

## KLAW Annual General Meeting 11.00, 15 March 2025 – Minutes

The meeting was hosted by Sally Edge at Langdon Court, Graveney, ME13 9DA.

### Present:

Rory Harding (Chair) – Joyce Field, Faversham

Sally Edge – Langdon Garden, Graveney

Julia Brant – Aidamora, Kingston

Genny Maskell – Bow Meadow, Wateringbury

Lesley Mason – Aviaries, Stubbs Cross

Nicola Smith – Highwood Lodge, Dunkirk

Jenny Dugmore (Treasurer) – Mystole Orchard, Chartham

Keith Dugmore (Secretary) – Mystole Orchard, Chartham

Apologies had been received from Dave Casey, Ed Kyrke-Smith, Amanda & Rob Brookman, Rebecca Smith, Charles Tassell, Caroline Lewis, Richard Coleman, and Mark Richardson.

| Item | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Action |
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| 1.   | <b>Chair's welcome</b><br>Rory welcomed everyone and thanked Sally for hosting the meeting at Langdon Court. The attendees introduced themselves and their interests.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |
| 2.   | <b>Minutes of the 2024 AGM</b><br>The minutes of the AGM held on 23 March 2024 were accepted.<br>The headline findings of the 2024 survey of members' interests remained a valuable reference, especially in view of the 85% response rate.                                                                                                                                   |        |
| 3.   | <b>Secretary's Report of 2024/5 activities</b><br>Keith introduced his Secretary's report, which summarised news of membership (Landholders having increased from 36 to 40, and Supporters from 8 to 12, each having been recruited primarily by word of mouth), the management committee, events (15 had been held), grants, and current publicity.                          |        |
| 4.   | <b>Treasurer's report for 2024/5</b><br>Jenny reported that no income or expenditure had been recorded as yet, Jenny and Keith having paid for the website hosting. Our bank account was being kept active to prevent it being treated as dormant.<br>Rory reported that Farming in Protected Landscapes has announced more funding for landholders and would supply details. | Rory   |
| 5.   | <b>The government's new Land Use Framework</b><br>Rory introduced the government's consultation, which includes a long-term view of land use change:<br><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-national-conversation-on-land-use">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-national-conversation-on-land-use</a>                       |        |

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|    | <p>KWT's Chief Executive, Evan Bowen-Jones, had commented in his latest blog, highlighting why nature must be treated as critical infrastructure and sharing KWT's response.</p> <p><a href="https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/blog/rebuilding-nature">https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/blog/rebuilding-nature</a></p> <p>The consultation closes on 25 April.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6. | <p><b>“What’s rattling your cage?” – members’ current interests and ideas for future events</b></p> <p><b>Ideas for events:</b></p> <p>Nicola: Countryside Stewardship funding – Zoom webinar 27th March. Keith to publicise in the next News Update</p> <p>Nicola: Linking Blean &amp; Perry Woods. A public event organised by the Green Party on 12 April. Nicola to provide details.</p> <p>Rory: Nightingales with Chas Holt in late April /early May.</p> <p>Sally: Langdon Open Garden on 11 May. Keith to publicise in the next News Update</p> <p>Genny: Scythe Association of Britain &amp; Ireland – Mary Ellis<br/><a href="https://scytheassociation.org/tutors/mary-ellis/">https://scytheassociation.org/tutors/mary-ellis/</a> Sally to contact.</p> <p>Rory: KWT's Ham Fen reserve – a private visit for KLAW members.</p> <p>Jenny &amp; Keith: Lichen expert walk – Ishpi Blatchley, Keith Palmer? Lesley to investigate.</p> <p>Rory: Sheep event. To discuss with Rob Graham.</p> <p>Julia: Hedge Laying course (in the autumn / winter), e.g. Michael White.</p> <p><b>Events – planning:</b></p> <p>Jenny emphasised the importance of taking photos at our events for the webpage.</p> <p>There's scope for publicising our events to other groups (although we need to beware parking limits).</p> <p>The possibility of members sharing cars should be included in the publicity / invitation.</p> <p>It was agreed that if event venues have ponds, this should be included in the publicity / invitation.</p> <p><b>Ideas for online talks</b></p> <p>It was agreed that we should continue to arrange online talks in the winter months. Possible speakers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazel Ryan from Wildwood (e.g. dormice)</li> <li>• Lee Brady (Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group)</li> </ul> <p><b>Other topics raised:</b></p> <p>Jenny is searching for a DC powered pressure switch for a borehole, to avoid the risk of excess power if the pipes freeze.</p> | <p>Keith</p> <p>Nicola</p> <p>Rory</p> <p>Keith</p> <p>Sally</p> <p>Rory</p> <p>Lesley</p> <p>Rory</p> <p>Julia</p> <p>All</p> <p>Keith</p> <p>Keith</p> <p>Keith</p> |

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|    | Keith: The future of members' landholdings? Lesley pointed to the option of conservation covenants: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-and-using-a-conservation-covenant-agreement">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-and-using-a-conservation-covenant-agreement</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |       |
| 7. | <p><b>Publicity: ideas for attracting more members</b></p> <p>Existing recruitment by word of mouth is helped by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KLAW's website <a href="https://klawonline.co.uk/">https://klawonline.co.uk/</a> : Members expressed their thanks to Jenny for keeping it up to date.</li> <li>• KLAW leaflet <a href="https://klawonline.co.uk/images/KLAW_leaflet_03.pdf">https://klawonline.co.uk/images/KLAW_leaflet_03.pdf</a></li> <li>• KWT's Managing Land for a Wilder Kent booklet was a valuable resource, and Rory would arrange for another 50 to be printed.</li> </ul> <p>Keith observed that our Facebook page attracts very little traffic.</p> | Rory  |
| 8. | <p><b>KLAW officers for 2025</b></p> <p>Keith reported that there were currently two vacancies on the Management Committee, and everyone was pleased when Genny agreed to join. Keith would let her know how we operate.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Keith |
| 9. | <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>All those present expressed their thanks to Sally for hosting the session, including the delicious lunch.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |       |