



**WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 7.30 pm  
at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.**

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

**Officer Present:** Roland Aldred, Town Clerk

**545. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Lee and Crockford offered apologies that were accepted.

Cllr Blackwell arrived at this point of the meeting

**546. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Waite-Gleave declared a OSI in respect of item 557 ii. as a member of the Marke Wood Gardeners committee and bank signatory. Cllr Findley declared a VAOI in respect of item 557 i. as a member of the Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts committee. Cllr Blackwell declared a VAOI in respect of item 553 and 562 as a former chairman of the Landmark centre. Cllr Jull declared a OSI in Items 553 and 562 as a current trustee of the Landmark Centre.

**547. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

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

**548. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Bond reported:

- i. He had attended the Channel Dash memorial in Dover and laid a wreath on behalf of Walmer Town Council.
- ii. Along with the Clerk he had attended a meeting with Dover District Council about the Landmark Centre.
- iii. Item 14 from the agenda would be moved forward to between items 8 and 9.

**549. MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr Friend

Seconded by Cllr Eddy

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

**550. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The Clerk reported that repairs to the noticeboard were underway.

**551. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF WALMER**

- i. No questions were posed from members of the public present.
- ii. Cllr Bond of Kent County Council reported that the budget for KCC had been accepted. Kent had not been selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of devolution and now are awaiting a timescale for when they will be added to the devolution programme.

**552. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS**

Cllr L Ludwig updated that although no specific reports for Walmer were made, there has been one arrest made in the area for vehicle interference.

**553. LANDMARK CENTRE**

Cllr Jull arrived during this item.

Members received a short presentation on the financial issues of the Landmark Centre, along with a business plan to allow the centre to move forward. Members received a request for financial assistance from the Trustees to enable them to keep the centre open and a plan for moving forward to make the centre viable in the future. A question-and-answer session followed this item.

**554. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES**

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
  - a. Amenities & Environment – minutes from December 4, 2024.
  - b. Finance & General Purposes – No minutes to report.
  - c. Walmer in Bloom - Minutes from January 14, 2025.
  - d. Events Committee – No minutes to report.
  - e. Planning Committee – minutes from January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
  - f. Climate Emergency Working Group — No minutes to report.

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

Proposed Cllr Friend

Seconded Cllr Eddy

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

- a. Amenities and Environment from the meeting held February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- b. Planning committee from the meeting held February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**RESOLVED** – To note

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Friend

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

## 555. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. A developer led event about the proposed development at Ray's Bottom was held last week.
- ii. Officers are reviewing a grant scheme that may allow us to apply for funding for water fountains, proposed at Borrow Pit and Marine Road toilets.
- iii. The allotments have been invoiced for the year.
- iv. There have been further reports of cars being sold by a business on The Strand. This has been passed to Dover District Council Licensing.
- v. One of the officers has completed AAT training.

## 556. FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Bank Balances

Bank Balances as at 26/02/25

Charity Bank	£100,000.00
Redwood Bank	£100,000.00
Unity Trust Current	£39,007.24
Unity Trust Deposit	£55,600.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>£294,607.38</b>

ii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the February 2025 monthly financial report.

Financial update for month of February 2025					
Balance at start of month	£	347,486.19			
Payments			Receipts		
Who	For	Amount	Who	For	Amount
SLCC Enterprises	Staff Training	£144.00	Allotment Holder	Allotment Deposit	£100.00
Walmer Churches	Hire of Meeting Room	£41.25			
Leaf Tree Services	Tree Works as Hawkshill	£3,600.00			
Red Dog Gardening	Removal of Green Waste	£300.00			
Allotment Holders	Allotment Deposit Returns	£150.00			
Staff	Salaries	£5,318.19			
KCC LGPS	Pensions	£2,148.30			
Mitec	Telecoms	£162.13			
Deal and Dover Tennis CIC	Grant Payment	£500.00			
Air Ambulance Charity	Grant Payment	£500.00			
Deal Society	Grant Payment	£100.00			
Apex Clean	Office Cleaning	£160.00			
DDC	Marke Wood Payment	£12,500.00			
DDC	Four Toilets Payment	£23,371.58			
Walmer Baptist Church	Hire of Meeting Room	£30.00			
Watsum Medical	Deposit for Event First Aid	£189.99			
Mr D Halpin	Window Cleaning	£12.00			
KALC	Staff Training	£60.00			
Pitman Training	Staff Training	£138.00			
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£3.00			
Applause Touring	Entertainers for Childrens Festival	£650.00			
Viking	Stationary	£49.68			
Chapman Gardeners	Repairs to WIB Basket Chains	£1,361.50			
HMRC	Tax and NI Payments	£1,489.19			
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	£9.30			
Total		£52,988.11	Total		£100.00
Balance at end of month		£294,598.08			
This month spend		-£52,888.11	Last year		-£11,480.33
% of yrs precept for month		21.22%	% of precept for month		4.66%
Total net spend YTD		-£202,278.29	Total spent LYTD		-£182,210.85
% of precept YTD		81.17%	% of precept LYTD		74.03%

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

Proposed Cllr Eddy

Seconded Cllr Friend

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

iii. Recommendation from Amenities and Environment Committee on increasing the 2025/26 budget for water testing kits.

Members received a written report and recommendation from the Amenities and Environment Committee on increasing the budget for Water testing kits.

**RESOLVED** – To increase the budget from £500 to £840 for the year 2025/26.

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr Murray

For 9

Against 2

Abstain 2

#### **557. BIODIVERSITY GRANTS**

Members received recommendations from the Amenities and Environment Committee on the award of biodiversity grants.

- i. Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts – Grant for additional nesting boxes and leaflets to promote the work of the group.
- ii. Marke Wood Gardeners – Grant for plants for Marke Wood.

**RESOLVED** – To award grant of £473.79 To Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts and £304.85 to Marke Wood Gardeners.

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr P Eddy

For 12

Against 0

Abstain 0

Cllr Waite-Gleave did not participate in the vote for this item.

#### **558. OUTDOOR GYM**

Members received a verbal update on the progress of the outdoor gym and copies of the project scope and funding strategy documents. Members wished to thank the officer Mrs Simmons for her work.

**RESOLVED** – To note the report and documents.

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr L Ludwig

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

**RESOLVED** – To move into a private session to discuss items of commercial or legal sensitivity.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Friend

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### **560. INSURANCE**

Members received a written report from the Clerk and quotations in relation to the upcoming renewal of the Council's insurance.

**RESOLVED** – To agree to the three-year policy from Hiscox at a cost of £2413.66 per year.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr Jull

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### **561. LEGAL ADVICE**

Members received the advice from the solicitor.

**RESOLVED** – To note the advice of the solicitor and move forward as suggested.

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 0

Cllr Jull left the meeting at this point.

**RESOLVED** – Members agreed to extend the meeting to complete the last item as the 2 hours limit had been reached.

Proposed – Cllr Friend

Seconded – Cllr Eddy

For – 12                      Against – 0              Abstain - 0

**562. LANDMARK CENTRE**

Members discussed the presentation and business plan the Trustees and Management of the Landmark Centre had put forwards.

**RESOLVED** – To agree to award £5000 to the Landmark Centre on the condition that they can obtain the full required £50,000, with the rest coming from Deal Town Council and Dover District Council.

Cllr L Ludwig called for a recorded vote.

Proposed – Cllr Blackwell

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For – 9. Cllr Blackwell, Cllr P Ludwig, Cllr L Ludwig, Cllr Grist, Cllr Findley, Cllr Richardson, Cllr Friend, Cllr Bond and Cllr Waite-Gleave

Against -0

Abstain – 3. Cllr Eddy, Cllr Murray and Cllr Simpson

**563. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.

The meeting closed at 22.00 pm.

Signed: ..... Date: .....