

KLAW Committee Meeting 15 January 2024 – Minutes

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

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

Apologies: Bob & Sharon Hogben.

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Chair's introduction Rory welcomed members to the meeting.	
2.	Membership, and the survey of members The number of Landholder members remained at 35. Rebecca Smith at the University of Kent's "Growing Kent & Medway" project had joined as a Supporter, bringing the number to 8. Survey of members. The questionnaire had been emailed to members on 2 January, and Jenny was pleased to report that there had been c.20 responses so far. Jenny would start analysing the results later in January.	Jenny
3.	Grants & other financial support Jenny had written a note on her experience in obtaining a grant from Kent Downs AONB for the biochar project at Mystole Orchard, and posted it on KLAW's website. It was agreed to seek similar notes on members' experiences from Ed Kyrke-Smith and Nicola Smith. We might also learn of further contributors from responses to the survey.	Keith
4.	Recording baseline data, and getting expert help Rory had produced a briefing note on Apps, and this had been added to our website. Further reviews would be welcomed.	
5.	Events (organised by, or involving KLAW) Planned: - Hedge-laying. Rory would seek details from Ellen Wilson, KWT's Farmer Cluster Officer for Upper Beult, of events at Shadoxhurst and Marden to be held in late February, with the aim of extending invitations to KLAW members. - Plastics. Bob had volunteered to give an initial short lunchtime online talk be targeted primarily at KWT staff, to be followed by a longer session one evening. Rory would plan the dates & times with Bob, then Keith would publicise to members. - Making Space for Nature. Keith had circulated details (Email 13 Dec) about online briefing sessions and workshops taking place in January and February. Rory would see whether Kent MSN's Alexa Murray-Mujtaba might present a Zoom session to KLAW members.	Rory, Keith Rory, Bob, Keith Rory

	• Forestry Commission. Keith and Jenny were making progress with the FC's Elliot Carpenter in planning an event. An invitation would be extended to Natural England. • Machinery (especially for meadows). Keith would raise the idea when he finds a chance to meet KLAW member Mike Baldwin. If the outcome is positive, Rory would enquire whether a neighbour in Faversham might also get involved, together with Bob, who has experience with agricultural machinery. • Film: "Six inches of soil" https://www.sixinchesofsoil.org/ Rory to discuss with Ed Kyrke-Smith whether KLAW members might attend a viewing arranged by a farming group in Kent. • Wild flower meadow. Janet Upson hoped to hold this event jointly with Rory in May 2024, avoiding the bank holiday and half-term. • Nightingales and Turtle Doves (keeping fingers crossed that they return). Mystole Orchard in early May. • Naturalists' Picnic. Mystole Orchard. August. • Bat evening. Mystole Orchard. Summer. • Bird ringing and / or meadow management at Walmer. Summer. It was possible that responses to the survey might identify further events.	Keith & Jenny Keith, Rory Rory Rory Jenny & Keith Jenny & Keith Jenny & Keith Dave
6.	Publicity KLAW's website was had been updated by Jenny, who had included a link to KWT's "Land Management Advice" document, and would also add a section on plastics, to be provided by Bob. Rory had earlier confirmed that KWT's website was being updated, and would include links to KLAW's website and our April 2023 leaflet. The next issue of KWT's magazine (Summer 2024) could feature a KLAW case study. SallyE volunteered to write about Langdon Garden.	Bob, Jenny Rory SallyE
7.	Any Other Business Rory had reported that he was planning to have 6 weeks' paternity leave starting mid-February. He expected to miss the February and March committee meetings (to be hosted by Ellen Wilson, and chaired by Keith as Secretary), but hoped that he might be able to attend the AGM on 23 March.	
8.	Dates of next committee meetings, and our AGM Committee meetings: Rory had to set up meetings for 2024 at 11.00 – 12.00 on the 3rd Monday of each month, the next being on 19 February. AGM: This was set for Saturday 23rd March, and will be held at Ed Kyrke-Smith's "The Willows" as in previous years (unless Ed gets a paid booking, in which case we'll sort out another venue). The agenda would include news of the results of the survey of members, and possibly a discussion of Biodiversity Net Gain.	Keith

