



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 Annual Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday 7th May 2025 – 7.30 pm at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.

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

Officer Present: Roland Aldred, Town Clerk

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2025/26

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk on standing orders as requested by Members.

RESOLVED – To suspend standing order 6f allowing Cllr Bond to be nominated for Chairman.

Proposed – Cllr P Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr M Simpson

For – 14 Against – 0 Abstain – 1

Cllr T Bond was the only nomination made.

RESOLVED – To appoint Cllr T Bond as the Chairman of Walmer Town Council for the year 2025/26.

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr J Murray

For – 15 Against – 0 Abstain – 0

2. ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2025/26

Cllr M Simpson was the only nomination received.

RESOLVED – To appoint Cllr M Simpson as the Vice Chairman of Walmer Town Council for the year 2025/26.

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For – 15 Against – 0 Abstain – 0

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

5. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

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

6. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Members received a copy of the current committee membership along with requests to amend the committees that members were on. A further recommendation from the Amenities and Environment Committee on appointing a non-voting co-opted member to represent the Speaking up Group for expert opinion was also received.

RESOLVED - To appoint committee members as below:

Finance and General Purposes – Cllrs Jull, Murray, Simpson, Ludwig, Ludwig, Friend, Lee, Richardson, Eddy and Waite-Gleave.

Human Resources – Cllrs Bond, Crockford, Murray, Richardson, Waite-Gleave, P Ludwig, Eddy and L Ludwig.

Amenities and Environment – Cllrs Eddy, Findley, Jull, P Ludwig, Blackwell, Waite-Gleave, Richardson, Simpson and L Ludwig. Non-voting co-opted members Mr Knott.

Planning – Cllrs Murray, Simpson, Lee, Waite-Gleave, Grist, Blackwell and Bond

Walmer in Bloom – Cllrs L Ludwig, Waite-Gleave, P Ludwig, Crockford and Richardson. Non-voting co-opted members Mrs Late and Mrs Bogue.

Events – Cllrs Grist, Friend, Simpson, L Ludwig, Richardson and Crockford

To appoint Working Group members as below:

Climate Emergency Working Group – Cllrs Waite-Gleave, Blackwell, Eddy and Findley. Non-voting co-opted members Mrs Fisher.

Outdoor Gym Working Group – Cllrs P Ludwig, Richardson and L Ludwig.

To appoint as outside representatives

Police Liaison – Cllr Crockford.

Kent Association of Local Councils – Cllrs Murray and Waite-Gleave.

Bank Signatories – Cllrs Murray, Jull, Simpson, Bond, L Ludwig and Eddy.

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For – 15

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bond reported:

- i. Due to the period of special consideration there is little to report.
- ii. That he had attended a VE day 80th Anniversary Commemoration on the 3rd of May where he read words from the Duke of Wellington.

8. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd April 2025.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr J Murray

For 15

Against 0

Abstain 0

9. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk reported work on a report for the access road was ongoing. The EPC certificate for No 62 had been received.

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

- i. No questions were posed from members of the public present.
- ii. Cllr C Vinson of Dover District Council reported:
 - a) DDC were working with the Cinque Ports football club on lease charges
 - b) Cllr Vinson has been working with KCC on trying to get the pathway between Court Road and Station Drive designated a PROW.
 - c) DDC budget has been agreed
 - d) Work on the Marke Wood playground has started
 - e) DDC Cabinet will be discussing a strategy document for parking, this includes a loose proposal to charge for Borrow Pit.
 - f) The Local Cycling Consultation is ongoing
 - g) The Bylaws consultation is ongoing this includes a proposal to remove the dog banning order on the paddling pool, Cllr Vinson has picked this up and this was not instigated by the operators and the operators have no plans to allow dogs in to the area.
 - h) The demolition of the pool building at Tides is due to start soon.
 - i) Rays Bottom planning application is being reviewed by DDC pre planning, currently issues around access are being reviewed.
 - j) The Section 106 improvements to Dover Road from the Millers Retreat development not yet completed are being looked at as to alternative developments that could provide these.
 - k) DDC are addressing with the developers the remaining builds required at Millers Retreat.
 - l) 4 Members of DDC have resigned or been expelled from their political parties
 - m) The Community Governance review should be this autumn
 - n) Next stages in the devolution process are due in September.

11. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

Cllr E Crockford reported that at shop in Deal had been caught selling alcohol to underage children the shop's alcohol licence has been revoked.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
 - a. Amenities + Environment – minutes from Feb 26, 2025.
 - b. Finance + General Purposes – No minutes to report.
 - c. Walmer in Bloom – No minutes to report.
 - d. Events –Minutes from Mar 25, 2025.
 - e. Planning – minutes from Mar 11, 2025.
 - f. Climate Emergency Working Group – minutes from Feb 6 2025.

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

Proposed Cllr A Friend

Seconded Cllr L Ludwig

For 15

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

- a. Amenities + Environment – minutes from Apr 23, 2025.
- b. Events – minutes from Apr 22, 2025
- c. Planning – minutes from Apr 8, 2025.
- d. Climate Emergency Working Group – minutes from Mar 27, 2025.

RESOLVED – To note

Proposed Cllr M Eddy

Seconded Cllr A Friend

For 15

Against 0

Abstain 0

13. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. As previously stated by Cllr Vinson of DDC part of the Parking Strategy document included a loose proposal to add parking charges to Borrow Pit car park, the Officers have added information about this to Facebook and our website for information to the public.

RESOLVED – To resend letter of opposition to any parking charges at Borrow Pit.

Proposed – Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr R Blackwell

For – 15

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

- ii. The first set of water testing results have now come back and draft press statement was presented to members.

RESOLVED – To Ask Cllr Waite-Gleave to work with the Clerk to update the press statement then as soon as possible to release the statement.

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For – 14

Against – 1

Abstain – 0

Cllr Friend wish to thank the Climate Emergency Working Group for the water testing initiative.

- iii. The “What’s on Walmer Green” leaflet is now completed and has been distributed.
- iv. The lease for the Drill Field has been returned to Walmer Town Council for review.

RESOLVED – To note

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For 15

Against 0

Abstain 0

14. FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Bank Balances

Bank Balances as at 30/04/25

Charity Bank	£100,000.00
Redwood bank	£100,000.00
Unity Trust current	£39,667.67
Unity Trust Deposit	£293,121.67
Total	£532,789.34

ii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the April 2025 monthly financial report.

Financial update for month of April 2025					
Balance at start of month	£	279,312.84			
Payments			Receipts		
Who	For	Amount	Who	For	Amount
British Gas	Utility Bill	£89.45	Allotment Holders	Allotment Deposits, Rent and Insurance	£82.82
KALC	Annual Subscription	£2,244.00	Tonibell	Payment for Children's Festival	£50.00
Red Dog	Works at Hawkshill	£96.00	EDF Energy	Utility Bill Refund	£68.08
Deal Handyman	Repairs to Parish Noticeboard	£806.40	Eventbrite	Brocante Income	£4,302.18
Staff	Salaries	£5,320.17	HMRC	VAT Reclaim	£4,996.75
KCC LGPS	Pensions	£2,149.24	DDC	Precept	£261,312.20
Apex Clean	Office Cleaning	160.00			
RG Williams	Repairs to Allotment Tap	£76.00			
Mr D Halpin	Window Cleaning	£12.00			
Walmer Parish Churches	Hire of Meeting Room	£45.00			
Mr P Ludwig	Expense Claims	£56.71			
Gallagher	Insurance	£2,463.66			
Mitec	Telecoms	£135.00			
Argos	Garden Storage Shed	£439.95			
Deal Garden Centre	Tools	£98.95			
KCC Commserv	Photocopier Rental	£184.31			
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£3.00			
Mr W McGroary	Allotment Refund	£0.04			
Mr G Kinnear	EPC Check	£252.00			
HMRC (PAYE/NI)	NI and TAX	£2,660.45			
Spectrum Safety	Fire Extinguisher Inspection	£43.20			
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	£18.60			
Total		£17,354.13	Total		£9,499.83
			Precept removed from total income		
Balance at end of month		£532,770.74			
This month spend		-£7,854.30	Last year		-£9,621.17
% of yrs precept for month		3.01%	% of precept for month		-3.86%
Total net spend YTD		-£7,854.30	Total spent LYTD		-£9,621.17
% of precept YTD		3.01%	% of precept LYTD		-3.86%

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

Proposed Cllr P Jull

Seconded Cllr M Eddy

For 15

Against 0

Abstain 0

15. INVITATIONS AND EVENTS

Invites were received for The Royal Marines Band service memorial plaque hanging, VE Day memorial and Wreath Laying and the Royal Marines memorial concert and reception the Chairman will be attending these events.

The Council also received an invitation from Deal Town Council to attend an event to share information on the Local Coastline, Cllrs Waite-Gleave, Findley and L Ludwig are to attend.

Cllr K Lee left the meeting

16. MEDIA COMMUNICATION POLICY

Members received a copy of the Media/Communication Policy.

RESOLVED – To approve the policy.

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

17. COUNCIL RISK MANAGEMENT

Members received a copy of the Risk Management Statement.

RESOLVED – Members asked the Clerk to add in a section around the risks involved in key Members or Volunteers at Hawkshill being unable to continue to contribute time to the Freedown. Members also asked the Clerk to evaluate the risks and give a level of high, medium or low.

Proposed – Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 14 Against 0 Abstain 0

18. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members received a copy of the Financial Regulations and recommendations on changes made by NALC.

RESOLVED – To accept the recommendations and ask the Clerk to work with Cllr Waite-Gleave for amendments to the purchasing section around sustainability and local sourced.

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

For 14 Against 0 Abstain 0

19. STANDING ORDERS

Members received a copy of the current Standing Orders.

RESOLVED – To approve the Standing Orders.

Proposed – Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 13 Against 0 Abstain 0

Cllr Murray was not present for the vote

20. 20 IS PLENTY

Members received a written report from Cllr Grist about the proposal to create a 20mph zone in the Conservation Area on Dover Road, Upper Walmer.

RESOLVED – To ask the Clerk to write to Kent County Council supporting the idea of a 20mph zone in the Conservation Area on Dover Road, Upper Walmer and to request the speed reduction lines be added back to the corner.

Proposed – Cllr T Grist

Seconded – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

For – 10 Against – 2 Abstain - 2

21. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members received written recommendations on grant applications from the Finance and General purposes committee for grants from:

- i. The Royal Marine Association – For food for bandsmen and volunteers at the Royal Marines memorial concert.
- ii. 2235 Deal Squadron Air Cadets – For laptops for training for young people
- iii. Deal Carnival Association – Towards entertainment and prizes at the teddy bears picnic.

RESOLVED – To award the grants as applied for all three of these applications.

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr L Ludwig

For – 14

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

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

To move in to a confidential session.

RESOLVED – To move in to a confidential session.

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For – 14

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

23. REQUEST FROM THE RUGBY CLUB FOR USE OF DRILL FIELD FOR EVENT

Members received a written report from the Clerk on a request from Deal, Betteshanger and Walmer Rugby and Social Club to put on an outdoor cinema event. Members received information that the officers had reviewed the information provided in the same way DDC review our requests for events.

RESOLVED – To grant permission on the condition that a copy of the insurance certificate is provided.

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr M Simpson

For – 14

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

24. PHOTOCOPIER CONTRACT

Members received a written report detailing an offer from photocopier provider who had approached the Council with an offer to take over the photocopier rental agreement.

RESOLVED – To continue with the current agreement and write to KCS to see if there are any discounts available on the current deal.

Proposed – Cllr J Murray

Seconded – Cllr M Simpson

For – 13

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

Cllr Crockford was absent for the vote.

25. HR MATTERS

Members received 3 recommendations from the HR committee.

RESOLVED – To accept staffing recommendations as given by the HR Committee.

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For – 13

Against – 0

Abstain - 1

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th June

The meeting closed at 21.15

Signed: Date: