**Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on the 6 November 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Councillors Present**:  B Hinder - Chairman, P Mclean, A Brindle, I Davies, C Sheppard, M Beckwith, V Jones, , M Cox, A Adams, P Sulivan, H Bryant (Until item 10.3), K Macklin (from item 5) and C English together with Mrs D Baylis – Parish Clerk and Maidstone Borough Councillor M Naghi

1. **Apologies and absences**

Cllrs Akehurst and Thompson.

1. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

Cllr Macklin – Item 12.1 The grant application is a Kent Chamber of Commerce member.

1. **Motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting for all items in the confidential section.**

It was proposed by Cllr A Brindle, seconded by Cllr I Davies and all agreed that members of the public be excluded from all items in the confidential section.

1. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 7 October 2024**

Agreed.

1. **Matters Arising From the Minutes**

Minute 3892 Item number 11. Cllr Jones asked about the 137 positive comments on Facebook regarding the planters. Cllr Sheppard had sent the proof but Cllr Jones had not received them so he would resend them to her.

Minute 3896 Item 10.2 Cllr Jones asked if Cllr Brindle had sent out the guide on flashing speed limit signs. She had not done so yet but would be sending it out to members shortly.

Minute 3897 Item 10.7. Cllr Jones asked if the Vinters Valley Nature Reserve management meeting minutes had been circulated. Cllr Cox said that they were awaiting approval and would then be circulated to members.

1. **Crime Report and Police Issues**

Report noted. Cllr Hinder reported on the enforcement action being taken on the Bell Lane illegal waste site. Cllr English reported that Waste Crime were investigating several fly tipping incidents with a view to prosecution.

**Public Session at the discretion of the Chairman. Parishioners may address the meeting with regard to any item on the Agenda (time limited to 3 minutes per person). Items not on the Agenda must be submitted to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Non-parishioners are only able to address the meeting at the invitation of the Chairman.**

1. **Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings**

7.1 Environment Committee 14 October 2024

Noted.

1. **Finance**

8.1 **Bank Balances**

Noted

8.2 **Finance General**

The Clerk gave an update on the Barclays situation. It was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman should make one more visit to the Maidstone Branch with a letter of notice before action. It was proposed by Cllr P Mclean, seconded by Cllr A Brindle and all agreed that the Clerk should take legal advice and engage a solicitor.

8.3 **Parish Councillor Allowances**

It was proposed by Cllr Mclean, seconded by Cllr Macklin and all agreed to raise the Councillor Allowance in line with the Consumer Price Index (currently 2.2%) to £579.

1. **Policies and Procedures**

9.1 **Financial Regulations**

It was proposed by Cllr English, seconded by Cllr Sheppard and all agreed to adopt the new model Financial Regulations with the amendments made. The Clerk would circulate an amended copy of the regulations to members.

9.2 **Financial Transaction Procedures**

It was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Mclean and all agreed to adopt the Financial Transaction Procedures with the amendments made.

9.3 **Whole Council Risk Assessment**

Deferred to next meeting.

1. **Reports from Boxley Parish Councillors/Office**

10.1 **Office Staff Report**

Noted.

10.2 **Councillors Reports**

None.

10.3 **Borough/County Councillor Reports**

Cllr Jones reported that she and Cllr Thompson were not happy with the Terms of Reference for the Lidsing Stakeholder Steering Group and were looking to get them made more robust. The first meeting would be 27 November. Cllr Hinder had not received any notification. Cllr Jones said that she would chase this and get the group secretary to contact the Clerk.

Cllr English reported that garden waste collection was going to be one annual rate and not pro rata as at present. There would be a new permit system on the bins to make who has paid for the service easier to track. There had been victory in the courts with fly tipping fines of between £500 and £1,000 issued with one of the main culprits up for prosecution.

10.4 **KALC Representative**

No meeting had been held.

10.5 **Grove Green Community Hall Representative**

Cllr Mclean said that the AGM had been held. Vic Davies had been elected Chairman and was well on the way to recovery from his recent illness. Cllr Mclean was now Vice-Chairman. Finances had been a bit hit and miss in the past financial year with a small loss made on running costs. The new Treasurer had switched the energy supplies to Octopus energy and they hope to make a small profit next year. The next meeting would be on the 28 January 2025.

10.6 **Sandling Village Hall Representative**

Cllr Akehurst reported that their meeting was being held the following week. She queried the shrubbery clearance. The Clerk would get this checked with Landscape Services again.

10.7 **Vinters Valley Nature Reserve Representative**

Cllr Cox reported that the Management Committee would be meeting on the 11 December. A smaller committee was being formed to look at how people who pay membership fees get value for money. 20 tons of stone had been delivered by Gallaghers which they were having to pay for this time. The number of reserve users was up. They were looking for more volunteers. Volunteer days were currently on a Thursday. They would be running the Christmas tree chipping service again for £5.00 with the chippings being used around the reserve. He would send an advertising poster to the Clerk for circulation.

10.8 **Any other reports**

None given.

1. **Sandling**

Report noted.

1. **KALC award nominations**

These would be submitted to the Clerk and the shortlist put to members for voting.

1. **Matters for Decision**

None on this Agenda.

1. **Matters for Information**

None on this Agenda.

1. **Items for Next Agenda**

Noted,

1. **Meetings**

Next Meeting Wednesday 4 December 2024 at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, ME5 9RU.

**Confidential Section**

1. **Personnel matters**

No meeting had been held since the last meeting.

Meeting closed at 20.45 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman ……………………………………………….. Date ………………………………………………………..