



## **WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday January 14<sup>th</sup> 2026 – 7.30 pm at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.**

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

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

### **401. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs K Lee, Cllr E Crockford, Cllr S Waite-Gleave and Cllr P Findley.

### **402. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr P Jull declared a VAOI on item 418 as a member of the board of trustees of the Deal and Walmer Community Association who run the Landmark Centre.

### **403. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

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

### **404. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Bond reported:

- i. Walmer Town Council had been approached by a local newspaper for a comment on the proposed accessible beach project from DDC. Walmer Town Council have not been consulted by DDC on this project and therefore Cllr Bond, so as not to represent WTC views without the council having discussed this, did not provide comment. Cllr C Vinson of DDC explained that at DDC an agreement that funding will be allocated to the budget had been agreed but detailed plans of location and design have not been completed. Once the plans are completed WTC will be consulted.
- ii. A street trading license has been granted by Dover District Council for a burger van in the layby at the top of Court Road. Members of the Planning Committee stated that a robust objection had been submitted from WTC at the October Planning Committee meeting, siting the National Planning Policy Framework which states that permission should be denied to fast food outlets where they are within walking distance of a school.

## 405. MINUTES

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

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes and ask the chairman to sign these.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 11                    Against 0                    Abstain 0

## 406. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk reported that as requested an item had been taken at the December Amenities and Environment Committee about the role of water companies in the planning process and the levels of testing of sea water. The Amenities and Environment Committee resolved to write letters from Walmer Town Council to the government asking for the Water Companies to have a greater role in planning as described in the Independent Water Commission report of July 2025. A further letter was written to request expanded sea water testing measures were put in place.

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

- i.        No members of the public were present.
- ii.      Cllr Martin Paul of KCC reported:
  - a.      That he had met with officers of the Environment Agency to try to get to the root cause of the two poor water quality results of 2025 and 2024. Responses from the Environment Agency have been slow and he is pushing for a response.
  - b.      As part of the Active Kent project, additional dropped kerbs in Walmer along Dover Road are being planned. The Clerk noted that these align with the report Walmer Town Council working with the Speaking Up Group provided to Kent County Council.
  - c.      Cllr Paul still had £1,200 of his members grant remaining to award for projects in this financial year and any interested parties should contact him.

Cllr Chris Vinson of Dover District Council reported:

- a.      The next round of information on the Local Government re-organisation is due out in early February this may eliminate some of the options put forward by councils.
- b.      The DDC settlement with the government has been agreed and is a 0% increase in payment to DDC which represent a real time reduction due to inflation.
- c.      DDC's Budget will be published in February.
- d.      DDC's list of fees and charges has been agreed at the Cabinet. Car parking fee increases have also been agreed by the Cabinet.
- e.      The public toilet cleaning contract has been extended for one year.
- f.      Cllr Vinson has been working on the ownership of the pathway between Court Road and Station Drive.
- g.      The Rays Bottom planning application has been submitted.

Cllr Susan Beer Chairperson of Dover District Council and a member of Deal Town Council reported that clearer signage had been provided in respect of the current advice on water quality. Additionally Deal Pier is also displaying this information.

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

No relevant information to Walmer on the most recent reports. However, Walmer Town Council experienced a theft over the Christmas period of a sign from Hawkhill Common, this has been reported to the Police.

## **409.COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES**

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
  - a. Amenities & Environment – minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
  - b. Finance & General Purposes – minutes from the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
  - c. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025.
  - d. Events Committee – Minutes from 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025.
  - e. Planning Committee – Minutes from 7<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025
  - f. Climate Emergency Working Group – minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

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

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

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. Amenities & Environment – minutes from 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.
  - b. Finance & General Purposes – minutes from the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  - c. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  - d. Events Committee – Minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
  - e. Planning Committee – Minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025
  - f. Climate Emergency Working Group – minutes from 13<sup>th</sup> November.

**RESOLVED** – To note

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr A Friend

For 11              Against 0              Abstain 0

## **410.REPORT OF THE CLERK**

The Clerk reported:

- i. The legal advice from the solicitor about the drill field lease is due to be returned this week.
- ii. Signage from the front of the office is estimated to be delivered and fitted on the 23/1/26
- iii. The Clerk is investigating an old video screen previously used at No 8 to be hung in the window.
- iv. The new office door will be fitted in early February.
- v. The Clerk attended a meeting at Deal Town Council about the sea water quality, local Councils and Southern Water attended, along with several local groups who have an interest in the sea water quality. Deal Town Council have asked if Walmer Town Council would put on the next event. Members were happy to receive a proposal to do so.

#### **411. FINANCIAL REPORT**

##### i. Monthly bank balances.

Members received the bank balances

Financial information as at 31/12/25

Bank

Balances

Charity Bank	£105,962.04
Redwood Bank	£104,000.41
Unity Trust Current	£18,861.23
Unity Trust Deposit	£159,884.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>£388,708.50</b>

##### ii. Committee Budgets

Members received the committee budgets year to date

#### **Committee budget vs spend 2025/26**

Committee	Budget	Spend	notes
Amenities and Environment	£25,400.00	£ 14,625.40	includes CEWG
Events	£15,000.00	£ 9,733.00	
Finance and General Purposes	£ -	£ -	
Human Resources	£ -	£ -	
Planning	£ -	£ -	
Walmer in Bloom	£23,300.00	£ 8,690.17	includes Hawkshill and Peace Garden

### iii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the November and December 2025 monthly financial report.

Financial update for month of November 2025			
Balance at start of month	£422,132.17		
<b>Payments</b>		<b>Receipts</b>	
Who	For	Amount	
RNLI	Charity Donation	24.94	
RS Components	Thermal Camera Calibration	124.20	
Apex Clean Ltd	Office Cleaning	160.00	
British Gas	Utilities Bill	69.88	
Boston Seeds	Daffodil Bulbs for Hawkhill	113.99	
Viking	Stationery	251.79	
Dongguan			
YuXianYinXiangSheBei Co Ltd	Wifi Adaptor for Officer use	11.98	
LA G Distribution	Fuel for Hawkhill tools	73.98	
Mitec	Telecoms	140.20	
Public Works Loan Board	Repayment of Loan for purchase of No 62	7,563.40	
Young's Nurseries	Compost and Vouchers for WIB Planters	176.00	
Dave Halpin	Window Cleaning	12.00	
Mazars	External Audit review	756.00	
HMRC (PAYE/NI)	Tax and National Insurance	1,841.88	
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	3.00	
Gazen Salts Nature Reserve	Cutting of grass at Hawkhill and WPG	435.00	
Kent County Council	Highways improvement	7,000.00	
Allotment Holder	Allotment deposit return	100.00	
Sandwich Glass	Deposit for new door	1,834.00	
Admin Assistant	Salary	1,631.36	
Clerk	Salary	2,486.94	
General Assistant	Salary	1,436.22	
Kent County Council Local Government Pension Scheme	Pension Payments	2,260.71	
Rich Rhythms	Deposit for Children's Festival	100.00	
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	9.90	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£28,617.37</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
Balance at end of month	£393,514.80		
This month spend	-£28,617.37	Last year	-£26,318.37
% of yrs precept for month	10.95%	% of precept for month	-10.56%
Total net spend YTD	-£147,110.24	Total spent LYTD	-£126,931.38
% of precept YTD	56.30%	% of precept LYTD	-50.94%

Financial update for month of December 2025					
Balance at start of month		£393,514.80			
Payments		Receipts			
Who	For	Amount	Who		
British Gas	Utility Bills	£106.26	Allotment Holders	Allotment Deposit and Insurance	£105.00
Business Stream	Utility Bills	£270.17	Openreach	Wayleave Payment	£80.11
PRS	Music Licence	£155.38	Charity Bank	Bank Interest	£1,476.75
Viking	Stationery	£64.03	Unity Deposit	Bank Interest	£957.74
Atman	PAT Testing	£63.11			
Walmer Churches	Meeting Room Hire	£70.00			
Edge IT	IT Licence	£1,437.98			
Apex Clean	Office Cleaning	£160.00			
Mitec	Telecoms	£140.20			
Planning Portal	Planning Application-Outside Gym	£379.00			
SWCAA	Allotment Insurance	£5.00			
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£3.00			
Wantsum Medical	Deposit for Events	£178.23			
HMRC (PAYE/NI)	Tax and National Insurance	£1,842.08			
The Potting Shed	Installation of fencing at Drill Field	£4,428.00			
Sign Boy	New Sign for Council Offices	£190.00			
Cllr S Waite-Gleave	Expenses claim	£42.40			
DDC	Public Toilet Contribution	£6,108.79			
Staff	Salaries	£5,554.52			
KCC LGPS	Pension Payment	£2,260.71			
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	£9.30			
Total		£23,468.16	Total		£2,619.60
Balance at end of month		£372,666.24			
This month spend		-£20,848.56	Last year		-£13,424.33
% of yrs precept for month		7.98%	% of precept for month		-5.39%
Total net spend YTD		-£167,958.80	Total spent LYTD		-£140,355.71
% of precept YTD		64.28%	% of precept LYTD		-56.32%

**RESOLVED** – Members agreed to note the bank balances, committee budget positions and monthly finance updates.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr D Richardson

For 11                   Against 0                   Abstain 0

#### 412. BUDGET AND PRECEPT

Members received a recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee for a budget and precept for 2026/27

**RESOLVED** – To accept the budget as recommended.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr P Ludwig

For 9                   Against 0                   Abstain 2

**RESOLVED** – To set the precept at £259,922.65 which represent a 0% increase year on year.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr P Ludwig

For 8                   Against 0                   Abstain 3

A recorded vote was requested

For – Cllrs Richardson, Jull, Simpson, Bond, L Ludwig, Blackwell, Grist and P Ludwig

Against – none

Abstain – Cllrs Eddy, Friend and Murray.

#### **413. ACCESS ROAD SIGNAGE**

Members received a verbal request from the Clerk to spend up to £100 on signage to replace the temporary signs on the section of the road that is marked as no parking.

**RESOLVED** – To delegate responsibility to spend up to £200 on two signs of a permanent material to indicate the no parking area.

Proposed by Cllr D Richardson

Seconded by Cllr L Ludwig

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### **414. REQUEST OF SUPPORT FROM KCC REGARDING DISPOSAL OF PUGIN TOWER**

Members received a written report from the Clerk, detailing a request from KCC to support a potential proposal from KCC to dispose of the Pugin Tower on Dover Road. Members discussed the value of the building to Walmer, potential uses and alternative owners of the structure.

**RESOLVED** – To ask the Clerk to respond to Kent County Council advising them that Walmer Town Council had no interest in acquiring this asset.

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr A Friend

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

#### **415. OUTDOOR GYM**

Members received a verbal report from Cllr L Ludwig on the progress of the outdoor gym. Members were provided with a graphic illustration from the only supplier who tendered for the project. The consultation period for the planning application has finished and there have been 92 residents who commented supporting the application. A funding application to Sport England is being completed for submission. £36,000 is still required. Members discussed the need to complete our funding for the project and asked that at the next meeting an item to consider sponsorship and further money from reserves be taken.

#### **416. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Members received a written report detailing 3 proposals regarding the upcoming Community Governance review from Cllr P Jull. Members had a detailed discussion around the proposal. Members had differing views on the best way to move this forward. Walmer Town Council will await the consultation documents and review these as appropriate before making representations.

**MOTION FAILED** – That Walmer Town Council writes to the Dover District Council leader and the vice-chairman of their Electoral Matters Committee, in relation to the upcoming Community Governance Review. Asking that the terms of reference, and in particular the first round of consultation makes it clear to local residents that the grouping of Deal Town Council and Walmer Town Council is an option that can be considered as an outcome of the Review, for the more effective representation of the Deal and Walmer community with fewer offices, councillors and lower costs, so that residents have the maximum opportunity to make relevant responses to the review.

A recorded vote was requested

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr P Ludwig

For 5

Against 6

Abstain 0

For – Cllrs Richardson, L Ludwig, P Ludwig, Jull and Grist

Against – Cllrs Eddy, Friend, Simpson, Blackwell, Murray and Bond

Abstain - None

**417. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

Members received a draft of a Communication Strategy. Members asked that sections be rewritten to improve the language and brought back to committee.

**418. LANDMARK CENTRE GRANT**

Members received a written report regarding a previous resolution to award a grant where the resolution required a total of £50,000 to be raised from DDC and DTC. The £50,000 was raised but more sources of income were used to raise the funding.

**RESOLVED** – To award the Grant of £5,000.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr P Ludwig

For 5              Against 0              Abstain 6

**419. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

4<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

The meeting closed at 21.30

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