC LGPS | Pensions | £1,746.67 | | | |
| Mitec | Telephone Charges | £136.75 | | | |
| DDC | Public Toilet Contribution | £21,915.30 | | | |
| Mark 1 Music | Carols Concert | £990.00 | | | |
| Viking | Stationary | £29.08 | | | |
| Vision ICT | Website Hosting | £210.00 | | | |
| KCS | Photocopier | £485.31 | | | |
| Lloyds Bank | Bank Charges | £3.00 | | | |
| EDF | Gas Bill | £82.08 | | | |
| Dave Halpin | Window Cleaning | £12.00 | | | |
| Royal British Legion | Wreaths | £165.00 | | | |
| Total | | £31,708.05 | Total | | £0.00 |
| | | | | | |
| Balance at end of month | | £272,421.47 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| This month spend | | -£31,708.05 | Last year | | -£10,161.09 |
| % of yrs precept for month | | 12.88% | % of precept for month | | 4.34% |
| Total net spend YTD | | -£151,022.64 | Total spent LYTD | | -£212,759.06 |
| % of precept YTD | | 61.36% | % of precept LYTD | | 90.96% |

RESOLVED – Members agreed to note the bank balances and monthly finance update.

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Waite-Gleave

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

468. INVITATIONS AND EVENTS

Cllr Bond will be attending the Channel Dash Service of Memorial on the 12th of February in Dover.

469. GRANTS

- i. Members received a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to increase the maximum allowed when applying for a small grant from £400 to £500 (subject to members discretion) to match the Biodiversity Grant maximum.

RESOLVED – To agree to the recommendation and increase the maximum to £500 (subject to members discretion).

Proposed Cllr Jull

Seconded Cllr Eddy

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

- ii. Grant applications

Cllr Findley left the room

- a) Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts – Members received a recommendation from the Amenities and Environment Committee to approve a Nature and Biodiversity Grant application for £443.43.

RESOVLED – To approve the application.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Waite-Gleave

For 9 Against 0 Abstain 1

Cllr Findley returned to the room.

- b) The Deal Society – Members received a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to approve a small grant application of £100 to the Deal Society.

RESOVLED – To approve the application.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

- c) Deal Walmer and Kingsdown Regatta Association - Members received a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to approve a small grant application of £500 to the Deal Walmer and Kingsdown Regatta Association.

RESOVLED – To approve the application.

Proposed – Cllr Richardson

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

- d) Deal TGI Tang Soo Do -- Members received a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to approve a small grant application of £400 to Deal TGI Tang Soo Do.

RESOVLED – To approve the application once a bank account has been established and ask for receipts to be provided as we have no financial history.

Proposed – Cllr Richardson

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 9 Against 0 Abstain 2

470. DDC REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE TOILETS

Members received a written report from the Clerk relating to a meeting held with DDC officers as requested by members at January’s Council meeting

RESOVLED – To hold off responding to the request to vary the classification of the Marine Road toilet which is a strategic toilet as per the agreement of August 2022.

Proposed – Cllr Murray

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

471. VOLUNTARY ANNOUCEMENT OF OTHER INTERESTS

Members received a written report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommending adopting the definition of a VAOI.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to the recommendation and asked that s/he be changed to they.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

472. IDEAL OFFICE

Members received a written report from the Amenities and Environment Committee on the Ideal Office project recommending an ideal space for an office, the project is an exercise at this point to fully review the options.

RESOLVED – To accept the description provided of the ideal office space for the foreseeable future and send the item back to the Amenities and Environment Committee for next actions.

Proposed – Cllr Jull

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 10 Against 0 Abstain 1

473. MOTION FOR THE OCEAN

Members received a written copy of the recommended Motion for the Ocean as agreed by the Climate Emergency Working Group.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to the wording for the motion and to sign up to the Motion for the Ocean. The letters detailed in the motion are to be created by Cllr Waite-Gleave and the Clerk and signed by the Chairman

Proposed – Cllr Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 10 Against 1 Abstain 0

474. POLICY FOR MEMBERS COMPLAINTS ABOUT ANOTHER MEMBER

Members received a recommendation from the Human Resources Committee to amend the policy for complaints from a member about another member.

RESOLVED – To amend the policy to state that complaints are to be handled by the monitoring officer.

Proposed – Cllr Jull

Seconded – Cllr Murray

For 9 Against 2 Abstain 0

475. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETINGS AGENDA

Nothing was put forward.

476. CONFIDENTIAL TO BE HELD UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (admission to meetings) ACT 1960

To move in to a private session to discuss matters of a confidential nature.

RESOLVED To move to a private session.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

477. STAFF MATTERS

Members received a written report and recommendation from the Human Resources Committee on yearly increases to staff wages.

RESOLVED – To agree the recommendation to increase wages in line with the NJC recommendations.

Proposed – Cllr Bond

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

478. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 6th March 2023, 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 20.45 pm.

Signed: Date: