**Minutes of the Boxley Parish Council Meeting held at Beechen Hall, Wildfell Close, Walderslade on the 22 January 2025 at 7.30pm**

**Councillors Present**:  P Mclean, A Brindle, I Davies, M Cox, A Adams, P Sulivan, V Jones, K Macklin, C English and J Akehurst together with Mrs D Baylis – Parish Clerk, Borough Councillor Mark Naghi and 4 members of the public

Before the meeting started a presentation was given by British Solar Renewables regarding the proposed solar farm in Harp Farm Road

1. **Election of Vice-chairman**

Cllr Mclean was nominated by Cllr Brindle. His nomination was seconded by Cllr I Davies. There being no other nominations he was duly elected vice-chairman**.**

1. **Apologies and absences**

Cllrs Beckwith, Bryant and Hinder.

1. **Declaration of Interests, Dispensations, Predetermination or Lobbying**

None

1. **Motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting for all items in the confidential section.**

It was proposed by Cllr P Mclean, seconded by Cllr A Brindle and all agreed that members of the public be excluded from all items in the confidential section.

1. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 4 December 2024**

Agreed with one amendment.

1. **Matters Arising From the Minutes**

Cllr Jones raised Minute 3907 Item 10.4 KALC representative report. The report stated that hybrid meetings could now be held. This does not apply to parish council meetings as this is still under review nationally.

1. **Crime Report and Police Issues**

Report noted. Cllr Mclean reported that one house in Weavering Street had had 2 attempted break-ins.

**Public Session at the discretion of the Chairman. Parishioners may address the meeting with regard to any item on the Agenda (time limited to 3 minutes per person). Items not on the Agenda must be submitted to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. Non-parishioners are only able to address the meeting at the invitation of the Chairman.**

Pam Spratt had attended on behalf of the Lotus Group who had recently bought Boxley House. They were planning on restoring the house and recreating the gardens. They were hiring a heritage and conservation expert to restore the house. They would be applying for change of use to offices.

1. **Draft Minutes of Recent Committee Meetings**

8.1 Environment Committee 9 December 2024

 Noted

8.2 Finance and General Purposes Committee 8 January 2025

 Noted

1. **Finance**

9.1 **Bank Balances**

 Noted

9.2 **Finance General**

 The bank mandates had been signed to get all members of the F&GP Committee as signatories to the parish councils bank accounts.

9.3 **Receipts and Payments 1-31 December 2024**

 Noted

9.4 **To agree the budget put forward by the Finance and General Purposes Committee**

 It was agreed that the referendum and new elections code be merged and £10,000 be added to cover the cost of by-elections. It was agreed that a 5 year forecast would be useful for next year.

 It was proposed by Cllr English, seconded by Cllr I Davies and all agreed that the budget put forward be agreed with the above amendment.

9.5 **To set the Precept for 2025/26**

It was proposed by Cllr English, seconded by Cllr Jones and all agreed that the Precept request would be £288,804.

1. **Policies and Procedures**

10.1 **Policies and Procedures review document**

None on this Agenda.

1. **By-Election**

The letter from MBC detailing timings and costs to BPC was noted. The by-election would be on the 6th March, nominations to be received by 7 February and would cost £6-10,000. It was proposed by Cllr A Brindle, seconded by Cllr I Davies and agreed with one abstention to have poll cards issued.

1. **Reports from Boxley Parish Councillors/Office**

12.1 **Office Staff Report**

No report given

12.2 **Councillors Reports**

Cllr Brindle had attended the Lidsing Steering Group meeting which had been very productive. The timescales for the SPD’s were very short. Still no plans for North South traffic.

12.3 **Borough/County Councillor Reports**

Cllr Thompson had sent a report on the 22 January 2025 which had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of the meeting.

Cllr English reported that the Devolution process had shelved the idea of a Community and Governance review of Grove Green.

Cllr Jones reported that MBC’s leader was meeting on Monday to look at possible boundaries for a town council. There would possibly be a parish conference. There would likely be a Kent mayor in 2026. The upgrade of Bluebell Hill had been put out for consultation by KCC. The final SPD and its adoption were anticipated in October with consultations prior to this. Bredhurst bridge at the end of the Street would be shut for the next 5 weeks which might have an effect on Boxley.

12.4 **KALC Representative**

 No meeting had been held.

12.5 **Grove Green Community Hall Representative**

Cllr Mclean said that the next meeting was later in January. He gave a big thankyou to Cllr Cox for the Father Christmas event which had been a fairly successful afternoon.

12.6 **Sandling Village Hall Representative**

Cllr Akehurst reported that the next meeting would be in February. The postcode had been set up but would take 6 months to filter through.

12.7 **Vinters Valley Nature Reserve Representative**

Cllr Cox reported that it had been a very wet and cold start to the year. They had been without their warden due to a planned operation but he was now back at full strength. They had had a good response to the Christmas tree recycling. A willow structure had been planted in memory of Harry Lowder. The Big Day Out was scheduled for June 1st and they would probably schedule their open day and AGM for this day.

12.8 **Any other reports**

None.

1. **Sandling**

No update for this Agenda. Cllr Akehurst had a volunteer that would help Michael with the installation of the new noticeboard.

1. **Ratifications**

**Appointment to the Environment Committee**

Cllr Alan Adams was proposed by Cllr English, seconded by Cllr Brindle. Cllr Jones proposed herself and was seconded by Cllr McLean. A vote was taken with Cllr Adams receiving 8 votes and Cllr Jones 2 votes. Cllr Adams was duly appointed to the Environment Committee.

1. **Grant Applications**

None.

1. **Matters for Decision**

None for this Agenda.

1. **Matters for Information**

Only 1 nomination had been received for the KALC awards.

Cllr Mclean asked that a letter of thanks for their time on the Council be sent to Cllrs Thompson and Sheppard.

The chairman extended the meeting.

1. **Items for Next Agenda**

Noted,

1. **Meetings**

Next Meeting Wednesday 3 March 2025 at Weavering Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**Confidential Section**

1. **Personnel matters**

No report for this meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.36 pm.

Signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman ……………………………………………….. Date ………………………………………………………..