



**WALMER TOWN COUNCIL**

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**DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Walmer Town Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 7.30 pm at Walmer Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer.**

**Present Councillors:** Cllr T Bond (Chairman), Cllr M Simpon, Cllr M Eddy, Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr A Friend, Cllr J Murray Cllr D Richardson, 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 2026/27**

The Clerk informed members of eligibility to stand as Chairman for 2026/27.

**RESOLVED** – To suspend standing order 6f to allow Cllr Bond to stand for Chairman for an additional year.

Proposed – Cllr J Murray

Seconded – Cllr D Richardson

For – 11                  Against – 0                  Abstain – 0

Cllr T Bond was the only nomination made.

**RESOLVED** – To appoint Cllr T Bond as the Chairman of Walmer Town Council for the year 2026/27.

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

For – 11                  Against – 0                  Abstain – 0

**2. ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR 2026/27**

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 2026/27.

Proposed – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For – 11                  Against – 0                  Abstain – 0

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs K Lee, P Ludwig, L Ludwig and E Crockford sent apologies that were accepted.

**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 a request to amend the committees that members were on. A further requests for changes to committees were received and approved. Cllr Grist volunteered to be the Walmer Town Council representative on the Dover District Fairtrade Group.

**RESOLVED** - To appoint committee members as below:

**Finance and General Purposes** – Cllrs Jull, Murray, Grist, P Ludwig, L 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, Blackwell and Bond

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

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

**RESOLVED** – To accept the membership as above

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr P Findley

For – 11            Against – 0            Abstain – 0

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.

**Community Resilience Plan Working Group** – Cllrs Simpson, Murray, Waite-Gleave and Eddy.

**RESOLVED** – To accept the membership as above

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For – 11            Against – 0            Abstain – 0

To appoint as outside representatives

**Police Liaison** – Cllr Crockford.

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

**Dover District Fairtrade Group** – Cllr Grist

**RESOLVED** – To accept the representative as above

Proposed – Cllr A Friend

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For – 11            Against – 0            Abstain – 0

## 7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Bond reported:

- i. Sadly, Magaret Johnson had passed away, Mrs Johnson served on Walmer Town Council for 20 years as an active member of the Council, holding roles including Vice-Chairman of the Council. Mrs Johnson was heavily involved in cycling and developing the Sustrans 1 route that runs through Walmer.
- ii. Dover District Fairtrade Network has been recognised by the Fairtrade Foundation awarding the district Fairtrade Community Status.

## 8. MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be approved and signed with an amendment to change the minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> to read Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Proposed by Cllr A Friend

Seconded by Cllr M Eddy

For 11                      Against 0

Abstain 0

## 9. REPORT ON ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

Nothing to report.

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

- i. No questions were posed from members of the public present.
- ii. Cllr M Paul of Kent County Council Reported:
  - There are no updates currently on Local Government reorganisation, the submission is with central government for review. KCC are looking at appointment/s within a change management team, who among other tasks will work on LGR.
  - A new highways contractor has been appointed for works on roadways
  - He is still awaiting the Environment Agency setting a date for a meeting with Cllr Paul and local councils.
  - Cllr Paul is still keen to conduct a review of local buses and any input from the public or community groups would be welcome.
  - As it is a new financial year Cllr Paul has grant money available.

Cllr C Vinson of Dover District Council reported:

- Cllr Vinson had met with the NHS Trust about the blood services pilot at Deal Hospital.
- As a member of the Electoral Services Committee, he had been in the discussions for recommendation at DDC full council next week after which further consultation will be sought.
- A new section 106 portal has been created online that will allow people to delve in to the details of money available under section 106.
- The Annual meeting of DDC is next week.
- Money has been received from Government for the annual beach profiling and work is underway.

## 11. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORTS

The Clerk reported that

- There was a Police community engagement event on the 28<sup>th</sup> May at Wellingtons Café.
- PC Bramble had been continuing with her police cycle patrols providing a visible presence within the community.
- There have been an increased number of motorcycle, moped and scooter thefts.
- E-scooters continue to be an issue; the law does not allow these to be ridden on public roads in this area currently.

## 12. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MINUTES

i. To receive any reports and any agreed minutes as follows:

- a. Amenities + Environment – Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- b. Finance + General Purposes – No minutes to report.
- c. Walmer in Bloom – No minutes to report.
- d. Events –Minutes from March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- e. Planning – minutes from March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- f. Climate Emergency Working Group – No minutes to report.

**RESOLVED** – To receive and accept the minutes.

Proposed Cllr A Friend

Seconded 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 April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.
- b. Events – minutes from April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.
- c. Planning – minutes from April 7, 2026.

**RESOLVED** – To note

Proposed Cllr M Eddy

Seconded Cllr A Friend

For 11

Against 0

Abstain 0

## 13. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported:

- i. The dropped kerb scheme for The Beach/Kingsdown Road is due to be completed in early September. The second scheme for Dover Road delivery of the kerbs is due in late September with no details of installation dates currently.
- ii. Betteshanger Park has been placed up for sale, the price is not available to the council at this time. Sholden Parish Council have picked this up and are monitoring the situation. At present the park has been designated an asset of community value the process that allows a six-month bidding period for community groups has not yet been triggered.
- iii. The Royal Marines Grant has been agreed by the Clerk and Chairman of F&GP as per the resolution of the Council and will be paid out in the next few days.
- iv. The grant for the public toilets is awaiting clarifications from DDC before being put to members.
- v. The Hawkshill Woodland Walk has been opened.



**15. MEDIA COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Members received a copy of the Media/Communication Policy.

**RESOLVED** – To approve the policy.

Proposed – Cllr P Jull

Seconded – Cllr R Blackwell

For 10            Against 0                    Abstain 0

**16. COUNCIL RISK MANAGEMENT**

Members received a copy of the Risk Management Statement.

**RESOLVED** – To accept the Risk management statement.

Proposed – Cllr P Jull

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For 10            Against 0            Abstain 0

**17. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

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

**RESOLVED** – To approve the regulations.

Proposed – Cllr P Jull

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For 10            Against 0            Abstain 0

Cllr Murray returned

**18. STANDING ORDERS**

Members received a copy of the current Standing Orders.

**RESOLVED** – To approve the Standing Orders.

Proposed – Cllr P Jull

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For 11            Against 0            Abstain 0

**19. GRANT**

Members received recommendation from the Amenities and Environment Committee to approve a grant to the Downs Sailing Club for purchase of water bottles to reduce plastic waste.

**RESOLVED** – To agree the grant of £500.

Proposed – Cllr T Grist

Seconded – Cllr S Waite-Gleave

For – 11            Against – 0                    Abstain - 0

## 20. WATER FILLING STATION

Members received a written recommendation from the Amenities and Environment Committee on installation of water bottle filling station on the Marine Road toilets.

Cllr Murray requested a recorded vote

**RESOLVED** – To accept quote 1 and go ahead with the project.

Proposed – Cllr D Richardson

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For -10 - Cllrs Waite-Gleave, Eddy, Richardson, Jull, Grist, Findley, Bond, Simpson, Friend and Blackwell.

Against – 1 -Cllr Murray.

Abstain - 0

## 21. LOCAL WATER QUALITY MEETING

Members received a written recommendation on delegating up to £150 to run a local Water Quality meeting.

**RESOLVED** – To delegate to the Clerk up to £150 to host a Local Water Quality meeting.

Proposed – Cllr P Findley

Seconded – Cllr A Friend

For – 10

Against – 1

Abstain – 0

Cllr Friend left the meeting

## 22. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Members received a written report from the Clerk on recommendations from DDC's Electoral Committee on reducing the number of councillors on Walmer Town Council. Members discussed the proposal and were concerned on how the reduction in numbers would affect the ability of the Council to put on events, the reduction in representation and the increased imbalance of voters per councillor that would be created by the recommendation. Members noted that until the recommendation had been through Dover District Council and was confirmed that a response has not been requested, there will be a further round of consultation once DDC's full council have reviewed the recommendations.

**RESOLVED** – To note with disappointment that the worst possible outcome has been recommended and look forward to the next round of consultation.

Proposed – Cllr P Jull

Seconded – Cllr R Blackwell

For – 10

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

## 23. 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 R Blackwell

For – 10

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

## 24. EV POINTS LAND LICENCE

Members received a copy of a licence from KCC for the siting of the existing EV Points on the Drill Field Access Road. These points are already in place, but the current licence is due to expire. The licence remains exactly the same as the existing document.

**RESOLVED** – To agree the licence and delegate power to the Clerk to sign on behalf of Walmer Town Council.

Proposed – Cllr D Richardson

Seconded – Cllr M Eddy

For – 10

Against – 0

Abstain - 0

**25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

The meeting closed at 20.45

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

DRAFT