



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 6th March 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 A Friend, Cllr J Murray, Cllr D Richardson, Cllr Waite-Gleave, Cllr Findley and Cllr P Jull.

Officers Present: Roland Aldred, Town Clerk

513. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

514. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

515. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

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

516. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported:

- i. we had received nothing from DDC in regard to the toilets as of yet.
- ii. The assignment of No 8 continues to progress and is in the hands of the solicitors.

517. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 7th February 2024.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr Waite-Gleave

Seconded by Cllr Eddy

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

No matters were raised.

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

- i. No members of the public were present.
- ii. Cllrs Murphy, Beer and Vinson offered apologies.
Cllr Murphy of Kent County Council sent in a written report:
 - a. Lobbying KCC Highways on the continued disruption in Upper Walmer.
 - b. Speaking with Kent Police on measures to reduce speeding in Upper Walmer.
 - c. KCC budget approved at Feb 19 meeting, increases set at the maximum allowed without a referendum.
 - d. National Empty Homes Week commences 4th March. The Economic Development team at KCC through the innovative No Use Empty Scheme has brought 9000 properties back in to use.
 - e. The Economic Development Team has generated an additional £500,000 in revenue while making savings of £230,000 for the county.
 - f. The Economic Development Team continues to press central government over replacement SMR reactors at Dungeness while exploring all alternative avenues of power generation.

Cllr Beer of Dover District Council reported:

- a. I have been investigating the impact of second home ownership on local towns including Deal and Walmer.
- b. Discussions have been had around the Port Health issue. Currently a government proposal would withdraw £2,000,000 of funding from the government from April. DDC are resisting this firmly and the matter is being taken to a parliamentary committee.
- c. £250,000 has been removed from projected expenditure in the budget.
- d. Homelessness is rising in the district, the council does all it can to avoid using B&B's for temporary accommodation. The council is looking to create extra short term housing to help meet these needs.
- e. I have been looking at parking charges, Green waste and housing for disadvantaged families.

520. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

Cllr L Ludwig reported that Kent Police have been investigating some anti-social behaviour from youths in the town. The Police are happy to report that one homeless person reported to them has now been rehomed.

521. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
 - a) Amenities + Environment – No minutes to present.
 - b) Finance + General Purposes – No minutes to present.
 - c) Walmer in Bloom – minutes from Jan 16th, 2024.
 - d) Events Committee – No minutes to present.
 - e) Planning Committee – minutes from Jan 9th, 2024.
 - f) Climate Emergency Working Group — minutes from Nov 16th, 2023
 - g) Public Engagement Working Group – no meeting held.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note the minutes of all the above committees and ask that the Chairman write to the owner of planning application DOV/23/01453 to advise that as Walmer Town Council is not liable for the maintenance of Hawkshill Camp Road he should

ensure that the contractors are made aware that any damage to the accessway will require putting right by them for the sake of the owner and his neighbours.

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr L Friend

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

RESOLVED: to note the draft minutes.

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Friend

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

522.REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. 3 requests have been made by members of the public to extend the months of opening of the MUGA

RESOLVED – To ask the Amenities and Environment Committee to review the options and cost/benefit of additional opening and report back to Council.

- ii. A Freedom of Information request was received by Walmer Town Council, and it would appear a large number of Town/Parish Councils in the UK in regard to social housing, as Walmer Town Council does not own any social housing and isn't the authority on this no information was held to provide. The requestor was referred to Dover District Council as the relevant authority in the district.

- iii. The Clerk will be on annual leave for the last week of this month.

RESOLVED – To note the report of the Clerk.

Proposed – Cllr P Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr Blackwell

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

523.FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Bank Balances

Members received the bank balances

Bank Balances as at 29/02/24

Lloyds bank	£ -
Unity Trust current	£ 31,957.67
Unity Trust Deposit	£ 228,969.06
Total	£ 260,926.73

ii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the February 2024 monthly financial report.

Financial update for month of February 2024					
Balance at start of month		£272,451.47			
Payments			Receipts		
Who	For	Amount	Who	For	Amount
Travel Claims	Cllr Travel claims for meetings	£53.70	Allotment Holders	Allotment Rent	£1,097.69
KALC	Staff Training	£30.00			
Gazen Salts Nature Reserve	Cutting and collecting grass from Hawkshill Freedown	£395.00			
Staff	Salary	£4,688.63			
HMRC	Tax and National Insurance	£1,204.11			
KCC LGPS	Pensions	£2,739.45			
Edge IT	Annual Contract coverage	£1,392.12			
Mitec	Telephone Charges	£129.24			
Credit Card	Credit Card payments	£308.60			
Grant Payments	General and Green Grant Payments	£1,043.43			
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£3.00			
E.on Next	Electricity Bill- No 8 the Strand	£99.25			
Viking	Stationery items	£233.68			
R Thompson	Hawkshill Fuel for tools	£24.00			
EDF Energy	Gas Bill - No 62 The Strand	£122.99			
KCCPS	Cost per copy print charge photocopier	£110.82			
Total		£12,578.02	Total		£1,097.69
Balance at end of month		£260,971.14			
This month spend		-£11,480.33		Last year -£17,460.05	
% of yrs precept for month		4.66%		% of precept for month 7.46%	
Total net spend YTD		-£162,502.97		Total spent LYTD -£230,219.11	
% of precept YTD		66.03%		% of precept LYTD 98.43%	

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

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Friend

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

iii. To agree to add Mrs L Simmonds as a bank administrator.

RESOLVED – To add Mrs Simmonds to ensure that invoices can be paid even if the Clerk is unavailable.

Proposed Cllr Jull

Seconded Cllr Findley

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

iv. To agree monies not spent on tree planting are added to a reserve for planting next year.

RESOLVED – To agree to carry monies forward.

Proposed Cllr Friend

Seconded Cllr Eddy

For 11

Against 1

Abstain 0

- v. To agree monies not spent on highways improvements are added to a reserve for improvements next year.

RESOLVED – To agree to carry monies forward.

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Friend

For 10 Against 1 Abstain 1

524. INVITATIONS AND EVENTS

Cllr Bond will be attending the centenary of Deal Hospital.

525. EXTENSION OF ABSENCE

Members received a proposal to allow Cllr Simpson additional time on leave of absence due to the sudden bereavement of his wife.

RESOLVED – To approve an additional 6 months for Cllr Simpson.

Proposed – Cllr Murray

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 0

526. CARBON AUDIT

Members received a written report from Cllr Waite-Gleave updating Walmers Carbon Audit.

RESOLVED – To note.

Proposed – Cllr Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 0

527. SIGNAGE IN THE TOWN

Members received a written report from Cllr Murray on signage in the Town.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to note the report

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr Findley

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 0

RESOLVED – Members asked the Amenities and Environment committee to inventory signage and put together a priority list of signage to be replaced.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Murray

For 7 Against 4 Abstain 1

528. ACTION PLAN

Members received draft action plan of current projects Walmer Town Council is working on.

RESOLVED – To accept the action plan.

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 0

529. DATES FOR 2024/25 MEETINGS

Members received draft calendar of meetings for 2024/25.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to the draft calendar.

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr Jull

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 0

530. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETINGS AGENDA

Members were advised as the Clerk will be absent for the week of the 25/3/24, all items they wish adding to the April agenda must be provided by the 21/3/24.

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

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

RESOLVED To move to a private session.

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr Jull

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 0

532. DRILL FIELD

Members received a written report from Cllr Murray on progress with the replacement lease with Deal, Betteshanger and Walmer Rugby and Social Club.

RESOLVED – To agree the recommendation on costs of legal advice and to agree the switch in legal representation.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 11 Against 1 Abstain 0

Members received a report from the Clerk detailing a request from the Rugby Club for the lease to be increased in length from 30 years to 50 years.

RESOLVED – To agree to stick to the previous resolution of a 30 year lease.

Proposed – Cllr Jull

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 10 Against 0 Abstain 2

533. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 3rd April 2024, 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 20.35 pm.

Signed: Date: