



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday March 4th 2026 – 7.30 pm at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.

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

Officer Present: Roland Aldred, Town Clerk.

501.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs K Lee, M Simpson, A Friend and L Ludwig.

502.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr P Findley declared a VAOI in respect of item 512 as he has involvement with the group.

503.OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

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

504.CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bond had nothing to report

505.MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, February 4th 2026.

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

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr D Richardson

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

506.REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

No reports were made.

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

- i. No members of the public were present.
- ii. Cllr Martin Paul of KCC sent in a report stating:
 - a. That, following upon his previous report the KCC Flood Risk Management and Water Quality Committee has met with an officer from the Environment Agency. An online meeting will be set up, to discuss local water issues relating to the poor

test results received in previous years and members of Walmer Town Council are welcome to attend.

Cllr Chris Vinson of Dover District Council offered apologies as there was a DDC meeting on the same night.

508.CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

A cannabis farm was raided in Walmer on the Strand in January and over 300 plants were seized. Kent Police are continuing to promote their street safe programme. There continues to be issues of fraudulent activity both online and in person in the area. From the recent survey Kent Police have identified the local policing priorities these are Road Safety, anti-social noise and fly-tipping.

509.COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

- i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:
 - a. Amenities & Environment – minutes from the 2nd December 2025.
 - b. Finance & General Purposes – No minutes to receive.
 - c. Walmer in Bloom – minutes from the 15th January 2026.
 - d. Events Committee – No minutes to receive.
 - e. Planning Committee – Minutes from 6th January 2026.
 - f. Climate Emergency Working Group – Minutes from 13th November 2025.

RESOLVED – To accept the minutes of the committees.

Proposed by Cllr R Blackwell

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. Events Committee – Draft minutes from the 28th January 2026.
 - b. Planning – minutes from the 10th February 2026.

RESOLVED – To note points C and D from the Agenda A and B will be brought back to a future meeting once they are online

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr R Blackwell

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

510.REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. The sink holes/newly formed depressions in Walmer Green had been investigated. Southern Water and DDC had done work including excavation. No issues were found; Southern Water had already planned to reline the pipes under the area and Dover District Council have filled the holes and planted new grass. This area will continue to be monitored.
- ii. St Saviours churchyard reported to the office an increase in dog mess being left. The Clerk picked this up with DDC and obtained some signage for the area.
- iii. The new office door has now been fitted.

NOTED

Proposed – Cllr M Eddy

Seconded – Cllr P Findley

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

511. FINANCIAL REPORT

- i. Monthly bank balances.

Members received the bank balances

Financial information as at 24/02/26

Bank

Balances

Charity Bank	£104,485.29
Redwood bank	£104,000.41
Unity Trust current	£29,874.22
Unity Trust Deposit	£111,842.56
Total	£350,202.48

- ii. Committee Budgets

Members received the committee budgets year to date

Committee budget vs spend 2025/26 as at 31/1/26

Committee	Budget	Spend	notes
Amenities and Environment	£25,400.00	£ 2,423.38	includes CEWG
Events	£15,000.00	£ 8,045.48	
Finance and General purposes	£ -	£ -	
Human Resources	£ -	£ -	
Planning	£ -	£ -	
Walmer in Bloom	£23,300.00	£ 6,237.07	includes Hawkshill and Peace Garden

iii. Monthly Finance report

Members received the January 2026 monthly financial report.

Financial update for month of February 2026					
Balance at start of month		£354,587.92			
Payments			Receipts		
Who	For	Amount	Who	For	Amount
British Gas	Utility Bills	£73.98	Kent County Council	EV charge point share	£146.27
Ashridge Trees	Plants for Hawkshill	£37.89			
Apex Clean	Office Cleaning	£160.00			
Mr D Halpin	Window Cleaning	£12.00			
Cllr J Murray	Travel Expense Claim	£46.60			
Red Dog Garden Service	Tree Works at Hawkshill	£420.00			
Mitec	Telecoms	£148.16			
Cllr L Ludwig	Expenses Claim	£90.00			
Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£3.00			
HMRC (PAYE/NI)	Tax and National Insurance	£1,841.88			
General Assistant	Expenses Claim	£18.10			
Walmer Parish Churches	Meeting Room Hire	£47.50			
Hedge Direct	Plants for Hawkshill	£60.00			
Staff	Salaries	£5,554.52			
KCC LGPS	Pension Payment	£2,260.71			
Sign Boy	Installation of office sign	£350.00			
The Deal Society	Grant Payment	£100.00			
Viking	Stationary	£71.85			
Eagle Security	Alarm Call Out	£84.00			
Unity Bank	Bank Charges	£8.85			
Total		£11,389.04	Total		£146.27
Balance at end of month		£343,345.15			
This month spend		-£11,242.77		Last year	-£52,888.11
% of yrs precept for month		4.30%		% of precept for month	-21.22%
Total net spend YTD		-£179,201.57		Total spent LYTD	-£193,243.82
% of precept YTD		68.58%		% of precept LYTD	-77.55%

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

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr P Findley

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

512. GRANT

Members received a recommendation from the Amenities and Environment Committee to award a Biodiversity Grant of £498.76 to the Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts for use in purchasing swift boxes and printing a leaflet.

RESOLVED – To award the grant of £498.76.

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr J Murray

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

513. CHAIRMANS BADGE

Members received written report detailing the additional cost of purchasing a silver badge of office for the Chairman.

Motion failed – to defer the item until after the Annual Town Meeting.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr D Richardson

For 5 Against 6 Abstain 0

RESOLVED – To agree to purchase a base metal badge at a cost of £833.

Proposed by Cllr P Findley

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 6 Against 5 Abstain 0

514.COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members received a written report including a letter from Dover District Council on the Community Governance Review that DDC are undertaking.

RESOLVED – To make no submission regarding the review.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr J Murray

For 7 Against 3 Abstain 1

515.OUTDOOR GYM

Members received two written reports updating the progress of the Outdoor Gym. Following discussions with experts it is the belief of Officers and the Working Party that rather than requiring planning permission the work could be carried out under permitted development this would negate the need for a biodiversity Net Gain report, which in turn would negate any spend on Biodiversity Net Gain Credits. It was further reported that Sport England had awarded a grant of £15k towards the project.

RESOLVED – To move forward with the permissions with Permitted development the preferred option.

Proposed by Cllr P Ludwig

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

516.TOWN OF CULTURE

Members received a written request from the Deal Town of Culture Steering Group to support a bid from Deal for the 2028 Town of Culture. Members received a verbal update from Cllr Eddy that Deal Town Council would be putting in a bid and were meeting with the Deal Town of Culture Steering Group, with the intention being to combine the bids. At this time there are no publicly available details of what either bid will include. Both bids will include elements in Walmer.

RESOLVED – To support in principle any bids put forward for Deal.

Proposed by Cllr M Eddy

Seconded by Cllr J Murray

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

517.OFFICE WINDOW SPACE

Members received a written proposal for putting a video screen in to the window of the office for displaying posters. Members agreed with the idea around tidying up the window space but felt that the video screen was not the way to do this.

RESOLVED – To do nothing about fitting a video screen to the office window.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr S Waite-Gleave

For 9 Against 1 Abstain 1

518.ACCESSIBLE BEACH PROJECT

Members received a proposal from Dover District Council, for consultation on and a request for financial support of £5k, for an accessible beach project. Members received a recommendation from the Amenities and Environment Committee. At the Amenities and Environment Committee a member of Deal Speaking Up Group had given some feedback on the project. The idea of the project to allow wheelchair users the ability to go on to the beach was very positive step. However, the members felt in the same way as the representative from the speaking up group that the design lacked enough social spaces, and that a design like the Bexhill Garden project with a greater level of creativity should be used in the overall design.

Failed amendment to proposal– To offer a contribution of £5k to Dover District Council for the accessible beach project on the condition that it look to improve the design to more reflect the Bexhill Project.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr J Murray

For 4 Against 6 Abstain 1

RESOLVED – To offer a contribution of £5k to Dover District Council for the accessible beach project with the recommendation that it look to improve the project to more reflect the Bexhill project design.

Proposed by Cllr D Richarson

Seconded by Cllr S Waite-Gleave

For 6 Against 1 Abstain 3

519.COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Members received a report and proposal from Cllr Murray regarding publishing a quarterly Council magazine. Members discussed the need to better communicate with the public and options around doing this, members liked the idea of an improved website.

RESOLVED – To not move forward with a council magazine.

Proposed by Cllr D Richarson

Seconded by Cllr P Jull

For 6 Against 4 Abstain 1

520.CONFIDENTIAL TO BE HELD UNDER THE PUBLIC BODIES (admission to meetings)

ACT 1960

Members agreed to move in to a private session.

RESOLVED – To move in to a private session.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 11 Against 0 Abstain 0

521.DRILL FIELD LEASE

Members received advice from Mr R Atherden, a solicitor that the council asked to review the lease.

RESOLVED – To amend the lease as per Mr Atherden’s advice and to amend the 2 mentions of conduits to pipes and services as is present in the rest of the lease.

Proposed by Cllr P Jull

Seconded by Cllr P Ludwig

For 6 Against 1 Abstain 4

522.DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1st April 2026.

The meeting closed at 21.20

Signed: Date: