



**WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

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**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – 7.30 pm at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.**

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

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

**65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lee, Simpson, Waite-Gleave and P Ludwig.

**66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Jull declared a OSI in respect of item 75 iii as a trustee of the Landmark Centre.

**67. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

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

**68. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Bond welcomed the new Kent County Councillors Cllr Martin Paul and Cllr Chris Burwash to the meeting.

The Chairman also wished to thank Cllr Louise Ludwig for all the hard work she had put in over the last two years as Vice-Chairman of Walmer Town Council.

Cllr Bond reported:

- i. Cllr Mike Eddy had been elected Mayor of Deal Town Council and Cllr Peter Findley has been elected Deputy Mayor. The Chairman offered congratulations and looked forward to continuing to work together.
- ii. He attended a ceremony to unveil a plaque at the Royal Marines Memorial Garden.
- iii. That along with the Clerk he attended a meeting at DDC on devolution.
- iv. That as members were aware a local newspaper had written an article on the council's decision to close of the MUGA, comments appear to be dying down.

**NOTED**

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For – 11

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

## **69. MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

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

Proposed by Cllr Eddy

Seconded by Cllr Friend

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

## **70. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The Clerk reported the outdoor cinema event on the drill field had been cancelled.

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

- i. No questions were posed from members of the public present.
- ii. Cllrs M Paul and C Burwash of Kent County Council reported:
  - a) It was a very busy time with so many new members of KCC a lot of training courses were being run.
  - b) Cllr Paul has been appointed on to the Governance and Audit Committee and the Regulation Committee, with further appointments possible.
  - c) Cllr Burwash is awaiting appointments to Committees.
  - d) Cllr Paul is keen to be involved in reviewing the local buses and flood risk management.
  - e) Both KCC members have been issued a members grant and are keen to hear from local groups about opportunities to help the community.
  - f) The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of DOGE has taken place at present there are no timescales on the work.
  - g) The initial committee meetings have been cancelled during the start of the new council this is due to the massive overturn of members meaning that there are a lot of appointments and the required training to be conducted before meetings can take place.

## **72. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS**

Cllr E Crockford reported that the Police are continuing their campaign around "StreetSafe". Calls have gone out for any dashcam footage of the accident near Iceland last week. The Police are asking that anyone with CCTV or a camera style doorbell sign up to their CCTV registry. Kent Police are once again warning the public about the usage of E-Scooters as illegal outside of the test rental schemes set up.

## **73. 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 – Minutes from Mar 18, 2025.
  - d. Events –Minutes from Apr 22, 2025.
  - e. Planning – minutes from Apr 8, 2025.
  - f. Climate Emergency Working Group – No minutes to report.

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

Proposed Cllr A Friend

Seconded Cllr L Ludwig

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

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

- a. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from May 20, 2025.
- b. Events – minutes from May 27, 2025
- c. Planning – minutes from May 13, 2025.

**RESOLVED** – To note

Proposed Cllr A Friend

Seconded Cllr M Eddy

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

Cllr Ludwig reported that the Walmer in Bloom competition had now begun with nominations being taken both online and via paper copies. The entries will be photographed and judged by the public.

Cllr Bond brought to members attention the decision made at the events committee meeting to “rest” the Christmas event for the year. New DDC policies mean that the event costs have spiralled and there is a question of whether this provides value for money for the public given that it is only a 90-minute event. The event itself is similar to a number of events in the area taking place over a similar time frame.

**RESOLVED** – Members support the decision of the Events committee in resting the event.

Proposed – Cllr Jull

Seconded – Cllr Findley

For – 8

Against – 1

Abstain - 2

#### **74. REPORT OF THE CLERK**

The Clerk reported:

- i. The Children’s Festival is on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025 any Members available and wishing to volunteer should Contact the Events officer.
- ii. Dover District Council cabinet met to discuss the “Called in” item of the Parking Strategy and a decision was made to conduct further review before any decisions were taken.
- iii. The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting with Town/Parish Councils and Dover District Council on devolution. Little new information was available at this time. The next major landmark is November where the plans for the make up of the new Unitary Councils need to be delivered. To meet this target as required tenders are being reviewed to appoint an auditor to review the make up of the new Unitary Councils.
- iv. The new Marke Wood playground is now open.

**NOTED**

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

## 75. FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Monthly bank balances.

Members received the bank balances

### Bank Balances as at 30/05/25

Charity Bank	£100,000.00
Redwood bank	£100,000.00
Unity Trust current	£36,341.32
Unity Trust Deposit	£256,121.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>£492,462.99</b>

- ii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the May2025 monthly financial report.

Financial update for month of May 2025					
Balance at start of month	£	532,770.74			
Payments			Receipts		
Who	For	Amount	Who	For	Amount
Apex Clean	Office Cleaning	£ 200.00	Eventbrite	Brocante Income	£682.83
Staff	Salaries (Apr)	£ 5,498.37	Allotment Holders	Allotment Insurance	£5.00
Staff	Salaries (May)	£ 5,532.48	Rich Aroma 21	Payment for Children's Festival	£100.00
KCC LGPS	Pension Payment (Apr)	£ 2,227.17			
KCC LGPS	Pension Payment (May)	£ 2,250.68			
Viking	Stationary	£ 126.54			
British Gas	Gas Bill	£ 54.02			
Swimsafety	Water Quality tests	£ 1,008.00			
British Gas	Electricity Bill	£ 74.95			
Mr D Halpin	Window Cleaning	£ 12.00			
Mitec	Telecoms	£ 135.00			
SWCAA	Payment for Allotment Insurance	£ 200.00			
DWKRA	Grant Payment	£ 600.00			
Royal Marines Association	Grant Payment	£ 500.00			
2235 Air Cadets	Grant Payment	£ 329.00			
Public Works Loan Board	Loan Repayment	£ 7,563.40			
Royal British Legion	Payment for poppy wreaths	£ 137.50			
KALC	Training Courses	£ 72.00			
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£ -3.00			
Mrs L Ludwig	Repairs and fuel for Hawkshill Lawnmower	£ 170.40			
HMRC(PAYE/NII)	Tax and National Insurance	£ 1,804.55			
Deal Handyman	Refund of overpayment for works on St Saviours Noticeboard	-£ 403.20			
Mr L Robbins	Annual Internal Audit Report	£ 280.00			
DDC	Contribution towards Marke Wood Play area	£12,500.00			
KCC Commserv	Photocopier Rental costs	£ 219.72			
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	£ 10.80			
Total		£41,106.38	Total		£787.83
Last year		-£10,446.38	% of precept for month		-4.19%
Total spent LYTD		-£20,067.55	% of precept LYTD		-8.05%
This month spend		-£40,318.55			
% of yrs precept for month		15.43%			
Total net spend YTD		-£48,172.85			
% of precept YTD		18.43%			

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

Proposed Cllr M Eddy

Seconded Cllr R Blackwell

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

- iii. Cllr Jull left the room
- Payment of Grant to the Landmark Centre
- Members received a verbal report from the Clerk that the Landmark centre have confirmed verbally that the full amount of £40k promised has now been confirmed and to be paid shortly to the Landmark Centre.
- RESOLVED – To pay the £5k as agreed by the council, once written proof has been provided that the funding is secured subject to sign off by the Clerk and Chairman.
- Proposed – Cllr R Blackwell
- Seconded – Cllr A Friend
- For – 10                      Against -0                      Abstain – 0

Cllr Jull returned to the meeting

## 76. AGAR

- i. Members received a written copy the report of the internal auditor.
- NOTED**
- Proposed- Cllr M Eddy
- Seconded – Cllr A Friend
- For – 11              Against – 0              Abstain - 0
- ii. Members were asked to consider and answer the 9 questions of the annual Governance review and authorise the chairman to sign the Annual Governance Statement.
- RESOLVED** – Members answered yes to questions 1-8 and N/A to question 9 and authorised the Chairman to sign the Annual Governance Statement.
- Proposed- Cllr M Eddy
- Seconded – Cllr A Friend
- For – 11              Against – 0              Abstain - 0
- iii. Members reviewed and were asked to authorise the signing by the Chairman of the Accounting statement.
- RESOLVED** – To ask the chairman to sign the Accounting Statement
- Proposed- Cllr M Eddy
- Seconded – Cllr A Friend
- For – 11              Against – 0              Abstain - 0

## 77. OUTDOOR GYM

Members received a written report from officers updating progress on the Outdoor gym and discussing the next steps to progress the project.

**RESOLVED** – to delegate to the Clerk and Chairman to apply for planning permission up to the value of £600 and further should it be required to delegate authority to the Clerk and Chairman to appoint a flood risk management survey to be carried out up to the value of £1000.

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr P Jull

For 11              Against 0              Abstain 0

**RESOLVED** – To ask the Chairman to engage with the Leader of Dover District Council about the recent change in direction requiring Walmer Town Council to lease the land on which the gym is to be built at best value then apply for a discretionary grant to offset the rental amount charged.

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded- Cllr L Ludwig

For – 11              Against – 0              Abstain – 0

**RESOLVED** – To delegate to officers to apply for funding once a planning application reference has been received for the gym project.

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr R Blackwell

For – 11

Against – 0

Abstain – 0

#### **78. WALMER TOWN COUNCIL RISK STATEMENT**

Members received a copy of the Risk Management Statement.

**RESOLVED** – Members asked the Clerk to make amendments to replace any reference to York and Albany with The Peace Garden and accepted the updated Risk Management Statement.

Proposed – Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### **79. PARKING AND LIGHTING ON ACCESS ROAD TO DRILL FIELD**

Members received a written report on the progress of options around the parking and lighting issues on the access road for the Drill Field.

**RESOLVED** – To note the report and await full details and costings before making any decisions.

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For 7

Against 1

Abstain 3

#### **80. PUBLIC TOILETS**

Members received a written report detailing Dover District Council's request for support for the public toilets at Marke Wood and Granville Road.

**RESOLVED** – To approve the payments of £6108.79 per quarter to be paid on the last day of said quarter.

Proposed – Cllr D Richardson

Seconded – Cllr L Ludwig

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### **81. 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 – 11

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

**82. HR MATTERS**

Members received a verbal report from the Clerk that a member of staff had completed one of the training goals set and the Clerk asked that members agree the increase in salary as set out in the training programme.

**RESOLVED** – To accept the Clerks recommendation and increase salary to SCP 20.

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For – 11

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

**83. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

The meeting closed at 21.30

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