

Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on the 7 May 2025 at 7.30pm

Councillors Present: P Mclean, A Brindle, I Davies, M Beckwith, M Cox, A Adams, J Akehurst, R Dines, S Thompson, J Sampangi (from Item 5), V Jones, and C English together with Mrs D Baylis – Parish Clerk, H Pearson – Assistant Clerk, Borough Councillor R Burke and 2 members of the public

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr S Thompson was proposed by Cllr P McLean and seconded by Cllr C English. Cllr M Cox was nominated by Cllr I Davies and seconded by Cllr A Brindle. A vote was taken with 7 votes for Cllr Thompson and 5 for Cllr Cox. Cllr Thompson was duly elected as Chairman.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr P Mclean was proposed by Cllr C English and seconded by Cllr V Jones. Cllr A Brindle was nominated by Cllr I Davies and seconded by Cllr J Akehurst. A vote was taken with 7 votes for Cllr Mclean and 5 for Cllr Brindle. Cllr Mclean was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Thompson gave an introduction as the newly elected Chairman.

3. Apologies and absences

Cllrs Sullivan and Bryant.

4. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

None

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

It was proposed by Cllr C English, seconded by Cllr V Jones and all agreed that members of the public be excluded from all items in the confidential section.

6. To Appoint Committees, Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

Environment Committee

Cllr S Thompson – as Parish Council Chairman
Cllr A Brindle
Cllr I Davies
Cllr J Akehurst
Cllr M Beckwith
Cllr R Dines
Cllr H Bryant
Cllr M Cox
Cllr A Adams
Cllr V Jones

Estates Committee

Cllr I Davies
Cllr A Brindle
Cllr M Beckwith
Cllr J Sampangi
Cllr S Thompson – as parish Council Chairman
Cllr P Sullivan
Cllr J Akehurst
Cllr C English

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr A Brindle
Cllr I Davies

Cllr S Thompson – as Parish Council Chairman
 Cllr J Sampangi
 Cllr C English
 Cllr M Beckwith
 Cllr J Akehurst

Personnel Committee

Cllr J Akehurst
 Cllr A Brindle
 Cllr M Beckwith
 Cllr S Thompson – as Parish Council Chairman
 Cllr C English

Woodland Management Committee

Cllr H Bryant
 Cllr I Davies
 Cllr A Brindle
 Cllr M Cox
 Cllr V Jones
 Cllr R Dines
 Cllr S Thompson – as Parish Council Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr English, seconded by Cllr Jones and all agreed to defer the appointment of Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to the first meeting of each Committee. For the Environment Committee this would be the June meeting as the May agenda had already been issued and a Chairman would be elected for this meeting at the beginning of the meeting.

7. To Appoint Representatives to External Bodies

Grove Green Community Association – Cllr P Mclean, J Sampangi
 Kent Association of Local Councils – Cllr I Davies, Cllr A Brindle
 Sandling Village Hall – Cllr J Akehurst, Cllr A Brindle
 Vinters Valley Nature Reserve – Cllr A Brindle

8. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 8 April 2025

Agreed.

9. Matters Arising From the Minutes

The member of the public had attended to report that no action had been taken on the fly tipping in Wents Wood. He'd been told that MBC do not clear fly tipping on private land but MBC have now conceded that this is MBC property. He has not heard anything and no one has been to look at the problem. Cllr English would chase the fly tipping team.

10. Crime Report and Police Issues

Report noted.

11. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings

11.1 Environment Committee 14 April 2025
 Noted.

12. Finance

12.1 Bank Balances

Noted.

12.2 Receipts and payments 1-30 April 2025

Noted.

13. **Policies and Procedures**

13.1 **Standing Orders**

It was proposed by Cllr C English, seconded by Cllr V Jones and all agreed to adopt the Standing Orders with the agreed amendments.

13.2 **Code of Conduct**

The new draft was still not available so it was proposed by Cllr C English, seconded by Cllr P Mclean and all agreed to adopt the existing Code of Conduct until such time as a new version was presented for review.

13.3 **Code of Conduct Complaints**

It was proposed by Cllr P Mclean, seconded by Cllr A Brindle and all agreed to adopt the Code of Conduct Complaints policy.

13.4 **Lobbying and Predetermination**

It was proposed by Cllr V Jones, seconded by Cllr P Mclean and all agreed to adopt the Lobbying and Predetermination document.

13.5 **Guidance Notes on Reasons for Absence**

It was agreed to add legislative references and guidance on long term absences. The Clerk was asked to note 'absent' or 'apologies given' against Councillors' names in future minutes. The document would be brought back to the next meeting for discussion/approval.

13.6 **Recording of Meetings Statement**

It was proposed by Cllr A Brindle, seconded by Cllr V Jones and all agreed to adopt the Recordings of Meetings Statement.

13.7 **Agenda Proposal Form**

It was proposed by Cllr English, seconded by Cllr S Thompson and all agreed to adopt the Agenda Proposal form for all future Agenda item requests.

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

14.1 **Office Staff Report**

Noted.

14.2 **Councillors Reports**

Cllr Brindle apologised as she had not been able to go to the last Lidsing Stakeholders Steering Group meeting but understood that there had not been a lot of movement forwards.

14.3 **Borough/County Councillor Reports**

- i. Cllrs Jones and Thompson had attended the last Lidsing Stakeholders Steering Group meeting. It had been a much smaller meeting with the land owner, promoter and Head of Planning at Medway Council all absent. The open spaces on the designs were thought to be very fragmented. Mark Egerton from MBC was going back to discuss highways issues raised. He would be invited to the next Parish Council meeting. The next SSG meeting was to be held on the 22 May.
- ii. Cllr Burke said that the next open day at the STEM school was on the 19 June and he was liaising with parking services to ensure that they were out and monitoring the parking as open days were a particular problem.
- iii. Cllr Thompson reported that the Gypsy and Traveller consultation responses are on the MBC website.
It was important for BPC to form a good relationship with the new Kent County

Councillor. The Clerk was asked to invite him to a meeting.
The reorganisation of Local Government was still changing and likely to change more following the KCC elections.

14.4 KALC Representative

No meeting had been held.

14.5 Grove Green Community Hall Representative

Cllr Mclean said that no meeting had been held.

14.6 Sandling Village Hall Representative

Cllr Akehurst had nothing to add to the Annual Parish meeting report given.

14.7 Vinters Valley Nature Reserve Representative

Cllr Cox said that no meeting had been held. Plans were focusing on the Big Day Out being held on the 14 June. The AGM was being moved to July to allow volunteers to concentrate on events for the Big Day Out. He did not have timings for the event yet.

14.8 Parish Police Liaison Meeting Representative

It was agreed that Cllr Thompson would be the Boxley Parish Council representative on this group. No meeting had been held and PC Ben Cox was writing to councils on a less frequent basis but this was still adequate..

14.9 Any other reports

None given.

15. Matters for Decision

It was agreed that Boxley Parish Council would have a stand again at the St John's School Fete on the 7th June. Cllrs Akehurst, Thompson, Sampangi and Mclean said they would be able to attend. The Clerk would circulate to Councillors and let everyone know who would be attending. The Gazebo, tables, display boards etc would need to be picked up from and returned to the Parish office.

16. Matters for Information

17. Items for Next Agenda

Cllr Brindle asked for Lidsing to be a standing Agenda item for future full Parish Council meetings. This was agreed.

18. Meetings

Next Meeting 9 June 2025.

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Confidential Section

19. Personnel matters

Cllr Akehurst reported that the Committee had met with office staff and that the meetings had been very productive. The next personnel meeting is being arranged.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date