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# BROMHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP** HELD ON TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026 AT BROMHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attendees: Keith Smith (Chair)  
Sian Woodfine  
Trevor Roff

Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer: Julie Betts

Public: There were no members of the public in attendance

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Action         |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1/26 | <b>Apologies for Absence</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                |
|      | There were no apologies for absence.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Note           |
| 2/26 | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |
|      | Declarations were as previously recorded in the minutes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Note           |
| 3/26 | <b>Notes of Meeting Held on 13 October 2025</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |
|      | The meeting considered the draft notes of the meeting held on 1 September 2025.<br><br><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b><br><br><b>That the notes of the meeting held on 13 October 2025 be approved.</b><br><br><i>(Proposed by: Keith Smith, Seconded by: Sian Woodfine , All in favour)</i> | Note<br><br>PC |
| 4/26 | <b>National and Local Planning Context</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |
|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                |
|      | <b>(a) Bedford Borough Council Local Plan 2040</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                |
|      | A report on the Local Plan was expected to go to the Executive Committee meeting of Bedford Borough Council on 22 April 2026.                                                                                                                                                        | Note           |

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| 5/26 | <b>New Developments</b>                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |       |
|      | (a)                                              | Old Stable Yard                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |       |
|      |                                                  | No update.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Note  |
|      | (b)                                              | Land South of Northampton Road                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |       |
|      |                                                  | The Planning application for Land South of Northampton Road was approved by Bedford Borough Council Planning Committee on 17 November 2025. The land was for sale, tenders close on Friday 27 February 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Note  |
|      |                                                  | Rainier had confirmed they would stay involved with the development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Note  |
| 6/26 | <b>Neighbourhood Plan Review Document Format</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |       |
|      |                                                  | Keith Smith had prepared options for a review document for consideration by the group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Note  |
|      |                                                  | Keith had worked on an addendum approach but considered this to be too difficult. Therefore, Keith recommended a revised version of the Neighbourhood Plan. Sian Woodfine and Trevor Roff agreed with this approach.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |       |
|      |                                                  | <u>Education</u><br>It was agreed that an update on education was necessary. Sian confirmed that she had met with the new headteacher at Bromham Primary who had confirmed that local numbers were down and the previous year the school had taken 20% of children from other areas. Information tells us that there is a falling birthrate therefore school would be sufficient for additional housing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |       |
|      |                                                  | It was agreed to seek confirmation on current position from Bedford Borough Council Education.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | SW/JB |
|      |                                                  | <u>Potential Policy Changes</u><br>It was agreed that cycle lanes, pedestrian islands and moveable speed indicators had been included in the original with the best intentions after discussions with highways. Although pedestrian and cyclist safety remain a priority, in the current financial climate it was unrealistic to include them as policies. It was agreed that the most practical approach was to regard these proposed facilities as aspirations but recognise that they would have to compete with other aspirations for priority as and when any funding became available. Therefore, they should be included in the revised plan along with non-policy actions. | Note  |
|      |                                                  | <u>Coverage of Questionnaire Responses.</u><br>A number of issues had been raised in the 2024 questionnaire and the Issues and Options questionnaire which needed to be reflected in the revised plan. These include traffic across Bromham Bridge; getting in and out of Bromham via the A428 at busy times, and traffic flows around the Swan, Village Road and Stagsden Road junctions. These points are not currently mentioned and should be added as non-policy options along with some indication of how they might be taken forward. As with many such issues funding. will be the principal stumbling block                                                               | TR/KS |
|      |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Note  |

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|      | <p><u>Bromham Mill and CIL Sections</u></p> <p>The section on the development of Bromham Mill requires significant updating and requires its own policy. Similarly, the Section on CIL priorities needs updating to reflect current thinking.</p> <p><u>Evidence Documents:</u> (Design Code, GI Plan, Sports &amp; Leisure)<br/>GI Plan would feed into the policies map.</p> <p>Policies map to be produced by Beds Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about some points in the GI Plan that had been raised with the Steering Group. It was agreed that these should be taken up with BRCC</p> |      |
| 7/26 | <b>Project Plan – No update</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |
|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |      |
| 8/26 | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |      |
|      | <p>Date of next meeting –Monday 20 April 2026, 6pm.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 7.15pm.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Note |