

## Burwash Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group

15 April 2026, 6:00 pm; Parish Rooms Burwash

### Minutes

Present: Keith Lloyd (KL); Lindsay Green (LG); Lesley Elmslie (LE); Halina Keep (HK); Anne Newson (AN); Julian Kenny (JK)

- 1. Who should take the minutes?** LG agreed to take the minutes.
- 2. Apologies for absence.** Robert Banks (RB).
- 3. The minutes of the last meeting, 18/3/2026.** Agreed.
- 4. New disclosures of Interest.** None. Previous disclosures remain in force.

#### Standing item - housing

- 5. Update on Local Plan response.** The parish council's response was submitted on time. The parish council's comments were reflected by other organisations – the High Weald, Save our Fields and the CPRE. The CPRE expressed opposition to both proposed sites in Burwash Common on the grounds that they are “unsustainable” in planning terms.

The owners of Old Orchard Nursery have submitted a planning application to build 9 houses on part of the site (BWC2). The parish council's Planning Committee have made comments relating to density, access and parking.

It was agreed that KL should press Rother DC for a date for the production of the final version of the Local Plan (at the moment this is vague) so that future work on the NP can be properly scheduled. It was noted that Rother has in mind to submit the LP for examination before the end of December 2026 so that it will be tested against the current version of the NPPF.

- 6. Housing Needs Assessment.** LG outlined an approach for a simple HNA based on publicly accessible data. LG will work on this for the next meeting. Ideally, any output should be tested with Rother DC's Local Plan team to see if it was likely to be acceptable to the examiner.

At an appropriate point it was agreed to go back to Graham Quinell to ask him to come to a future meeting to discuss possible options for community-led housing, as it is not easy to see how this could work in Burwash. KL noted that 'Action in Rural Sussex' had agreed to meet to discuss a possible Housing Needs Survey on a “no obligation” basis. It was agreed not to take that forward at the moment.

KL noted that the transfer of Hornbeam from Rother DC to the parish council is on the basis that Hornbeam remains a rural green space.

Standing item – biodiversity/environment

- 7. Update.** The group agreed that work on this element should now restart. JK and AN will put together “chapter headings” for the next meeting, to include new work on dark skies, river water quality monitoring and updated data from iRecord.

The drafting of new policies will have to await the final Local Plan to ensure consistency/lack of conflict.

Standing item - infrastructure

- 8. Update.** Work on this element should also be restarted. LG to produce “chapter headings” for discussion at a future meeting.

- 9. Any other business.** None.

- 10. Date of next meeting.** Wednesday, 18 May at 6:30 pm in the parish room.

DRAFT