

KLAW Committee Meeting 16 December 2024 – Minutes v1

The meeting was held using Teams, arranged by Rory Harding (KWT).

Present: Rory Harding (Chair); Dave Casey; Keith Dugmore (Secretary); Jenny Dugmore (Treasurer); Julia Brant.

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Chair's introduction Rory welcomed the existing members of the committee, and also Julia as a guest. The existing committee members were pleased that Julia wished to join the committee as a member. [KLAW's constitution includes: <i>"The Management Committee may appoint another member of the Group as a Committee member to fill a vacancy"</i> .]	
2.	Membership Charles Tassell, who lives near Maidstone, had joined as a Landholder, having an apple orchard, arable reversion, and improved grassland. Rory knows him well, Charles having been a KWT Trustee for 9 years. Our membership now stood at 30 Landholders and 12 Supporters. A fourth member – Frankie Woodgate – had responded to a request for details of those offering relevant services (hedge-laying, coppicing, etc.), and this would be added to the website. The map of Landholders' addresses aggregated to Postal District level would be updated in mid-2025.	Jenny Keith, Rory, Jenny
3.	Grants & other financial support Rory observed that nationally several developments are taking place, including Higher Tier grants, and proposals for changes in inheritance tax, but these have not yet been finalised. It was agreed to ask members in the next KLAW News for any recent experiences in seeking grant support. Keith would ask Nicola Smith about the help for her new pond & hedges.	Keith
4.	Recording baseline data, and getting expert help Dan Tuson's recent well-received Zoom talk to KLAW members, which highlighted the increases in insect populations on new wild flower meadows, showed the value of monitoring. Rory would ask Dan whether his presentation (or similar information) could be sent to KLAW members. Neil Coombs' Zoom talk "Surveying and Monitoring Wildlife" on 9 January would be very relevant to members.	Rory
5.	Events (organised by, or involving KLAW) Recent: - Whippletree Farm "Ancient woodland management" on 15 December, hosted by Frankie Woodgate, had been a great success, with 15 members attending. Photos of the event would be posted on our website in the New Year. - Wildflower grasslands. Dan Tuson's Zoom talk on 11 December had been enjoyed by more than a dozen members.	Jenny

	Planned: • Hambrook Marshes, Canterbury. This had been arranged for Saturday 11 January. Keith would send an invitation to members, and Dave would extend this to Steve Coates at Hawkshill, Walmer. • Aidamora. Chalk grassland and newly-planted hedges. Julia's offer to have an event at her land at Kingston, including possible discussion of sources of funding, and baseline recording, was warmly welcomed. A date in March would be arranged. • Langdon Garden. Another "Nature Friendly Open Garden" event organised by Sally Edge and KWT had been arranged for 11 May. • Wetlands and Boreholes. Jenny and Keith offered to host an event at Mystole Orchard in the summer. Zoom sessions: • Surveying and Monitoring Wildlife. Rory had arranged for KWT's Neil Coombs to speak on 9 January, and an Eventbrite invitation had been sent to members. This could be forwarded to others who might be interested. • Turtle Doves. Nicole Khan had agreed to give a talk in February. Keith would seek to fix a date. • Nightingales. Rory would ask the nightingale expert Chas Holt whether he would like to make a Zoom presentation (or arrange a visit / event) in April. • Bats – sound recording. Amanda Brookman would be invited to give a talk (when other sessions had been fixed).	Keith, Dave Keith, Julia SallyE Jenny, Keith Keith Rory Keith
6.	Publicity KLAW News Update had been emailed to members on 21 November, and another would be sent after this meeting. KLAW's website. Members thanked Jenny for all her work keeping the site up to date. Dave would send Jenny some of Judy's trailcam photos for posting in the New Year. KWT's website had been revamped, and Rory asked for advice about where best to provide a link to KLAW's website. Rory would contact SallyE about her offer to write a Guest Blog about Langdon Garden. Further publicity. Jenny had updated our A5 KLAW leaflet, and added it to our website's Home Page. Publicity would be on the agenda of our AGM.	Keith Dave, Jenny ALL Rory Keith
7.	Any Other Business In her role as Treasurer, Jenny would act as a conduit for members wishing to donate to the hosts of events. KLAW's AGM. SallyE had kindly agreed to host this at Langdon Court on Saturday 15 March 2025.	Jenny Keith, SallyE
8.	Dates of future committee meetings The next committee meeting was scheduled for 20 January at 11.00. Rory would set up meetings for 2025 at 11.00 – 12.00 on the 3rd Monday of each month.	Rory