

**Deal Town Council**  
**Town Hall, High Street,**  
**Deal, Kent.**  
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**The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Town Hall on 12<sup>th</sup>  
April 2012.**

**Present:**

Cllr. J Cronk (Chairman)  
Cllr W Elliott  
Cllr C Tough  
Cllr B Bano  
Cllr B Gardner  
Cllr E Rowbotham

Cllr D Murray  
Cllr Mrs K Blackburn  
Cllr Mrs C Stickler  
Cllr B Hawkins  
Cllr I Kilberry  
Cllr B Frost

**Officer in attendance:** Town Clerk, Linda Dykes

**Others:**

70 members of the public and representatives of local services, voluntary and community organisations.

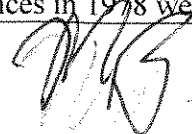
1.	<b>Chairman's opening remarks:</b> Cllr J Cronk read out the emergency fire evacuation procedures and then opened the meeting at 7.15pm with a welcome to all present.
2.	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Cllr M Cosin, Cllr D Cronk, Cllr Mrs M Burnham, ACE, White Cliffs Duke of Edinburgh Award, Case Kent, Deal Gymnastics Club and the Citizens Advice Bureau.
3.	<b>The minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011.</b> The minutes were presented and it was agreed that they should be confirmed as an accurate record. (P) WE (S) CT. Agreed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
4.	<b>The Chairman of the Council's Report.</b> Cllr J Cronk summarised his year in office explaining the civic side of his role including representing the town and in fund raising for his charities. Cllr J Cronk explained that Deal Town Council is negotiating to take over ownership of the Town Hall from Dover District Council and emphasised that the building was part of Deal's living history and that people should be encouraged to come in and use it. In his other role as Chairman of the Council, Cllr J Cronk confirmed that the year had been busy and interesting. The new programme of meetings restricting business to only 2 committees – finance and planning – meant that all other business was dealt with by full Council leading to speedier decision making. Cllr J Cronk also confirmed that budgets were tight and would continue to be so as the economic downturn affected every aspect of Deal Town Council business. He advised that the new National



	<p>Planning Policy Framework heralded the biggest change and challenge for the planning agenda since 1947. Cllr J Cronk requested that a vote of thanks be recorded to the staff team at the Town Hall for all their work in serving Deal Town Council.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Your town updates:</b></p> <p>(a) <b>Kent Police.</b> Sgt Chris Gurney and Chief Inspector Darren Mullins (the new District Commander for Dover) outlined the impact of the financial cuts experienced in relation to local policing. Every effort was being made to protect front line services against a backdrop of 20% cuts. The local impact was that Officers would be doing a different job and working in a different way. The 1% increase in recorded crime for the area represented 11 crimes in total, and there was little difference to report in anti-social behaviour statistics. PCSO Anita Pollard would now be responsible in this area for shop theft reports, the beach area and Walmer. In addition, Kent Police has a pool of 750 Officers across the county as a new response command. Chief Inspector Mullins assured those present that his team were committed to 3 main objectives as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To deliver effective local policing.</li> <li>2. To protect the public from serious and organised crime.</li> <li>3. To deliver effective policing within budget making best use of their resources.</li> </ol> <p>(b) <b>The Astor Community Theatre.</b> James Tillitt, Artistic Director for the Astor Community Theatre explained their success since re-opening in January 2010. Over 50,000 people have attended in excess of 500 different events making it a thriving community venue in the town centre. Daily bookings now extend into next year and entertainers are asking to come and perform there. A Heritage Lottery bid is underway and the 'Hidden Stories of the Astor' project will capture the connections of local people to the building. A 2 week closure is planned for replacement of the lighting rig, refurbishment of the stage and the upgrade of the music studios thanks to a grant from The Monument Trust. James closed his presentation by thanking Deal Town Council for their support and also the people of Deal for their warmth and enthusiasm which has aided all that has been achieved so far.</p> <p>(c) <b>Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI).</b> Crew member Sam Culpin dispelled the myth that as Walmer no longer had an all-weather craft pulled up on the shingle and the public no longer heard the sound of the maroons being fired this meant that there was no active craft operating from our shore. The 2 new craft in the boat house, commissioned in 2006, answered nearly 40 calls last year. Some were false alarms with good intent, several were for broken down vessels and some were full on emergencies when often the smaller craft was able to reach the scene before the larger all-weather boat arrived from Dover or elsewhere. It was explained that the 25 crew and 20 shore-side helpers were all local people from all backgrounds. The service operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and 365 days per year yet is reliant totally on voluntary donations for funding.</p> <p>Wallace Murray then explained his role as a shore-side volunteer. This involves</p>



	<p>visiting school and local youth groups, armed with a variety of learning aids, to help young people to understand how to stay safe by the sea. The effectiveness of these visits gives the young people knowledge for life and avoids using the limited and precious resources if fewer rescues are required. Additional shore-side volunteers would be most welcome.</p>
6.	<p><b>Feedback from the representatives of local groups and organisations.</b>  Representatives of the following organisations were then invited to present information about who they are, what they do and, if appropriate, how they had used any financial grant awarded by Deal Town Council:</p> <p>Active Dover  The Deal Society  Deal and Walmer Allotment Association  Fair Trade  2235 Squadron (Deal) Air Training Corps  Dover Sea Cadets  The Deal Festival of Music and the Arts  Deal Stroke Club  The Veterans Association  Breakthrough Cancer  The Addelam History Research Group  The Samaritans  Dover District Volunteer Centre  Deal, Walmer and Kingsdown Regatta Association  Prostate Cancer Support  The Deal and St Omer Twinning Society  North Deal Community Partnership  Talk It Out  Astory Or Two  Deal Story Walks  Red Cross shop. Deal.</p> <p>All speakers were limited to 2 minutes each for their presentations which were well received by all those present.</p>
7.	<p><b>Open session for questions or comments on any issues of interest:</b></p> <p>District Councillor Mrs Pam Hawkins thanked Deal Town Council and the East Kent Mercury for their support for retaining the youth provision in the town that had been under threat of closure. Cllr Hawkins was able to announce that thanks to the campaign a new youth centre was now to be built near the Tides Leisure Centre. Cllr Hawkins thanked everyone in Deal who had supported the campaign and signed the petition, and called for local involvement in the planning of the new site.</p> <p>Members of the public who were affected by flooding due to over-topping of the sea defences in 1978 were urged to give their details for contact as a recent report</p>



	<p>drawn up by consultants for the KCC Flood Plan made no mention of this. It was read out at the meeting from the report that “there were no known community groups in Deal” – a comment met with surprise and incredulity from the audience present.</p> <p>A member of the public congratulated Deal Town Council on their cross party working but questioned the precept increase for this year and asked for an explanation. Cllr J Cronk advised that the funds to keep the Public Conveniences open could not continue to be drawn from reserves, and also explained that provision had been made for the necessary work required on the Town Hall in the event of ownership being transferred as the listed building is in urgent need of repair and maintenance. Part of the refurbishment project would also include re-locating the Visitor Information Centre back into the Town Hall.</p> <p>A new trader to King Street asked why there was no CCTV provision there and how they might be able to secure CCTV coverage. The Police Officers present confirmed that CCTV was the responsibility of DDC and agreed to supply details of who to contact at the community safety office after the meeting.</p> <p>Another member of the public asked for a vote of thanks to also be recorded to the East Kent Mercury team in Deal for the service they give to the town with their local coverage.</p>
8	<p>Cllr J Cronk thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. He acknowledged the gift of time made by so many volunteers that made up the fabric of Deal and applauded the level of voluntary support across the town. With a final vote of thanks Cllr J Cronk closed the meeting at 8.45pm. Light refreshments were then served and the rest of the evening was an opportunity to chat informally with Councillors and to network with the representatives from the various organisations.</p>
	<p><b>Date of next Annual Town Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013</b></p>
	<p><b>Linda Dykes Town Clerk 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012</b></p>

