

Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Woodland Management Committee held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on 20 August 2025

Councillors Present: Cllrs V Jones (Chair), R Dines, S Thompson, A Brindle, R Dines and I Davies along with the Clerk, Mrs D Baylis and Patrick Fox, Martin Jordan, Rob Burrows, Jackie Haylock and Derek Price from the Walderslade Woodlands Group and 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies and absences**

None.

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

None declared

3. **Motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting for all items in the Confidential Section.**

It was proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Brindle and all agreed to exclude the members of the public from all items in the Confidential Section.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on the 23 June 2024**

Agreed.

5. **Impton Lane Open Space**

The inspection had been completed in November 2024, and all recommended work had been completed.

6. **Weaving Diamond Jubilee Orchard**

The inspection had been completed in November 2024, and all recommended work had been completed.

7. **Franklin Drive**

The inspection had been completed in November 2024. No work was required to the trees.

8. **Beechen Hall**

The inspection had been completed in November 2024, and all recommended work had been completed.

9. **Walderslade Woodlands**

9.1 Ecologist Verbal update

9.2 Working Practices

9.3 Training Needs

Items 9.1-9.3 taken together.

The Woodland Management Committee Terms of Reference would be taken to the next full Council meeting in September to change the membership criteria to include members of the Walderslade Woodland Group.

Action Point 1 - Clerk.

Ecological consultant, Neil Coombs, reported that he had examined the existing management plans. He will ~~was going to~~ summarise and update to bring them in line with the Forestry Commission felling licence and the Hoods tree survey report. He would devise a series of headings such as responsibilities, vision and aims and objectives to give an overarching document that would then form the Management Plan going forward. This would also have a forward plan for the next five to ten years. Any plan would need to be resilient to climate change. A tree safety policy and botanical surveys was also needed. He would work with the woodland group and the Council to get a plan and procedures that allow the woodland group to operate alongside the responsibilities and obligations of the Parish Council.

Cllr Jones had been on several site visits with Hoods who had conducted the safety survey and had been contracted to do the work on the trees the woodland group could not manage. They had already done 2 full Fridays and felled 8 out of 12 trees. The remaining 4 needed a cherry picker on site to fell. They would be working every Friday until the end of September and would also be doing some additional days in September. All work should be completed by the end of September. This includes all 40 trees identified as high risk. T39 and T53 would be felled leaving a 10ft trunk as standing deadwood.

The woodland group would be able to continue their normal activities once Cllr Jones had all the current training certificates collated and the Health and Safety course had been run. It was anticipated that this would be end September latest.

10. **Items for next Agenda**

Resident engagement
Nature Recovery Strategy
Making Space for Nature
Parish Council Environment Group

11. **Next Meeting**

23 September 2025

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

12. Contract to deliver Health and Safety course.

It was proposed by Cllr Brindle, seconded by Cllr I Davies and all agreed to accept the quotation from Neil Coombs for a 1-day Health and Safety Course at a cost of £420. **Action Point 2 - Clerk.**

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman Date