



**WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

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

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**MINUTES**

**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Amenity and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm at 8 The Strand, Walmer.**

**Present Councillors:**

Cllr M Eddy (Chair), Cllr D Richardson, Cllr P Ludwig, Cllr S Waite-Gleave, Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr P Findley, Cllr T Bond (ex officio) and Cllr L Ludwig (ex officio).

Roland Aldred –Town Clerk

2 members of the public representing swifts were present

**413. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies from Cllrs Lee, Simpson and Jull were received and accepted. Members agreed to move the decision on item 419 and item 425 to the end of the meeting.

**414. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the terms of various rights to record and transmit the transactions of the meeting under the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

**415. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs P and L Ludwig declared a DPI in respect of item 426 as they are allotment tenants. Cllr Findley declared an OSI in respect of item 425.

**416. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received the minutes of the committee meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023.

**AGREED**

That the minutes are a true record and are approved.

Proposed by Cllr Findley

Seconded by Cllr Waite-Gleave.

**417. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE**

No items.

**418. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public wished to ask any questions.

**419. NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY GRANT APPLICATION**

Members received an application for a grant of £443.43 from the Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts group. Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts gave a presentation on the application detailing the loss of nesting sites and the decline in numbers of Swifts, they also spoke about the actions they had already taken and the positive changes this had made. The decision on the grant was moved to the end of the meeting.

**420. HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Cllr Blackwell arrived at the start of this item

- i. To receive a copy of current Highways Improvement Plan. Members were made aware that the Speed Watch campaign has started Cllrs L Ludwig and Waite-Gleave were part of the group that have been out with the speed gun.

**NOTED**

Proposed – Cllr Findley

Seconded – Cllr Waite-Gleave

- ii. Parking on Marine Road  
Members received a verbal report from the Clerk, that there is already a restriction on parking on Marine Road. The smaller campervans are classed as cars and therefore not subject to the restrictions. The campervan on The Strand has been clamped by the DVLA and our most recent conversation with the DVLA was that they would remove this in the next few weeks.
- iv. Any additions to the HIP.  
No additions were suggested.
- v. Cycle Forum  
Cllr L Ludwig reported that she had met again with Cllr Craggs of Deal Town Council and they linking with local cycle groups to find out information about what they would like to see improve for cycling in the area. There will be conversations about whether they would like to see a Cycle Forum re-established but the focus of the meetings has been on the Cycle Friendly Deal document.

**420. HISTORIC WALKING ROUTE FROM WALMER STATION TO DEAL CASTLE**

Members received a report from the Cllr Eddy on a proposal to create a historic walking route from the train station to the beach. Members felt this was a good idea and talked about options for advertising this (QR codes, signage).

**AGREED**

To speak to KCC highways in the HIP meeting about the subject and add to the HIP to move this forward.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Richardson

**421. STONEY PATH**

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk updating them on the Stoney Path project progress. Members discussed next steps.

**AGREED**

To delegate responsibility to Cllrs P Ludwig and Findley along with the Clerk to investigate types of seeding for the path and to obtain quotes to have the job completed.

Proposed – Cllr P Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr Richardson

**422. TRIM TRAIL**

Members received a verbal report on the current status of the Trim Trail.

**AGREED**

Cllr L Ludwig with the help of the office to pull together a report on the potential usage, type of equipment, success of funding and costs for the next meeting. This will be done by engaging with the local community.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Waite-Gleave

**423. TREE PLANTING**

Members received a written report from the Clerk on a potential site for tree planting.

**AGREED**

Members delegated the Clerk to organise with KCC tree planting along Salisbury Road for up to £2000. Members also asked for a recommendation to go Council to add the £2000 not spent to reserves to be used as soon as we can identify additional sites to plant.

Proposed - Cllr Richardson

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

**424. IDEAL OFFICE SPACE**

Members received a report from the Clerk on what the ideal office/meeting space would look like.

**AGREED**

The Clerk to put together a broader outline of the needs using the information already provided and to check this with Council Chairman to send back to Council.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Richardson

**425. DECISION ON GRANT APPLICATION**

Cllr Findley left the room for this item

Members considered the application for the grant.

**AGREED**

To recommend to Full Council to award the grant of £443.43 to Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts.

Proposed -Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Waite-Gleave

**426. ALLOTMENT PRICING**

Members received a written report from the Clerk recommending a freeze on allotment pricing for 2024/25.

**AGREED**

Members agreed to freeze the price at 48p per square metre for the year 2024/25

Proposed – Cllr Richardson

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

**427. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45.

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Signature

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Date