

KLAW Committee Meeting 18 August 2026 – Minutes v1

The meeting, arranged by Dave Shenton, was held using Teams.

Present: Keith Dugmore (Secretary, & acting Chair); Genny Maskell; Dave Shenton; Jenny Dugmore (Treasurer).

Apologies: Rory Harding; Dave Casey; Richard Coleman.

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Chair's introduction Keith welcomed members of the committee, explaining that Rory was on holiday in Wales.	
2.	Membership Another Supporter had joined: Helen Reddy, who had been at Woodsell, and has now joined Stour Valley Restore. We now have 48 Landholder Members and 16 Supporters. Following staff changes https://woodsell.co.uk/ is still good prospect. DaveS will encourage Leila to sign up.	DaveS
3.	Grants & other support Stour Valley Restore. Jon Shelton had been in touch to report the recruitment of two new staff members, Helen Renny and Charlotte Chapman. The team would be in touch with KLAW in the coming months. Three further sources of grants had been identified, and more detail would be provided in the next KLAW News Update email: Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier. DaveS had provided details, and advised acting swiftly. Genny raised the issue of members needing help to make such applications, and the need for knowledgeable mentors. DaveS offered to help, and identified Trayton Pont as another potential guide. Jenny highlighted the value of publicising successful applications on our website. Big Chalk Nature Recovery Fund. Rachel Boot had alerted us to this initiative, and the website Big Chalk Dashboard Kent Community Foundation. More funding for environmental projects.	DaveS
4.	Recording baseline data, and getting expert help KLAW WhatsApp Group. Genny's idea of reporting sightings was developing well, and Jenny had added news of the group to KLAW's application forms. Local Wildlife Sites. DaveS updated news of designations: • DaveC & Judy's Eleven Acre Wood – in progress. • Richard's Wouldham rewilding – in progress. • Carol Davis's Honeywood – in progress. • Jack Highwood's Crow Plain Farm, and Leeds Castle – both joining the Greensand Farm Cluster. • Rosie Cullen at Broad Oak – DaveS to visit soon.	

5.	Events (organised by, or involving KLAU) Recent events: - Annual Naturalists' Picnic at Upper Mystole on Sunday 9 August: the crowd of 35 had included 8 KLAU members. Planned events this year: - Lichen walk, with Ishpi Blatchley at Upper Mystole. [Ishpi is to visit on 30 August to rebuild her confidence for an open event]. - Micro moths with DaveS at Upper Mystole. DaveS to fix a date in the autumn. - A walk at Hothfield in October, led by Fungi Phil. DaveS was seeking a date in late October. - Kent Wildlife Conference. Now fixed for 24 October, with DaveS as one of the speakers. It was agreed to print copies of our KLAU leaflet, aiming to place them on the registration table. - Hedge Laying course (in the autumn / winter), e.g. Rob Graham again, or Michael White. Online talks in the autumn & winter: - Countryside Partnerships, by Jon Shelton, who manages the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership – Keith to seek a date in November. - Lee Brady (KRAU), to include animals' geographical isolation / possibility of spreading. 2027 possible events: - A visit to Chris West's land at Frittenden. - Ponds being proposed at Godmersham Estate with possible help from Natural England. - Bee Walk. Keith to discuss with DaveS.	Jenny & Keith DaveS DaveS Keith Rory & Genny Keith Keith Keith Rory & Keith Keith, DaveS
6.	Publicity KLAU News Update. To be sent to members. KLAU Website. Jenny was keeping this up to date. A new sign advertising KLAU. Postcard size, & laminated, for fences, & probably using a QR code. Keith was seeking information from Richard.	Keith Keith, Richard
7.	Any Other Business DaveS reported news of DEFRA's Farmer Collaboration Fund, a £30 million initiative supporting farmers and land managers to share knowledge, collaborate, and strengthen business resilience. KWT was submitting a bid.	
8.	Dates & times of future committee meetings Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 10.00. DaveS would edit the Teams links for our future meetings.	DaveS