



**WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

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

Tel: 01304 362363

Web site: [www.walmercouncil.co.uk](http://www.walmercouncil.co.uk) E-mail: [clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@walmercouncil.co.uk)

**Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 – 7.30 pm at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.**

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

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

**126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr K Lee.

**127.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**128.OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

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

**129.CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr T Bond reported:

- i. He had attended the Armed Forces Day memorial.
- ii. Along with the clerk had attended a meeting with Dover District Council as requested by the Council to discuss the outdoor gym project.

**130.MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

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

Proposed by Cllr Friend

Seconded by Cllr Eddy

For 13

Against 0

Abstain 1

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

The Clerk reported the AGAR had been submitted to the external auditor.

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

- i. No questions were posed from members of the public present.
  - ii. Cllrs M Paul sent in a report that the Clerk read out:
    - a) Cllr Paul confirmed that the committees he will sit on are Regulation, Kent Flood Risk and Water Management, Governance and Audit and Transport and Environment.
    - b) That he had attended a Flood Risk and Water management meeting and requested that both the EA and Southern Water attend and explain the brown flag status of the beach and suggested remedies.
    - c) That he was looking for suggestions for a £600 grant for a children's project.
    - d) That if any members of Walmer Town Council had any questions he would be happy to consider taking these to committee.
- Cllr C Vinson of Dover District Council was present and reported:
- a) There has been a cabinet reshuffle at DDC
  - b) The cabinet have voted to pause the parking strategy for review as it was felt the data used was not as complete as it should be.
  - c) DDC are carrying out a survey of Hackney Carriage (taxis). Members have all received a copy of the survey by e-mail.
  - d) There is no progress on the footpath on Dover Road that goes through the Pugin Church, KCC are still being chased to get this fixed.
  - e) Cllr Vinson answered questions on the recent notice on Marke Wood that it was an agreement to extend the lease and no part of Marke Wood was to be sold.

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

Cllr E Crockford reported that she had met with PC Bramble. On the subject of the vandalised bust stops, the culprits have been identified, and action is being taken. There is an additional pot of money available locally to deal with anti-social behaviour. There appears to be an increase in theft of pedal bikes in the area, one of which was caught on CCTV, but no report was made so no action could be taken. The Police are encouraging everyone to report any crime. The local constabulary has been tasked with increased visibility to that end they are looking to add 4 additional officers.

### **134. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES**

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
  - a. Amenities & Environment – No minutes to report.
  - b. Finance & General Purposes – No minutes to report.
  - c. Walmer in Bloom - Minutes from 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.
  - d. Events Committee – minutes from 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.
  - e. Planning Committee – minutes from 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.
  - f. Climate Emergency Working Group — minutes from 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

**RESOLVED** – To accept the minutes of the committees.

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded Cllr M Eddy

For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

Cllr L Ludwig reported that the Walmer in Bloom nominations had now closed, and a test of the voting system had been sent out to all members, she asked that members use the test system and pass back any feedback they had. Cllr L Ludwig also reported that the South East in Bloom judge had visited for judging, there were positive comments made, and we await the outcome of the judging.

- ii. To receive any comments about the draft minutes of meetings taken place since the last council meeting.
  - a. Planning – minutes from May 13, 2025.
  - b. Walmer in Bloom - Minutes from 25th June, 2025.
  - c. Events Committee – minutes from 17th June, 2025.
  - d. Planning Committee – minutes from 10th June, 2025.
  - e. Climate Emergency Working Group — minutes from 16th June 2025.

**RESOLVED** – To note

Proposed Cllr A Friend

Seconded Cllr M Eddy

For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

### 135.REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. The Children’s Festival is on this Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July, last year we had 9 organisations attending this year we have more than 20.
- ii. That along with Cllr S Waite-Gleave he had attended an EGM of KALC to discuss devolution. At this stage nothing is confirmed but in November the 12 Districts, County and Medway unitary will make submissions for what they believe the best make up for the new unitary councils will be. This is likely to include “Shadow Elections” in 2027 where the current district councillors will be asked to serve for one more year without elections and in 2027 voting will be for the unitary members who for one year will shadow the current administration while outing together the plans to take over from 2028.
- 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 makeup 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 makeup of the new Unitary Councils.

### 136. 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	£48,909.18
Unity Trust Deposit	£238,121.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>£487,030.85</b>

ii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the May2025 monthly financial report.

Payments			Receipts		
Who	For	Amount	Who	For	Amount
British Gas	Gas	£ 32.05	Eventbrite	Brocante Payements	£36.09
Red Dog	Hawkshill fence repair	£ 220.00	Eventbrite	Brocante Payements	£36.10
Red Dog	Stony path cutting	£ 525.00	KC's Confectionary	Pitch at Children's festival	£50.00
APEX	Office Cleaning	£ 160.00	Eventbrite	Brocante Payements	£6.76
East Malling Trust	Training	£ 215.00			
White Cliffs	WIB Trophy	£ 110.00			
HFE signs	WIB banners	£ 310.49			
British Gas	Electricity	£ 71.10			
Scottish Water	Water	£ 76.15			
Interactive Entertainment	Circus skills for Childrens festival	£ 504.00			
Mr P Ludwig	WIB and hawkshills expenses	£ 140.40			
Mitec	Telephone and internet	£ 124.80			
SWCAA	Allotment membership	£ 5.00			
HFE signs	WIB corrugated signs	£ 106.81			
Scottish Water	Allotment water	£ 233.81			
Bank charge	Bank charge	£ 3.00			
Walmer Churches	Notice board overpayment refund	£ 110.00			
Viking	Stationary	£ 7.14			
HMRC	income tax	£ 1,828.35			
KCC	WIB fee for hanging baskets	£ 41.00			
Viking	Stationary	£ 71.27			
Junk Orchestra	Fee for children's festival	£ 895.00			
Staff	Wages	£ 5,554.52			
KCC	Pension	£ 2,260.71			
Unity	Bank charge	£ 1.00			
Unity	Bank charge	£ 11.55			
DDC	Pre planning advice	£ 87.50			
Easily	SSC certificate	£ 14.51	Total		£128.95
Baker Ross	Pebbles for Children's festival	£ 115.67			
Décor Discount	Paint	£ 40.49			
WH Smiths	Voucher Prizes for WIB	£ 40.00			
B and Q	Electric bushcutter for hawkshill	£ 299.99			
Total		£14,216.31	Last year		

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

Proposed Cllr M Eddy

Seconded Cllr A Friend

For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

### 137. GRANTS FOR BANDSTAND CONCERT

Members received a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The recommendation is to approve delegation to the Clerk, and Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes committee to decide on grant applications for the Royal Marines Association to feed bandsmen and volunteers at the Royal Marines memorial concert. This would be set to a maximum of the level of the small grant for future applications.

**RESOLVED** – To agree recommendation

Proposed – Cllr D Richardson

Seconded – Cllr L Ludwig

For 14

Against 0

Abstain 0

### 138. OUTDOOR GYM

Member received a verbal report from Cllr T Bond on the meeting the Chairman and Clerk attended at Dover District Council about the amendments in policy that meant Walmer Town Council would now have to pay a rental amount of £2-£3k per year for the sighting of the outdoor gym. A meeting was requested with the Leader of Dover District Council, who set up a meeting with 2 senior officers to discuss the issue. Dover District Council's position during the meeting is that Walmer Town Council would have to pay a rent and that up to 50% of this rent could be returned under a grant, this would have to be applied

for every year but could be agreed for up to 5 years after this a new agreement would need to be made.

The members of Walmer Town Council were disappointed to hear the position of Dover District Council on this subject. Members felt that an exception could be made in the case of the Town Council providing a service which also fits in with the district's strategy at no cost to the district.

**RESOLVED** – To move forward with the planning application and ask our local District Councillors to pick up the idea of an exception.

Proposed – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 14                  Against 0                  Abstain 0

### **139.TOWN AND PARISH CHARTER**

Members received a copy of the Town and Parish Charter for review.

**RESOLVED** – Members support the Town and Parish Charter and asked the Clerk to convey this as a comment.

Proposed – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For 14                  Against 0                  Abstain 0

### **140.LOCAL GOVERNEMENT RE-ORGANISATION**

Members received a written FROM Cllr S Waite-Gleave on a proposal to take to KALC asking KALC to support the idea of 4 Unitary Councils rather than 3. Members noted that the process felt like it was moving at a pace and due to submissions still be discussed and prepared that they did not have all the information.

**RESOLVED** – To agree to Cllr S Waite-Gleave sending the proposal to Dover area KALC for discussion and should it be accepted taking this further to the KALC AGM in November

Proposed – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr J Murray

For 7                  Against 3                  Abstain 4

### **141.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 A Friend

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For – 14                  Against – 0                  Abstain - 0

### **142.DRILL FIELD LEASE**

Members received written review of the proposed new lease.

**RESOLVED** – To ask members to take away the proposed lease and review terms and make any comments by the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 to the Clerk. The Clerk will set a new meeting of working party including Cllr L Ludwig to review the comments.

Proposed – Cllr T Bond

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For – 13                  Against – 1                  Abstain - 0

**142. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025.

The meeting closed at 21.30

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