

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close,
Walderslade on Monday 26 January 2015 commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors present: Mr Ivor Davies (Chairman), Mr V Davies, Mrs P Brooks, Mr P Dengate, Mr T Harwood, Mr M Hinchliffe, Mrs K Macklin, Mrs A Spain, Mr A Springate, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk and two members of the public/press.

1. Apologies and absences.

Cllrs Bob & Wendy Hinder (holiday), Cllr Hollands (holiday) and Cllr Smith (unwell).

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying.

Item 9. Councillors made the following declaration:

Cllrs Ivor Davies, Vic Davies, Dengate and Sullivan notified members that they were allotment tenants but had dispensation to vote on issues relating to the allotments.

Cllr Ivor Davies was a member of Walderslade Woodlands Group and Friends of Boxley Warren.

Cllr Springate was a member of Walderslade Woodlands Group.

Cllr Vic Davies was Chairman of Vinters Valley Trust.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 1 December 2014.

The minutes of the meeting were **agreed** and **signed** as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising From the Minutes.

4.1 Minute 2707/4.1 Boxley Warren Awards for All application. Clerk to complete work and liaise with Cllr Harwood. **Noted.**

4.2 Minute 2707/4.2 War Memorial leaflet. A draft leaflet has been produced and will be copied to the researcher asking if the parish council can include, with a suitable acknowledgement, the detailed information she has amassed. **Noted.**

4.3 Any other matters arising from the minutes which are not on the agenda. **None.**

5. Report from the PCSO and Police Issues.

5.1 New PCSO. Members welcomed news of the appointment and that the PSCO will assume duty shortly on completion of training.

5.2 Crime report for the period 24.11.14 – 22.12.14. **Received and noted.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7.38 for a resident to make a comment about the need to ensure that the bus service to Sandling village was maintained during the temporary closure of Old Chatham Road. Meeting reconvened at 7.41 pm.

6. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings.

Noted and received:-

6.1 Environment Committee meeting 1 December 2014.

6.2 Environment Committee meeting 8 December 2014.

6.3 Estates Committee 9 December 2014.

6.4 Environment Committee meeting 12 January 2015. Cllr Hinchliffe suggested highlighted that an action point concerning contacting Borough Councillors was missing from item 8.2. Clerk to check the notes of the meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

6.5 F&GP Committee meeting 13 January 2015.

7. Finance.

7.1 Payments made out of meeting 02.12.14 – 19.01.15. **Noted.**

7.2 Receipts for the period 25.11.14 – 19.01.15. **Noted.**

7.3 Account balances as at 19.01.15. **Noted.**

7.4 Payment of accounts. **Authorised**

7.5 Parish councillor internal audit. Cllr Hinchliffe volunteered to undertake the audit. Action: **Cllr Hinchliffe and the Clerk.**

8. 2015/2016 Precept and Budget.

8.1 Member's **received** the recommendation from the F&GP Committee. The Chairman reminded members that last year's mistake by Maidstone Borough Council had resulted in a 6% drop in the precept charge paid by residents and that this year there was a reduction in the Local Council Tax Support grant. These factors had been the main cause of the 5.9% increase which equated to roughly an additional 99p on the annual charge for each band D property. It was recognised it was important to remind residents of the unintended reduction last year and to explain clearly the reasons for this year's increase. **Action: Chairman and Clerk.**

The Chairman proposed seconded by Cllr Brooks that "**a precept of £100,931, including Local Council Tax Support of £2,450, be set**". **Agreed** (with one abstention).

8.2 The Chairman and Clerk signed the relevant paperwork to apply for the precept.

9. **Internet Banking.**

Received the recommendation that "The Finance & General Purposes Committee having approved a risk management assessment and identified the Unity Trust Bank as provider, the setting up of internet banking for the parish council's general and Beechen Hall accounts by the RFO and working party (Cllrs Ivor Davies and Dengate) is agreed."

Cllr Harwood, seconded by Cllr Dengate, proposed that "**with the addition of Cllr Vic Davies to the working group, the adoption of Internet banking as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee is approved**". **Agreed unanimously.**

The Terms of Reference for the Working Group were **agreed.**

Action: Cllrs Ivor Davies, Vic Davies, Dengate and the Clerk

10. **Policies and Procedures.**

10.1 Review of policies and procedure calendar 2015/16. **Agreed.**

10.2 Community Inclusion Policy. An update on work undertaken by Cllr Hinchliffe and the parish office was **received**. Cllr Macklin requested that the March report included an action/impact plan. **Action: Cllr Hinchliffe and parish office.**

11 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors.**

No Borough Councillors were present however a brief discussion took place on the Borough Council's decision to revert from a cabinet to a committee decision-making structure.

12 **Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review of KCC consultation.**

After brief discussion it was **agreed no further action.**

13 **Reports from councillors/office.**

Noted and received.

13.1 Parishes/ Police Forum Thursday 15th January 2015. Report by Cllr Ivor Davies.

13.2 Minutes of the Boxley Warren LNR Management Committee meeting 09.01.201.

Members welcomed the planned action and the interest taken by stake-holders.

Cllr Harwood informed members that during the closure of Lidsing Road a deep cleanse of the local verges was also planned.

14 **Matters for Decision.**

14.1 2015/16 dates. **Noted.**

14.2 Annual Meeting of the Parish. **Agreed** the meeting would be held in either April or May on the same night as a parish council meeting. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether Kent Scouts could host the meeting at Grange Farm. All organisations and groups connected to the parish council would be invited to attend or send in reports. **Action: Clerk.**

14.3 The Lord Lieutenant's Annual Civic Service at Rochester Cathedral, 10 March 2015. Any councillor wishing to attend asked to notify the Clerk. **Action: Councillors.**

15 **Matters for Information.**

Noted and received.

15.1 Kent Downs AONB newsletter Dec 2014 & winter.

15.2 Kent Scouts. A thank you for the endorsement letter has been received.

15.3 Al-Anon Family Groups. An introductory letter has been received.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Harwood on his achievement in having part of the River Len in the centre of Maidstone designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

16 **Next Meeting.**

Monday 2 March 2015 at Weaving Village Hall, Weaving Street commencing at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman.....Date.....