



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 3rd April 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 E Crockford, Cllr Waite-Gleave, Cllr Findley and Cllr P Jull.

Officers Present: Roland Aldred, Town Clerk

Cllr Friend was not present at the start of the meeting.

553. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Lee and Simpson offered apologies that were accepted, Cllr Friend offered apologies as he would be late.

Cllr Murphy of Dover District and Kent County Council sent apologies.

554. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

555. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

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

556. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported:

- i. He had attended the 100 year celebration of Deal Hospital.
- ii. Cllr Eddy of Walmer Town Council had been made an Alderman of Kent, and wish to offer his congratulations for the honour of being recognised in this fashion for his 16 years of service of Kent County Council.

557. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 6th March 2024.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr Eddy

Seconded by Cllr Murray

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

No matters were raised.

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

- i. One member of the public was present and asked question on:
 - a) The situation in regard to the offices – the clerk advised that progress on the re-assignment of No 8 was moving forward.
 - b) The application for an Alcohol Licence for the Adventure Golf – The Chairman advised that level one council's were not consultees on Licencing and that to ensure fairness the local district councillors were not allowed to sit on the panel that reviewed an application at district level.
- ii. Cllr Murphy of Kent County Council sent in a written report stating that there was little to report back other than he continued to raise concerns about the issues of roadworks within Upper Walmer.

560.CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

Cllr Crockford reported that Kent Police have been investigating some anti-social behaviour from youths in the town and an increased Police presence has been put in place.

561.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 Feb 20th 2024.
 - d) Events Committee – minutes from Jan 30th 2024.
 - e) Planning Committee – minutes from Feb 13th, 2024.
 - 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 and ask that the Chairman Mrs S Le Chevalier thanking her for her efforts over the year.

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Findley

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

NOTED

Proposed Cllr Bond

Seconded Cllr Eddy

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

562.REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. The internal auditor will be attending on the 15th May to do the annual AGAR audit.
- ii. The Clerk has been working with DDC on getting the bins at the MUGA emptied on a regular basis.
- iii. We have over the last 2 days had 4 separate complaints about parking on the bend by Walmer Castle. This bend is blind and forcing cars in to the other lane is causing a danger.

RESOLVED – to write to KCC, DDC and English Heritage asking for action to prevent parking on this blind bend

Proposed – Cllr Bond

Seconded – Cllr Findley

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

RESOLVED – To note the report of the Clerk.

Proposed – Cllr Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

563.FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Bank Balances

Members received the bank balances

Bank Balances as at 31/03/24

Lloyds bank	£ -
Unity Trust current	£ 33,011.34
Unity Trust Deposit	£ 214,675.03
Total	£ 247,686.37

ii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the February 2024 monthly financial report.

Financial update for month of March 2024					
Balance at start of month		£260,971.14			
Payments			Receipts		
Who	For	Amount	Who	For	Amount
EDF	Utilities	£60.44	General Public	Car Parking Donations	£77.81
Staff	Salaries	£4,721.61	KCC	Tree Grant	£450.25
HMRC	Tax and National Insurance	£1,194.68	Allotment Holders	Allotment Rent	£1,375.66
KCC LGPS	Pensions	£1,848.15	Unity Bank	Bank Interest	£1,521.63
Tree Leaf Services	Removal of fallen tree	£180.00			
Deal TGI Tang Soo Do	Grant	£400.00			
Mitec	Telecoms	£124.80			
Credit Card	Credit Card payments	£63.17			
Edge IT	Five Year Contract	£1,304.16			
Dave Halpin	Window Cleaner	£12.00			
Councillor's Expenses	Councillor's Expenses	£5,130.00			
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£3.00			
SLCC	Course Payment	£351.00			
Vision ICT	Course Payment	£30.00			
Business Stream	Utilities	£206.07			
Gazen Salts	Tool Hire	£60.00			
Mr L Robbins	Internal Audit	£175.00			
Batchelor Coop	Payroll	£282.74			
Palmstead Nurseries	Tree Delivery	£532.70			
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	£30.60			
Total		£16,710.12	Total		£3,425.35
Balance at end of month		£247,686.37			
This month spend		-£13,284.77		Last year	-£35,591.45
% of yrs precept for month		5.40%		% of precept for month	15.22%
Total net spend YTD		-£175,787.74		Total spent LYTD	-£265,810.56
% of precept YTD		71.42%		% of precept LYTD	113.65%
		-£191,787.74			
		77.92%			

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

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Murray

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

iii. To agree events committee recommendations to move £1100 between events budgets.

RESOLVED – Member resolve that a resolution of the council is not required for the events committee to do this

Proposed Cllr Jull

Seconded Cllr P Ludwig

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

iv. To approve payment of £6000 to Southeastern in respect of WTC's share of the secure cycle hub.

RESOLVED – To approve the payment.

Proposed Cllr Jull

Seconded Cllr Eddy

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

564. INVITATIONS AND EVENTS

Cllr Bond or the Chairman at the time will be attending the annual Royal Marine Concert.
Cllr L Ludwig will be attending the Deal, Walmer and Kingsdown St Georges day parade.

565. CAMPING AT THE DRILL FIELD FOR THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS REGATTA

Members considered a request from Deal, Betteshanger and Walmer Rugby and Social Club to allow the Downs Sailing Club to use the Drill Field for camping during the National Schools Regatta in 2026.

RESOLVED – To approve the request provided all required permissions are obtained.

Proposed – Cllr Jull

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 0

566. REPORT OF THE AUDITOR

Members received a written report from Walmer Town Councils auditor.

NOTED.

Proposed – Cllr Jull

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 0

567. DOVER DISTRICT COUNCILS REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE MARKE WOOD PLAY AREA

Cllr Friend arrived at the meeting

Members considered a proposal from Dover District Council for a collaborative working arrangement to replace and improve the Children's play area at Marke Wood.

RESOLVED – To agree to support the project allowing for additional equipment to be purchased up to the sum of £25,000 in principle (members will be able to review what the £25000 adds to the project before making a final decision) based on seeing value for money.

Proposed – Cllr Richardson

Seconded – Cllr L Ludwig

For 12 Against 0 Abstain 0

RESOLVED – Members appointed Cllrs Richardson and Blackwell as WTC representatives with DDC on this project.

Proposed – Cllr Jull

Seconded – Cllr Richardson

For 10 Against 1 Abstain 2

Cllr Jull requested that item 18 Voting on committees be brought forward from item 18 to item 16 therefore in the public arena. The Clerk advised that should they wish to do so the conversation would have to be in a very general format staying away from any talk that could potentially identify any specific person.

568. VOTING RIGHTS ON COMMITTEES

Members received a written report from the Clerk on current voting rights, the practices and legalities of voting rights on committees

RESOLVED – To remove voting rights from any member of a committee not an elected Councillor.

Proposed – Cllr Murray

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 11 Against 1 Abstain 1

569. 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 Jull

Seconded – Cllr Friend

For 13 Against 0 Abstain 0

570. NO 8 THE STRAND

Members received a verbal update from the Clerk on the progress relating to No 8 the Strand and the re-assignment of the property.

571. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday May 1, 2024.

Annual Town Meeting – April 17, 2024.

The meeting closed at 20.45 pm.

Signed: Date: