

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held at  
Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade, on  
Monday 13 May 2019 commencing at 7.00pm.**

Present: Mr B Hinder (Chairman), Mrs A Brindle, Mr R Burrows, Mr J Constable, Mr Ivor Davies, Mr P Dengate, Mrs A Dickerson, Mr G Hayday, Mrs W Hinder, Mrs P Huntingford, Mrs K Macklin, Mr P Sullivan together with the Clerk Mrs P Bowdery and Assistant Clerk Mrs M Fooks.

Visitors: Mr V Davies and Mr S Findlay (press)

1. **Apologies for absence.**

Ms L Clarke, Mr T Harwood, Mr D Hollands, Mr M Knight-Olds (GGCH), Mr K Clarke (FoWH&W)

2. **Minutes of 21 May 2018 meeting.**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. **Matters arising.**

There were none.

4. **Boxley Parish Council Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman started his report by recognising the sad loss of long serving Parish Councillor Pat Brooks earlier in the year and welcoming her replacement also called Pat to her first Annual Meeting of the Parish.

He also acknowledged the creation of a traffic management working group with neighbouring Bearsted Parish Council which has developed into meetings and discussion on a range of issues affecting both parishes and hoped that this would continue in the future

The Chairman commended the work of the Environment Committee chaired by Wendy Hinder highlighting the year has been fraught with contentious planning applications and at the top of the list is the two school proposals for Popes Field, which involved a public meeting organised by the Parish Council at Grove Green Community Centre involving the local MP Helen Whately. This was followed closely by Gibraltar Farm, parking issues in and around Grove Green, Innovation Centre Planning proposals and East Hill Development Off North Dane Way. Daffodils were purchased again this year and thanks were given to the volunteers who helped to plant them.

The Estates Committee ably chaired by Vic Davies saw an extremely busy year too with the successful completion of the extension of what is now called, the Acorn Room, a smart new asset to Beechen Hall and the Parish Council. This was officially opened by Mayor Cllr David Naghi including the unveiling of Honour Boards in recognition of past Parish Chairman and recipients of community awards.

The committee also gave their time one weekend in landscaping an area outside the entrance to the hall. There is still a section to be completed hopefully in the near future.

The Chairman thanked the Finance and General Purposes Committee chaired by Ivor Davies ensuring that the Parish Council budget balances. The Parish Council ventured into new territory this year by taking out a public works loan to cover

some of the cost of the hall extension and was carefully calculated so that it did not put a financial burden on the parishioners.

Planning permission has been granted for the housing development on Wildfell Close enabling the implementation of a long-term management plan for Walderslade Woods. However as yet it does not appear that any developers have expressed an interest.

The Chairman went on to confirm the employment of 2 new caretakers. And lastly he conveyed his reluctant acceptance of the Clerk's resignation after more than 20 years with the Council. He praised Pauline's work, knowledge and tenacity in her role, by stating she was unique and will be sorely missed by lots of people and organisations. Interviews are taking place for her replacement and it is hoped that with the help of Mel and Angie a smooth transition into the role will be made by the new person.

5. **Financial Report.**

Work had been completed on the End of Year Report for submission to the External Auditor and this would be presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 27 May before being signed off by the Parish Council at its June meeting. Copies will then be made available on the website and from the parish office.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council was about to enter its audit period where its books and paperwork were open for public inspection.

6. **Reports From Local Organisations**

Reports were received from:

Dove Hill Allotments – Chairman of Working Group Bob Hinder

Friends of Weaving Heath and Woodlands – Melanie Fooks on behalf of Keith Clarke

Grove Green Community Centre – Vic Davies

Vinters Valley Trust – Chairman Vic Davies

Walderslade Woodlands Group – Rob Burrows

The Chairman presented Ivor Davies with the KALC Community Award for his continued service to the community having for the past 9 years delivered the Downs Mail to residents in the north of the parish and for his work as a valued member of Walderslade Woodlands Group.

7. **Questions.**

There were none.

8. **Date of next meeting.**

To be advised.

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.