



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday 10th January 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 A Friend, Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr J Murray, Cllr D Richardson, Cllr Waite-Gleave, Cllr Findley and Cllr P Jull.

Officers Present: Roland Aldred, Town Clerk

378. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr L Ludwig was absent from this item but returned for item 379.

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

379. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs L Ludwig, P Ludwig and Friend declared a VAOI in respect of item 396 as the Landlady is known to them.

380. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

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

381. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported

- i. The Carols on the Green event was a massive success, it was great to see so many people out singing in the cold weather.
- ii. Cllr Simpson's wife had sadly passed away just before Christmas, a card had been sent on behalf of the Council. The Council offers condolences to Cllr Simpson.

382. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 8th November 2023.

RESOLVED: That minutes be approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr Friend

Seconded by Cllr Waite-Gleave

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

No matters were brought for discussion.

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

- i. No members of the public were present.
- ii. Cllr Bond reported that KCC are just starting back after the Christmas break and there were no items to report.
- iii. Cllr Vinson of Dover District Council reported
 - a. After several years of work the owner of the land beside the alleyway linking Station Approach to Court Road had been identified and work was underway to clear the area of rubbish.
 - b. DDC cabinet will be meeting to discuss levying charges on parking at Borrow Pit car park on Monday.
 - c. DDC are reviewing garden waste removal with a potential change from bags to containers, Cllr Vinson is working to try to have a fuller review to deal with issues of reduction in capacity and those who are unable to have containers outside due to space issues.
 - d. Hedging has been cut and litter has been exposed under this awaiting details of when this will be cleared.
 - e. DDC working on budget setting.

385.CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

Cllr L Ludwig reported that a new inspector was now in post.

386.COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
 - a) Amenities + Environment – minutes from Sept 27th 2023.
To hear a proposal to include Cllr Simpson as part of the membership of the A&E committee
 - b) Finance + General Purposes – minutes from Oct 18th 2023.
 - c) Walmer in Bloom – no minutes to review.
 - d) Events Committee – minutes from Nov 21st 2023.
 - e) Planning Committee – minutes from Oct 10th and Nov 14th 2023.
 - f) Climate Emergency Working Group – No minutes to attach.
 - g) Public Engagement Working Group – no meeting held.
To hear a proposal to include Cllr Waite-Gleave as part of the membership of the Public Engagement Working Group.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to note the minutes of all the above committees and approved the Membership of Cllrs Simpson and Waite-Gleave on to the respective committees.

Proposed Cllr Friend

Seconded Cllr Waite-Gleave

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

Noted – No comments made

387.REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported

- i. Over the past few months we have received 4 enquiries about housing this is much higher than usual.
- ii. The Special meeting of the Council will be held on the week commencing the 19th Feb to fit with meeting commitments and staff holiday.
- iii. Adventure Golf signage in the conservation area has now been removed.
- iv. Further to Cllr Vinson's report the Clerk gave details of the proposal for parking charges at Borrow Pit Car Park.

RESOLVED – For the Chairman to write a letter in opposition to the charges at Borrow Pitt car park. This has been previously trialled 2 years ago and was very unpopular with local residents, created congestion, the app based payment method is not inclusive enough and the Secretary of State wrote to all local councils requesting that alternative cash payment methods would be advisable.

388.FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Bank Balances
Members received the bank balances

Bank Balances as at 31/12/23

Lloyds bank	£ 77,835.79
Unity Trust current	£ 30,530.90
Unity Trust Deposit	£ 195,762.83
Total	£ 304,129.52

RESOLVED – To note the Balances

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Friend

ii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the November and December monthly financial reports

Financial update for month of November 2023					
Balance at start of month		£340,794.20			
Payments			Receipts		
Who	For	Amount	Who	For	Amount
Staff	Salary	£4,630.24	Deal and Betteshanger Rugby club	Rent for The Drill Field	£890.95
DDC	Refund of Walmer Green Payment	-£492.00	KCC	Grant For Carols Concert	£600.00
HMRC	Tax and National Insurance	£1,226.86			
KCC LGPS	Pensions	£1,376.78			
Hof Media	Carols Concert Advertising	£104.40			
Wheel 2 Wheel Display Team	Deposit-Children's Festival	£140.00			
Mitec	Telephone Charges	£148.45			
Public Works Loan Board	Payment for Loan	£7,563.40			
EDF	Electricity Bill	£127.84			
EDF	Gas Bill	£21.40			
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£3.00			
DDC	Local Elections	£9,040.88			
Staff	Expenses claims	£165.95			
Goodwin Sands Conservation Trust	Grant	£400.00			
Mr D Halpin	Window Cleaning	£12.00			
Mrs M Beard Gould	Expenses claim	£20.00			
E-on Next	Electricity Bill	£83.46			
Mazars	External Audit	£756.00			
Edge IT	Annual Fees	£1,437.98			
SLCC	Training	£180.00			
Mrs M Johnson	Repairs to No 8 The Strand	£985.00			
Total		£27,931.64	Total		£1,490.95
Balance at end of month		£314,353.51			
This month spend		-£26,440.69		Last year -£26,318.37	
% of yrs precept for month		10.74%		% of precept for month 11.25%	
Total net spend YTD		-£109,090.60		Total spent LYTD -£184,560.53	
% of precept YTD		44.32%		% of precept LYTD 78.91%	

Financial update for month of December 2023					
Balance at start of month		£314,353.51			
Payments			Receipts		
Who	For	Amount	Who	For	Amount
Viking	Stationary	£41.98	Openreach	Wayleave Payment	£80.11
Staff	Salary	£4,644.82	Unity Bank	Credit Interest	£1,486.16
HMRC	Tax and National Insurance	£1,237.20			
KCC LGPS	Pensions	£1,383.75			
Mrs M Johnson	Rent for no 8 The Strand	£1,750.00			
Gazen Salts	Hire of equipment for York and Albany	£62.00			
KALC	Training courses	£91.20			
White Cliffs Symphonic Orchestra	Carols Concert	£400.00			
Toilets Plus	Deposit for toilets for Future events	£200.00			
Viking	Stationary	£46.68			
Mitec	Telephone Charges	£163.94			
Wantsum Medical Group	Deposit for first aid for Future events	£101.56			
EDF	Electricity Bill	£138.31			
EDF	Gas Bill	£48.06			
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£3.00			
Applause Touring	Shows for Children's Festival	£600.00			
Batchelor Coop	Staff Payroll	£191.27			
Business Stream	Water Bill	£142.15			
Cllr L Ludwig	Expenses Claim	£31.44			
Cllr J Murray	Expenses Claim	£50.40			
Dallas Events Services	Marquee and chairs for Carols Concert	£432.50			
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	£30.00			
Total		£11,790.26	Total		£1,566.27
Balance at end of month		£304,129.52			
This month spend		-£10,223.99		Last year -£18,037.44	
% of yrs precept for month		4.15%		% of precept for month 7.71%	
Total net spend YTD		-£119,314.59		Total spent LYTD -£202,597.97	
% of precept YTD		48.48%		% of precept LYTD 86.62%	

RESOLVED – Members agreed to note the monthly finance update.

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Friend

iii. To Authorise a payment over £2000

Members were asked to consider a invoice for £21915.30 from Dover District Council for Walmer Town Councils agreed 2023/24 grant for the Toilet provision

RESOLVED – Members agree to the payment.

Proposed Cllr Jull

Seconded Cllr Ludwig

389. INVITATIONS AND EVENTS

No invitations were received.

390. KCC FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION

i. Members reviewed KCC's flood risk management policy.

RESOLVED – As the document was a piece discussing how they would engage with other authorities for Walmer Town Council to not offer a response but if individual members wish to respond they were welcome to do so.

ii. Members received a copy of the "Motion for the Ocean."

RESOVLED – Motions require some personalisation to the location therefore members resolved to ask Climate Emergency Working Group to review and come to Council with a proposal for Walmer Town Council.

Proposed – Cllr Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

391. TRAINING REPORT ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

Members received a written report from Cllr Waite-Gleave on how pleased she had been with a training course she had completed on line dealing with Standards in Public life.

Noted

392. TRIM TRAIL

Members received a written report from the Amenities and Environment Committee recommending continued investigation in to a cluster of equipment rather than a trail.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to the recommendation to continue to investigate the cluster rather than the trail concept.

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr L Ludwig

393. CHURCHILL AVENUE

Members received a written report from the Climate Emergency Working Group on the project at Churchill Avenue and Dover District Council's offer of a licence to operate a biodiverse urban nature reserve from the location.

RESOLVED The Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman and the Chairman of Finance and General purposes is delegated powers to sign an agreement under a nominal rent (figure given £1) to take over operation of the land.

Proposed – Cllr Jull
Seconded – Cllr Eddy

394. BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Members received a copy of the agreed upon by Finance and General Purposes budget and the recommendation of the committee for a precept for the year 2024/25

RESOLVED – Members agreed the budget and agreed a precept request of £249,190. This would entail a 0% increase for residents.

Proposed – Cllr Jull
Seconded – Cllr Friend

395. TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

Members received a report from the Clerk on a meeting held with the Deal, Walmer and Kingsdown Regatta Association.

RESOLVED – To support the Teddy Bears Picnic with the Chairman to attend to open and present an award.

Proposed – Cllr Friend
Seconded – Cllr Blackwell

396. STONEY PATH

Members received quotes for clearing Stoney path.

RESOLVED – To agree the quote from Red Dog Gardens services for £1944.00 and put this through the UK Prosperity Fund.

Proposed – Cllr Friend
Seconded – Cllr Jull

397. POP UP SURGERIES

Members received a report from the Public Engagement Working Group on “Pop Up Surgeries/meet you councillor” sessions.

RESOLVED – To delegate responsibility to the Public Engagement Working Group to organise dates and promotional literature, the Clerk will be responsible for organising who attends these events all members are to be offered the opportunity to attend an event.

Proposed – Cllr L Ludwig
Seconded – Cllr Jull

398. FUTURE OF WALMER TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

9.00pm was reached during this item agreed to extend the meeting by 10 minutes to conclude the business of the meeting

Proposed – Cllr Eddy
Seconded – Cllr Jull

- i. Members received a written report from Cllr Bond on the future of Walmer Town Council premises.

RESOLVED – To remit to A&E to produce a ideal accommodations for Walmer Town Council as a starting point to what the office and meeting space should look like, without taking in to account the money at this point. This in no way ties Walmer Town Council to having made a decision about what space will be used in the future.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy
Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

During the next item the 10 minute extension passed and a further unlimited extension was passed to complete the business

Proposed – Cllr Eddy
Seconded – Cllr Jull

ii. No 8 The Strand

Members received a report from the Clerk on the progress of leasing No 8 The Strand.

RESOLVED – Members delegated powers to the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman of Finance and General Purposes and the Chairman of the Council to sign the contract once available to complete the re-assignment of No 8.

Proposed – Cllr Bond
Seconded – Cllr Waite-Gleave

399. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 7th February 2023, 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 21.20 pm.

Signed: Date: