



# Minutes

Meeting held on 17 June 2025 at 18.30 at Borough Hall.

## Members present:

Ann Kennedy (AK) – Chair of the meeting  
Bob Wallace (BW)  
Mark Poxton  
David Mitchell (DM)  
Nigel Jacobs (NJ)  
Barry Ingram (BI)  
Cllr Martin Towler (MT)  
Cllr Nicola Gribble (NB)

## In attendance/Observers:

April Quinn – Bedford Borough Council  
Andrew Prigmore – Bedford Borough Council  
Rob Price - Bedford Borough Council

## Apologies received:

James Russell

## Clerk:

Georgina McDade

## 1. Governance

AK elected as new chair unanimously. BW and JR elected as co vice chairs unanimously.

## 2. Welcome by the Chairman

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked BW for his time spent as chair over the last few years.

Minutes from March were agreed and signed.

Apologies received as above.

## 3. East West Rail

Currently, no confirmed route or formal consultation has commenced.

AK advised that the new mayor of Cambridgeshire has requested a new route; Bedford to Hitchin. Members agreed that EWR will be a recurring agenda item.

#### **4. Solar Farm Applications**

AK acknowledged that bridleways are generally being accommodated in applications with some widths of paths being 10 metres. She advised that several solar farm applications were being submitted to the Borough Council;- Cople, Podington, Wymington and Thurleigh. Multiuser paths have been suggested.

AK suggested that the planning department should send all solar farm applications to the RoW team, regardless of whether PROW are affected. It provides the opportunity to request improvements and create more routes.

AQ confirmed that ROW will request that all solar planning applications are forwarded to team for comment.

#### **5. Universal**

BW advised that Universal were meeting Wootton PC on 21 June 2025

MT confirmed that whilst the site is located within the Borough, all decisions are being made by central government- the Authority and other local councils are consultees.

BW advised that the LAF should be submitting their views on the proposal regarding affected RoW as well as more access for surrounding areas. Confirmed that at least 2 RoW will be directly affected by the site.

AP suggested the LAF should put forward suggestions as to how the affected RoW should be dealt with.

BI commented that a cycle path/multi user route should be constructed along the railway and provide links into the site.

Members agreed that Universal will be a running agenda item.

#### **2& 6. Welcome by the Chairman**

AK returned to agenda item 2 to introduce RP as new RoW inspector.

AQ provided updated on the network regarding bridge maintenance and vegetation clearance.

BW requested that all Parish Council's be contacted annually with regards to SVC routes.

AQ advised that the SVC schedules are set in Jan for the forthcoming year. BBC will endeavour to liaise with all PCs regarding the routes for 2026.

BW suggested that the Authority needs to publicise the excellent work that the ROW team undertake, particularly the recent 3 resurfaced paths.

## **8. Case updates**

AQ provided brief update on cases. Advised that many are still with PINS awaiting decisions.

AP provided briefing regarding the Odell hearing. **Decision received on 01 July – Order confirmed with modifications. Route downgraded from BOAT to Restricted Byway.**

## **9. Volunteering**

Up to date volunteering list circulated to members during meeting.

BW provide update and confirmed that 3 paths were cleared on day of meeting.

## **10. Membership**

GM confirmed that website has been updated to reflect current membership.

AK reiterated that new members are needed to reflect broader interests.

MT suggested that PCs should be encouraged to advertise for new members and the LAF in general.

AK suggested that approaching universities could help to introduce younger members. Off road cyclists would be advantageous. Confirmed meeting with the local rep of the Green Lane Association and would encourage them to join.

**AK to draft advert for membership.**

## **11. Boundary Walk**

AP advised a meeting was scheduled with the Mayor at the end of June to discuss the walk and potential funding.

BW advised could apply to Ramblers for funding for signage.

**Georgina to circulate boundary map. Completed.**

AK suggested that the Boundary Walk is checked as to whether it will be affected by any proposed developments.

BW advised that the route should be walked to confirm useability and practicality of the route.

**NCN51** – AP advised no update

**LCWIP** – AP advised no update. AK noted that there appears to be an issue with surfacing.

## **12. AOB**

MP asked what is best way to obtain a new path.

AP advised first step is to obtain landowner's consent. It is useful for PCs to be involved/support a proposal. Once landowner's consent has been received and PC is in support then can approach Council to consider.

BI advised that a meeting is taking place in July regarding the SSSI site in Pavenham.


AP requested waterways to be an agenda item for next meeting.

**Georgina to write to waterways requesting rep to attend.**

Confirmed agenda items for next meeting; Waterways, Ouse Valley Way, Boundary Walk.

Next meeting date confirmed for 02 September 2025.

Meeting concluded at 20.40.

Signed: 

Dated: 02 September 2025