

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held at
Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, on
Monday 8 May 2017 commencing at 7.09pm.**

Present: Mr B Hinder (Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Mr J Brooks, Mr R Burrows, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mrs A Dickerson, Mrs W Hinder, Mr D Hollands, Mr M Knight-Olds, Mrs K Macklin, Mr P Sullivan and Mrs M Waller together with the Clerk Mrs P Bowdery, Assistant Clerk Mrs M Fooks, Parish, Borough Cllr D Butler and three members of the public/press.

Visitors: Mr V Davies Mrs D Nichols (press)

1. Apologies for absence.
Mr T Harwood, Mr M Radcliffe- Godfrey, Ms L Clarke and Mr S Akehurst Sandling Village Hall,

2. Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising.

There were none.

4. Boxley Parish Council Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave an overview of the work of the Parish Council during the past year. In this he made reference Environment Committee chaired by Wendy Hinder for its sterling work representing the Parish Council at 2 major public inquiries the first being the Local Plan where strong representations were made on behalf of parishioners to protect the Lidsing and Captstone area and also objections for the development of Gibraltar Farm with some 450 houses. Unfortunately, these views were not supported by the Planning Inspector. The environment committee have continued with their efforts to obtain highway improvements particularly in the South of the Parish even enlisting the help of County Councillor Paul Carter.

The parish council has worked hard to support its community and along with the grants that are made available for local organisations it has decided to place in its 2017/18 budget a sum of £40,000 to pay for highway improvements and a further £15,000 for additional maintenance which is an extremely proactive stance and shows the parish council is willing to go the extra mile.

The Environment Committee are involved in many local issues and residents appear to appreciate the fact that not only are their concerns and views taken on board but through the community alert system they are being kept updated

The Chairman also commended the work of the Estates Committee for their hard work in the continuing project for extending the committee room at Beechen Hall, with special thanks to Cllr Paul Dengate for the hours of input he has made as part of the working group set up to manage this project.

The Chairman thanked all the volunteers and volunteer groups working within the parish for the benefit of residents. He identified the importance of the parish council's continued financial support and he expressed thanks for the work of the Parish Council committees under the chairmanship of Wendy Hinder (Environment) Vic Davies (Estates) Ivor Davies (Finance & General Purposes). Thanks were also given to the parish office and Beechen Hall staff.

5. Financial Report.

Work had been completed on the End of Year Report for submission to the External Auditor and this would be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 16 May. Copies will then be made available on the website and from the parish office.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council was about to enter its audit period where its books and paperwork were open for public inspection.

6. Reports were received from:

Dove Hill Allotments – Chairman of Working Group Bob Hinder

Friends of Boxley Warren – Chairman Bob Hinder

Sandling Village Hall – Mrs A Dickenson

Vinters Valley Trust – Chairman Vic Davies

Walderslade Woodlands Group – Chairman Robert Burrows

Weaving Village Hall - Dennis Hollands

Grove Green Community Centre – Chairman Monty Knight-Olds

The Chairman presented Mr Knight-Olds with the KALC Community Award for his service to the community and his work as Chairman of the Grove Green Community Hall.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Mayor for his year in tenure and for the invitations to some of his events, saying it was an honour to have the Mayor of Maidstone elected from Boxley parish.

7. Questions.

There were none.

8. Date of next meeting.

To be advised.

Meeting closed at 7.35 pm.