



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the Events Committee held on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at No. 62 The Strand, Walmer at 5.30pm.

Present: Cllr Tony Grist (Chairman), Cllr Diana Richardson, Cllr Louise Ludwig, Cllr Adrian Friend and Cllr Mark Simpson.

Officer Present: Roland Aldred – Town Clerk.

545. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr E Crockford offered apologies.

546. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No interests were declared.

547. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY.

The Chairman reminded those present of the terms of openness and transparency.

548. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th January 2025.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be taken as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Friend

Seconded by Cllr Richardson

For 5 Against 0 Abstain 0

549. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA.

None.

550. EVENTS BUDGET.

- i. Events budget 2025/26.

Members received the Events Budget for 2025/26.

NOTED

551. REVIEW CHRISTMAS CAROLS & CLASSICS EVENT DECISION 2025.

- i. Members received a draft copy of the survey for review.

RESOLVED – To agree the amended survey (to read as per appendix 1).

Proposed by Cllr Grist

Seconded by Cllr Simpson

For 5 Against 0 Abstain 0

- ii. Members received a verbal report from the Clerk on recommended start dates for a survey
RESOLVED – To run the survey for two weeks online starting from the 7th April 2026
Proposed by Cllr Ludwig
Seconded by Cllr Richardson
For 5 Against 0 Abstain 0

552. CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL 2026

- i. Members discussed the officer's report and received a further verbal update.

The officer provided a verbal update that most organisations invited had now agreed to attend.

Members received sample wristbands for giving out to the children, these will include a space for parents to put their phone numbers for use if a child is lost.

RESOLVED – To purchase 1000 paper wristbands at a cost of £48. The design is to be amended to remove "Children's Festival" so these can be used at other events.

Proposed by Cllr Friend
Seconded by Cllr Ludwig
For 3 Against 1 Abstain 1

Members received a verbal report that an additional face painter had been approached and was available for the event.

RESOLVED – To agree to the additional face painter at the same cost as the existing suppliers.

Members asked officers to contact the Face painter.

Proposed by Cllr Richardson
Seconded by Cllr Ludwig
For 5 Against 0 Abstain 0

The officer also provided an update the budget for the 2026 Children's festival this is forecasting at present to be a small overspend however this is not a concern at this stage as there are options for reducing the spend.

NOTED.

Members received a quote for a large waste bin from Dover District Council for the event.

RESOLVED – To spend £287.74 for the placement of one large waste bin in addition to the public bins on the green for the festival.

Proposed by Cllr Richardson
Seconded by Cllr Friend
For 5 Against 0 Abstain 0

- ii. Members received the draft layout for the Children's festival. For 2026 there will be a performance area this will included performances from local sports and dance clubs.

RESOLVED – To spend £287.74 for the placement of one large waste bin in addition to the public bins on the green for the festival. This is subject to change based on attendees.

Proposed by Cllr Richardson
Seconded by Cllr Friend
For 5 Against 0 Abstain 0

553. BROCANTE 2026.

- i. Members received a written update from the officer on the progress of Brocante.

RESOLVED – To agree to spend £436 for two parking marshals for the event.

Proposed by Cllr Richardson
Seconded by Cllr Ludwig
For 5 Against 0 Abstain 0

RESOLVED – To agree to spend £575.48 for two large sized bins for the event.

Proposed by Cllr Richardson

Seconded by Cllr Grist

For 5 Against 0 Abstain 0

Cllrs Simpson and Friend left the meeting.

- ii. Members received a draft copy of the e-mail to be sent out inviting traders to book for Brocante and the text of the event details to be shown on Eventbrite.

RESOLVED – To agree the e-mail to go out to traders as shown in the agenda. The information to go on to Eventbrite to agree with amendments in wording around cancellation and additional cars on site.

Proposed by Cllr Richardson

Seconded by Cllr Ludwig

For 3 Against 0 Abstain 0

554. FUTURE/OTHER EVENTS.

The Gym launch event is now awaiting a date to progress

555. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 22nd April 2026 at 5.30pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 18.30pm.

Signed

Date

Questions for Public Consultation Survey: Christmas event 2026

For several years Walmer Town Council has organised a Christmas event for the community on Walmer Green adjacent to the Sea Café. Costs for this event have gradually increased and with the introduction of the new DDC events policy in 2024 which further increased costs to stage this event, councillors made the difficult decision to pause the community event in 2025 to consider the most appropriate way forward.

As a reminder the rationale for the decision to pause the 2025 event was as follows:

- The increasing annual cost and complexity of this event, partly due to the requirements of meeting the new conditions set by the DDC Events Policy introduced in 2024.
- Concerns over whether the event which runs for between 60-90 minutes, now provides value for money for residents.
- Consideration given to the high number of other similar local Christmas events now taking place at this time of year – whether there is there a continuing demand/need for it, within what has become an increasingly full local calendar of events.

Please complete this survey to let Walmer Town Council know your views:

1. Please enter your postcode.
2. How many times have you attended this event in the last 10 years on Walmer Green?
 - a) Never
 - b) 1-3 times
 - c) 4+ times
3. Many community events take place locally in the lead up to Christmas. These take place in schools, churches, Deal High Street, Deal Pier, and so on. How important do you think it is for the community to have an outside event held on Walmer Green at this time of year?
 - a) Very Important – as it's the only community Christmas event I attend.
 - b) Nice to have – as it's an enjoyable community event.
 - c) Not important – as there are many other choices available.
4. The event has historically run for 60-75 minutes. Do you believe that a minimum of £4,000 is a represents value for money for Walmer residents?

Responses: Y or N
5. If this event is organised for 2026, what would you like to see included?
 - a) Christmas carols only within a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.
 - b) A mix of Christmas Carols and other popular Christmas songs.
 - c) Other format – please specify below (allow a text box for individual comments)
6. Would you be prepared to help with the set-up of staging the event?