KLAW Committee Meeting 15 September 2025 – Minutes v1

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

Present: Rory Harding (Chair); Genny Maskell; Dave Casey; Jenny Dugmore (Treasurer);

Keith Dugmore (Secretary). **Apologies:** Julia Brant.

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Chair's introduction	
	Rory welcomed members of the committee.	
2.	Membership	
	Jerry Whitmarsh had withdrawn due to ill health.	
	Tricia Lawrence of Kier Meadow Nature Reserve at Blean had joined as a Landholder, having been encouraged by Michael Walter.	
	The number of Landholders therefore remained 42.	
3.	Grants & other financial support	
	Biodiversity Net Gain. BNG is of real interest, and it was agreed that Rory should ask Nicky Britton-Williams if she would give an update of her earlier talk, focussing on examples of case studies in the last two years. This could provide a springboard for members (including Nicola Smith and Paul Wilson) to meet for detailed discussion.	Rory
	Making Space for Nature. The MSN strategy is expected to be published by KCC in November.	
	Stour Valley Restore. Will Hirstle had sent news of progress: an Overview, and a questionnaire for landholders. These would be added to the forthcoming KLAW News Update, which would also seek the names of the subset of members in the catchment area who might want to be involved in the future.	Keith
	Rory would check whether KWT will be responding to the questionnaire.	Rory
	Chalk to Coast. Pledges by farmers continued to be gathered.	,
	National Trails Nature Recovery Programme. Dave thought that Walmer Castle might be a candidate, and would raise this with them.	Dave
4.	Recording baseline data, and getting expert help	
	Local Wildlife Sites. Dave Shenton was in contact with KLAW members (Janet Upson, Judy Heiser, Genny, and the Dugmores) who were interested in their landholdings being designated as Local Wildlife Sites.	
	Videos of KLAW talks. Rory would seek to provide the original full file videos of the following talks for KLAW's website. (Jenny has already posted links).	Rory
	 Dan Tuson (11 December) "Wild flower grasslands". Neil Coombs (9 January) "Surveying and Monitoring Wildlife". Nicole Khan (26 February) "Saving Turtle Doves in Kent". Dr John Puckett (10 March) "Bats in Kent". 	

5.	Events (organised by, or involving KLAW)	
	Planned visits:	
	 17 September, 19.00 at Sheldwich. A talk on rewilding and farming by Rory. 21 September AM. Dormouse Hunt at Dunkirk, hosted by Nicola. 4 October. A second spoon carving and ancient woodland workshop near Tenterden, organised by Frankie Woodgate. 25 October. Kent Wildlife Conference at the University of Kent. 	Keith to publicise in the News Update, and send invitations
	Possible future visits:	
	 KWT's Ham Fen reserve – a private visit for KLAW members. Rory would seek info on possible costs, dates, and minimum numbers. Equine ecology workshop at Aidamora, hosted by Julia. Hedge Laying course (in the autumn / winter), e.g. Michael White. Sheep event. Rory to discuss with Rob Graham. Scything. Sally Edge had provided information about Mary Ellis, who runs courses. Genny and Rory will investigate the idea of holding an event next year, and possible sources of funding. Lichen walk with an expert (e.g. Ishpi Blatchley, Keith Palmer). Jenny & Keith to seek advice from Lesley Mason. 	Rory Julia Julia Rory Genny & Rory Jenny & Keith
	Possible winter online presentations / discussions:	
	 BNG latest news. Nicky Britton-Williams. Dave Shenton on Local Wildlife Sites. Lee Brady (Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group), to include animals' geographical isolation / possibility of spreading. Hazel Ryan from Wildwood (e.g. dormice). Chalk to Coast. 	Rory Keith Keith
6.	Publicity	
	KLAW News Updates had been emailed to members on 25 July and 20 August, and another would be sent after this meeting.	Keith
	KLAW's website was being kept up to date by Jenny.	
7.	Any Other Business Rory informed the committee that he would be leaving KWT to start a new job in South-East Water's environment team, starting on 20 October. All the members expressed their best wishes for Rory in his new job, and also the hope that he might be able to continue as KLAW's Chair.	
	Rory identified three issues arising: a) would SE Water allow him to continue; b) the value to KLAW of having a contact within KWT (Dave Shenton could be invited to join the committee); and c) setting up our monthly online meetings (there are various options for this).	
	Rory would explore these issues and report back before 20 October.	Rory
8.	Dates & times of future committee meetings	
	The next committee meeting was scheduled for 20 October at 10.00.	