



WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on Thursday 29th January 2026 at 62 The Strand, Walmer, at 7.03 pm

Present: Cllr S Waite-Gleave (Chairing)
Cllr R Blackwell
Cllr P Findley
Mrs S Fisher

Invited Guest : Mr Jim Stokes of Downs Sailing Club

Officers present: John Miles (Administration Officer)

1. VOTE TO DELAY START OF MEETING BY FIVE MINUTES

Resolved – Meeting was delayed by 5 minutes.

Proposed – Cllr Waite Gleave

Seconded – Cllr Findley

For: 3 Against:0 Abstain: 0

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Apologies received from Cllr M Eddy

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Cllr Findley declared a VAOI on item 7 as a member of the Walmer and Deal Action For Swifts Group in regard to the Biodiversity Grant application.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Resolved:** That the minutes of 13th November be taken as an accurate record.
 - Proposed by: Cllr Blackwell
 - Seconded by: Cllr FindleyFor 3 Against 0 Abstain 0

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Resolved – Brought forward to before Item 5

Proposed – Cllr Waite Gleave

Seconded – Cllr Blackwell

For: 3 Against:0 Abstain: 0

- Mr J Stokes from the Downs Sailing Club addressed the members of the committee regarding the upcoming NSSR National Schools Sailing Regatta in late July 2026, informing them of the specifications of the event, the intention to make the event as climate-friendly, low-carbon as possible.
 - 250 entrants and their guardians will be joining the regatta.
 - Entrants will be attending from multiple counties across the country.
 - All entrants will be camping on the drill field.
 - 25 Rescue boats will be stationed at Dover harbour
 - Once vehicles have been parked up during arrivals, they will not be used for the rest of the event.
 - Downs Sailing Club is currently attempting to reduce or eliminate single use plastics during the regatta.
 - Meals will use washable cutlery/crockery for indoor meals and paper and wood utensils for outdoor meals. In addition, vegetarian and vegan meals will be available.
 - Metal water bottles may be purchased if grant money from other organisations is received. This may include labels with Walmer Town Council if a green grant is authorised. Our grant application forms were sent to Mr Stokes last week, to be returned by March.
 - If weather prevents sailing, English Heritage have given free passes into local EH locations to the attendees.
 - Any assistance from WTC will be added to the event brochure as well as the sailing club website.
- The sailing club have also done their own green initiatives including the following.
 - Installation of solar panels, this has allowed the club to produce up to 95% of their own power use each day.
 - Reduction of use of single use plastic and the separating out of rubbish into types.
 - Possible Installation of water fountains with RYA help at the club premises could be placed for use by the public.
 - Installation of a defibrillator on the outside wall, maintained by member DSC
 - The sailing club are willing to allow CEWG to look over their solar panel data to show what these initiatives have done over the short term.
 - Publicity will be done by DSC in March 2026.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Noted:** Working group received update from Chairman
 - Donations of energy fix resources were received from DDC, with advertising on social media and the office windows. The resources have been used by three members of the public so far. Future heat saving information may include the supplies that were sent as part of the pack. Cllr Blackwell got notices to local churches before Xmas, also publicised on WTC online sites mid Jan 2026.
 - The East Kent Climate Action group have also begun their own Thermal Camera scheme; their advertising has also mentioned the WTC scheme by name.

- The PAN meeting went ahead as scheduled, it was not as well attended as hoped. The PAN meeting with DDC happened on 11th Dec. Reading of report recommended.
- Cllr Waite Gleave attended a DAC-KALC meeting about Health Issues, which included conversation about cutting pesticides in local towns.
- The Town Clerk has written a report regarding the changing of Hawkshill from the current SNCI/LWS designation to LNR Local Nature Reserve. This will be forwarded to Walmer In Bloom and Full Council in due course.
- **Noted:** Working group received update from Admin
 - A list of possible groups to inform about the biodiversity fund was verbally given to the members, several other groups were mentioned as possible and are to be added to the list.
 - There is also the possibility that the fund could be used to subsidise the native trees project later in the year.
- **Noted:** Working group received a copy of the press release for the PAN meeting,

7. ONGOING PROJECTS

Climate Action Plan

- **Noted:** The Climate and Ecology final draft has been accepted by the A&E Committee, and can be made public. This version will only be updated with new entries once agreed on by working group vote.

Transport:

- **Noted:** The working group were given an update as to the current use of the EV points, including the imminent payment of the 30% share for WTC.
- Members asked if the age of the EV charge points has affected the number of visits. Admin to look into this.
- **Actions: Admin to compare 2024 and 2025 visits.**
- Members asked if there had been any parking in the EV bays due to the new parking limitations at the access road. Admin to look into this. Cllr Blackwell raised issue of parking bay opposite cricket club, and DDC approval of fast food van, a site we hoped might be suitable for EV.
- **Actions: Admin to see if non EV vehicles have been parking in EV bays.**
- Due to recent licensing authorisations by DDC, CEWG are unsure if the locations suggested for new EV points will be affected.
- **Actions: Admin to contact KCC regarding any current or future works involving EV points in Walmer, including possible locations.**

Thermal Camera:

- **Noted:** Thermal Camera update has been given to the working group.
- The number of appointments has reduced heavily this year, the scheme will continue for the moment, will be revisited at a future CEWG meeting to see if it will be required in the Winter of 2026.
- The energy savings promotion was covered in Item 5.

Waste & Pollution Reduction

- **Noted:** WalAPP certificates are to be picked up by Cllr Waite Gleave from the offices for distribution, with window stickers.

Water Filler Installation:

- **Noted:** Admin has received quotes for the installation of the water filling station; the decision will need to be made in the next meeting or via electronic vote (If applicable)
- Cllr Waite Gleave to look over the quotes before distribution.

Nature Recovery and Pesticide Free Walmer:

- The working group were given copies of Allotment rules for both Walmer and Deal town councils.
- **RESOLVED-** Admin to use the National Allotment Society’s ‘Keep your allotment wildlife friendly’ information to write new additions to the Allotment terms and conditions and to adhere to the standards of the NAS.

Proposed by: Cllr Blackwell

Seconded by: Cllr Findley

For 3 Against 0 Abstain 0

Actions: Admin to write new rules for the T&Cs against use of chemical herbicides / pesticides and inform the allotment holders when they are sent out.

Coastal Pollution and Recovery:

- **Noted:** A meeting may be required in June between the local councils at Deal and Walmer, involving Southern Water about ocean recovery, discussed with town clerk.
- During DDC meeting 28 Jan 2026, the idea of extra water testing was brought up. Several members of the council were keen on more actions.
- SOSDAW are meeting to make decisions about expanding their campaign, in addition their petition will be put forward to the DDC cabinet on February 2nd.

8. Nature and Biodiversity Grant

- **RESOLVED-** Working Group approved the grant application from WALDAS to be sent to the next meeting of the A&E Committee. This is part 3 of 3 of their overall plan.

Proposed by: Cllr Blackwell

Seconded by: Cllr Waite Gleave

For 3 Against 0 Abstain 0

Actions: Admin to inform A&E of the grant application from WALDAS.

9. POSSIBLE NEW/FUTURE AIMS AND INITIATIVES.

- Increase awareness of solar energy on local rooftops in the area based on information from Mr Stokes of Downs Sailing Club.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26th March 2026 at 19:00 at No 62 The Strand.

The meeting closed at 20:40

