

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

Councillors Present: S Thompson (Chair), A Adams, J Akehurst, A Brindle, I Davies, R Dines, V Jones and P Sullivan, together with Mrs D Baylis – Parish Clerk and 1 member of the public. Cllrs V Kellaway and N Zand from item 6.

1. Apologies and absences

Cllrs C English and P Mclean – apologies given
Cllr J Sampangi – Absent
Kent County Councillor S Dixon – apologies given

2. Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying

Cllr P Sullivan – Item 16
Cllr S Thompson – lobbied on Item 16

3. 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 with 7 votes for and 1 abstention that members of the public be excluded from all items in the confidential section should this become necessary.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 9 June 2025

Agreed with the amendments put forward by Cllr Jones.

5. Matters Arising From the Minutes

None.

6. Co-option of New Councillors to fill 3 vacancies

It was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr I Davies and all agreed that Nazanin Zand be co-opted onto Boxley Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cllr J Akehurst, seconded by Cllr V Jones and all agreed that Victoria Kellaway be co-opted onto Boxley Parish Council.

The Meeting was suspended by the Chairman at 7.55 for a private consultation with the Clerk.

The Meeting resumed at 8.07

Chairman S Thompson decided autonomously to defer the co-option of the third candidate to a future meeting.

The new Councillors duly signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and took their place as Councillors.

7. Crime Report and Police Issues

Noted.

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.

The member of the public wanted to complain again about the lack of action over the fly tipping in Wents Wood. Cllr Thompson said that MBC and KCC officers had found a map showing that areas of Walderslade Woods are in fact the responsibility of Kent County Council. It is possible that other areas could also be under their ownership. He and Cllr Sullivan agreed to meet on site with the resident and get a What3Words location for the fly tipping and then obtain a definitive decision from MBC over ownership of the site at Wents Wood.

8. Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings

8.1 Woodland Management Committee 23 June 2025
Noted

8.2 Environment Committee 23 June 2025
Noted

9. **Finance**

9.1 **Bank Balances**
Noted

9.2 **Finance General**

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been submitted. Cllr Brindle reported that her reconciliations of the accounts were almost complete and fully up to date.

It was agreed that membership of the Long Term Investment Working Group would be Cllrs Brindle, I Davies, Thompson, Jones, Adams and Zand. The Clerk would arrange a meeting of the group with an evening meeting preferred.

9.3 **Receipts and Payments 1-30 June 2025**

Noted. Cllr I Davies had a query on the amount of VAT on voucher number 168. The Clerk would clarify and report back.

10. **Policies and Procedures**

10.1 **Acceptable Reasons for Absence**

It was proposed by Cllr S Thompson, seconded by Cllr I Davies and all agreed to adopt the amended policy.

10.2 **Committee Terms of Reference**

It was proposed by Cllr S Thompson seconded by Cllr A Brindle and all agreed to adopt the amended Terms of Reference for the Estates, Environment, Woodland and Finance and General Purposes Committees. The Clerk was asked to amend the Personnel Committee Terms of Reference to include Councillors training.

11. **Appointment of Councillors to vacancies on Committees**

Cllr Zand joined the Environment, Woodland and Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Cllr Kellaway joined the Environment Committee.

The Chairman extended the meeting.

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

12.1 **Office Staff Report**

Noted.

12.2 **Councillors Reports**

Cllr Brindle reported that during the Police Surgeries she attended at Sandling and Beechen Hall she was told that Boxley had a number of areas suitable for speed watch and she would like to resurrect the scheme in the Parish for these areas. Kent Police had equipment and would provide training. The Clerk was asked to contact the police to let them know that BPC would like to start a scheme. Once contact had been made and a suitable media post agreed then Councillors and residents would be invited to take part in the scheme and undergo the training required.

Cllr Adams had received a complaint from a resident about speeding vehicles on Grovewood Drive South late at night. The Clerk would report to KCC and the police.

Cllr Akehurst reported that work to improve the cycle lane was progressing. The quotation from the Active Travel Team was awaited and this would then go to the Environment Committee for discussion and decision.

Cllr Dines reported that the Lordswood and Walderslade Litter picking group were doing

a litter pick on Gleamingwood Drive on the 24 July. He had arranged a meeting with John Edwards on the 11 August to look at fly tipping. He also reported that Medway Council's Local Plan was open for consultation.

Cllr Thompson reported that he was attending a meeting with SST next week for a briefing on the development of their travel plan. He spoke at the MBC Democracy and General Purposes Committee meeting as Chairman of Boxley Parish Council was then asked to leave due to the 'conflict of interest' decision made by the officer. He also reported that there had been a health and safety incident in Walderslade Woods involving the Woodland Group. Volunteers had dealt with the incident in a very professional manner but had not received any support since the incident. The matter was now in the hands of the insurance company. He had attended a meeting with Neil Coombs on Friday 4th June with members of the Woodland Group and other Councillors, who make a tour of Walderslade Woodlands. Development of future management plans will be informed by Neil Coombs and led by the Boxley Woodlands Committee under its Terms of Reference.

12.3 **Borough Councillor Reports**

Cllrs Thompson and Jones attended the extraordinary KALC meeting in Ashford on 19th June. Clarifications on the LGR and CGR processes were given by MBC Democratic Services Officer Ryan O'Connell, but matters that parishes could be better briefed on, such as Asset Management and transfer, were not adequately covered. Cllr Thompson had written to KALC asking for further research and input.

Cllr Jones had attended a Teams meeting with Police Inspector Steve Kent and MBC Officers. Items looked at were fly tipping, the illegal use of motorbikes, quadbikes amongst others.

12.4 **Kent County Council Representative**

Please send my apologies for tonight, time has gotten away from me.

I have an update to share about Lidsing, I have confirmed my attendance to the meeting about the SPD on the 22nd of July and I have also been in touch with all of the KCC staff working on it, who have agreed to keep me in the loop with it.

They have told me that they are focusing on controlling traffic that will inevitably flow down from the new development. I am keeping an eye on this to ensure that nothing is overlooked.

I have been working with Greg McNicoll who has updated me about other issues in Boxley.

I will be at the next meeting to provide more details.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

12.5 **KALC Representative**

No local meeting held.

12.6 **Grove Green Community Hall Representative**

No report given.

12.7 **Sandling Village Hall Representative**

Cllr Akehurst reported that they were looking to replace the hall chairs.

12.8 **Vinters Valley Nature Reserve Representative**

Cllr Brindle had no update for the meeting.

12.9 **Any other reports**

None made.

13. **Sandling**

Covered under 12.2.

14. **Lidsing**
Nothing to report. It was hoped that the meeting scheduled for the 22 July would go ahead.
15. **Cluster Meetings**
Cllr Thompson had attended a Teams meeting with Steve Kent and items looked at were fly tipping, motorbikes, quadbikes amongst others. He said that the police were doing their best in attending to issues and communicating with us.
16. **Community Governance Review**
A date for the next meeting of the working group was set for the 18th July at 3pm. The Clerk would circulate to all Councillors.

At 9.30pm the Chairman extended the meeting for a further 15 minutes

17. **Training for Councillors**
It was proposed by Cllr J Akehurst, seconded by Cllr A Brindle and all agreed to add £3,200 to the training budget.
18. **Matters for Decision**
None for this Agenda.
19. **Correspondence**
None received.
20. **Matters for Information**
None.
21. **Items for Next Agenda**
None raised.
22. **Meetings**
Next Meeting Monday 8 September 2025.

Confidential Section

23. **Personnel matters. This item was held in open session.**
Cllr Akehurst reported that she had been elected Chairman of the Committee and Cllr English had been appointed as Vice-Chairman. It had been agreed that the remaining vacancy should be filled from the whole of the Parish Council and that they would like someone with some skill and knowledge of personnel. They had bought a filing cabinet for the separate and secure storage of documentation for this Committee.
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Meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date