

**EASTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on
FRIDAY 9th MAY 2025
at EASTON & LETHERINGHAM VILLAGE HALL
at 7.00pm**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. Present from the Parish Council and Apologies

Present: Cllr Piggott, (Chair), Cllr Balcombe, Cllr Edwards, Cllr Gibbon, Cllr Ladbrook and Cllr Siddall. **In attendance:** A Staples (Clerk). 21 members of the public attended.

2. Approve Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2024

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Presentation from Grupotec: Re: Ancona Solar Farm proposals on land south of Hacheston Road / Easton Lane, followed by Q&A session

Doug Steele (Grupotec), Rhys Bradshaw (DLP Planning) and Andy Ansell (GNL Strategic) attended to give a presentation about the Ancona Solar Farm proposals. Questions were asked by members of the public and parish councillors.

4. Parish Council – Chair’s Report

The Chair of the Parish Council delivered her report. A written note of the report can be [read here](#).

5. District Councillors’ Report

Written reports were received from District Cllr Owen Grey ([read here](#)) and District Cllr Vince Langdon-Morris ([read here](#)).

6. County Councillor’s Report

No report received.

7. Reports invited from village organisations Including:

7.1. All Saints Church

Peter Bennett-King attended on behalf of the Church and presented a written report which can be [read here](#). In addition, Mr Bennett-King reported: Jane Woodbury-Eggins is standing down as Churchwarden after twelve years of diligent and dutiful service. Jane will continue to play an active part in the Church as Lay Elder, a role unique to Suffolk, having recently been recommissioned at a service in Hacheston Church together with five others; a visit took place from the Historic Churches

Trust just before Christmas, when the Church resounded with concordant music and harmonic voices; the primary school congregating for a concert, and for their Carol and Christingle services; the visit of the Pilgrims' Cross which involved a procession through the village; in April the annual meeting of Parishioners held together with the annual Parochial Church meeting and Parochial Church Council meeting; and the up-coming Sunday service for VE Day.

7.2. Easton Pre-School

A written report was received from Easton Pre-School which can be [read here](#).

7.3. Easton Primary School

A written report was received from Easton Primary School which can be [read here](#).

7.4. Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

Gerard Newnham presented a report on behalf of the Easton & Letheringham Village Hall Management Committee: the Village Hall AGM recently took place, and 28 members of the public attended. There have been recent changes to the membership of the Management Committee. Regarding the Village Hall's finances for last year, there was an income of approximately £7,100, with approximately £4,000 of this coming from hire income. Running costs were approximately £1,180 with about £4,000 spent on maintenance. Members of the public attending the AGM were asked what additional facilities they would like the Village Hall to provide, and Wi-Fi was the most popular request. It has been agreed this will be taken forward, which has the additional benefit of allowing the heating to be remote controlled. Installing solar panels on the roof is also under consideration. How to improve community engagement was raised. To this end, the Village Hall's schedule of hire fees has been adjusted. In future, donations will be sought for community events rather than a fixed hire charge. There has been an offer to have a website designed and the Management Committee think that it would be beneficial if it was a joint website involving all organisations in the village.

7.5. Easton Cricket Club

A written report was received from Easton Cricket Club which can be [read here](#).

7.6. Easton Bowls Club

Mike Cattermole attended on behalf of Easton Bowls Club and reported on: last year's Club's season, competing in the Woodbridge league, and concluding with a mid-table finish. Most notably, the Easton A and B teams competed in a tournament final held at the Easton Club, which was followed by a BBQ. There is concern about the lack of new members; the club wants to encourage more people to join and play,

especially younger people, otherwise they will struggle to field complete league teams.

8. Public forum

Peter Bennett-King queried what steps could be taken to encourage members of the community to engage in activities, and perhaps there should be a forum to discuss how to get people involved.

9. Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 21:15

Please view on the Parish Council website to open linked reports:

<https://easton.suffolk.cloud>