

## KLAW Annual General Meeting 11.00, 14 March 2026 – Minutes

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

**Present:**

Rory Harding (Chair)	Joyce Field, Faversham
Rachel Boot	Guest Speaker, Kent County Council
Sally Edge	Langdon Garden, Graveney
Genny Maskell	Bow Meadow, Waterringbury
Keith Dugmore	Mystole Orchard, Chartham
Rebecca Smith	Supporter, and Ash Wildlife Friendly Village Group
Annabel Falcon	Shepherds Hill, Selling
Ginny Wenban	Supporter, and Canterbury District Swifts Project
Edmond Rube	The Pines, St Margaret's Bay
Jack Highwood	Crow Plain Farm, Tonbridge
Richard Coleman	Supporter, and Wouldham Rewilding Project
Sarah Cassidy	Clayhanger Hall, Chislet Forstal

Apologies had been received from Jenny Dugmore, Dave Casey, Charles Tassell, Lesley Mason and Mark Richardson.

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome – Rory Harding &amp; Sally Edge</b></p> <p>Rory welcomed everyone and thanked Sally for hosting the meeting at Langdon Court. The attendees introduced themselves and their interests.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the 2025 AGM</b></p> <p>The minutes of the AGM held on 15 March 2025 were accepted.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Secretary’s Report of 2025/6 activities</b></p> <p>Keith introduced his Secretary’s report, which summarised news of membership (Landholders having increased from 40 to 44, and Supporters from 12 to 14, each having been recruited primarily by word of mouth), the management committee, events (12 had been organised), grants, and current publicity.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Treasurer’s report for 2025/6</b></p> <p>Keith related Jenny’s report that no income or expenditure had been recorded as yet, and that she was keeping our bank account active to prevent it being treated as dormant. Jenny and Keith were paying for the website hosting.</p>	
5.	<p><b>The new Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and how KLAW members can help</b></p> <p>Rory welcomed our guest speaker Rachel Boot, KCC lead on the new Local Nature Recovery Strategy <a href="https://www.naturerecoverykent.org.uk/">https://www.naturerecoverykent.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Rachel ‘s excellent presentation, which would be posted on KLAW’s website, sparked a range of questions from members, who were</p>	

	<p>particularly interested in the mapping facility which identifies where in the county action should be targeted to deliver the greatest outcomes for habitats and species: <a href="https://www.naturerecoverykent.org.uk/local-nature-recovery-strategy-mapping-portal/">https://www.naturerecoverykent.org.uk/local-nature-recovery-strategy-mapping-portal/</a></p>	
6.	<p><b>“What’s rattling your cage?” – members’ current interests and ideas for future events</b></p> <p><b>Ponds.</b> This session started with a lively discussion about creating and repairing ponds, and liners such as bentonite, butyl, and blue clay (Jack has a supply). KLAW’s management committee would consider how best to pursue this, one option being to invite FGS Pilcher to speak.</p> <p><b>Countryside Partnerships.</b> These can be a valuable source of free or low cost support. Rachel offered to find a speaker for an online session.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI).</b> Jack commented on the new SFI, which follows on from Countryside Stewardship, for sites of 3HA or more, with grants being paid by the Rural Payments Agency: <a href="https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2026/01/08/the-new-sfi-offer-for-2026/">https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2026/01/08/the-new-sfi-offer-for-2026/</a></p> <p><b>Ecosystem Collapse.</b> Annabel highlighted a lecture at DICE on 13 February by Professor Nathalie Pettorelli OBE, a conservation biologist focused on nature recovery and identifying solutions to biodiversity loss. Edmond followed up with news of suppressed national security assessment on global ecosystem and nature collapse: <a href="https://www.itv.com/news/2026-02-27/nature-loss-could-cost-twice-as-much-as-financial-crash-leaked-report-reveals">https://www.itv.com/news/2026-02-27/nature-loss-could-cost-twice-as-much-as-financial-crash-leaked-report-reveals</a></p> <p><b>Rewilding One to Fifty Acres.</b> Jack praised this book by Jonathan Thomson of Underhill Rewilding, and it was agreed to invite Jonathan to speak and / or to hold an event at Jack’s farm.</p>	<p>Committee</p> <p>Rachel</p> <p>Jack / Keith</p>
7.	<p><b>Publicity: ideas for attracting more members</b></p> <p>Existing recruitment is primarily by word of mouth, helped by working with Dave Shenton’s Local Wildlife Sites. Rachel offered to extend this to the LNRS, and Keith would send her a publicity flyer.</p>	<p>Keith</p>
8.	<p><b>KLAW officers for 2026</b></p> <p>Keith reported that there was a vacancy on the Management Committee, and Richard agreed to join. Keith would let him know the ropes.</p>	<p>Keith</p>
9.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Members lamented the amount of litter that was being scattered in the countryside.</p> <p>All those present expressed their thanks to Sally for hosting the session, including the delicious lunch.</p>	