

Easton Parish Council

APPROVED MINUTES

EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING Held on 12 AUGUST 2025 at 7pm Easton Village Hall

57/25-26 PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present: Cllrs Ladbrook (Chair), Balcombe, Bennett-King, Edwards, and Palfreyman.

Apologies: Cllr Gibbon - absence approved. Apologies also received from District Cllrs Grey and Langdon-Morris.

In attendance: County Cllr Bryce and A Staples (Clerk).

58/25-26 COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA AND FOR CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was preceded by a public meeting for residents to express their views on agenda item 5.1 to councillors. 58 members of the public attended. The views expressed were overwhelming against the planning application, and included:

- Road access to the sites being unsuitable, and identified the heightened safety risks presented to all road users
- Impact on the historic amenity and attractions in the village
- Likely damage to the listed serpentine wall from adjacent trench works and heavy vehicle vibrations
- Enhanced flooding risks arising from the development of the sites
- Detrimental impacts from increased traffic flow through the village during the development phase
- Inevitable road closures during the trenching works; with the risk of the village being effectively cut off if closures coincide with roadway flooding
- Inappropriateness of changing land use from high grade agricultural land to power generation, whilst alternative rooftop and brown field options exist
- The long-term viability of the financial model of the applicant companies, especially considering likely price fluctuation in the electricity market
- The height of the panels, and the blight that will be caused to the beauty of the landscape, given the sites occupy an elevated aspect
- The cumulative detrimental effective from numerous proposed solar developments in the vicinity, (Easton, Letheringham, Glevering and Loudham), at the same time as significant local disruption caused by the Sizewell development



- The impact on a thriving tourist industry in the Deben valley, and the small businesses founded on this business
- There limited economic or other gains for residents of Easton, the profits of the development being outsourced to organisations with no stake in the local area
- Local resident will suffer disproportionate inconvenience without any seeing any benefits from these developments
- The blight caused by high security fencing around the sites, and the loss of views from the adjacent footpaths. These viewpoints are highlighted as meriting protection in the Easton Neighbourhood Plan
- Fire hazard caused by the panels, the lack of nearby fire-fighting resources were there to be an incident, and the well documented difficulty in tackling battery related electrical fires
- The paucity of engagement from the developer with the local community prior to submitting the planning application
- The need for active engagement from ESC Planning Officer, with attendance at a public meeting to directly hear voters' concerns requested.

59/25-26 RECEIVE ANY CHANGES TO MEMBERS INTERESTS
None received.

60/25-26 RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS
It was noted that Cllr Edwards and Cllr Gibbon have already submitted views on the planning application to be discussed at item 5.1 to ESC, in a personal capacity. Cllr Edwards decided that he would not speak or vote on item 5.1 to avoid any suggestion of a pre-determination of the issue. Cllr Gibbon was not present to vote at this meeting in any event.

61/25-26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

61/25-26.1 To consider response to consultation letter for: DC/25/2733/FUL; full planning application for the construction and operation of a Solar Farm (49.9MW) and Battery Energy Storage Scheme (50MW) with all associated works, equipment, enclosures, access and biodiversity net gains; Parcels to north-west of Easton and south-west of Letheringham

It was noted that the ESC Planning Officer has granted an extension to the consultation letter response expiry date until after the next meeting of Easton Parish Council, on 22 September 2025. The Parish Councillors noted that the overwhelming weight of views expressed by the public is against the proposed development. Following discussion, the council decided unanimously that the planning application be opposed. It was agreed a response be drafted to ESC's consultation letter, with councillors allocated to drafting specific parts of the text. It was agreed that draft response be presented for discussion at the next parish council meeting, with a view to seeking formal approval for submission to ESC on 23 September 2025.



**61/25-26.2 To note expired consultation letter received for:
DC/25/2666/TCA; 1no. Sycamore (T1 on plan) - reduce to 4 metres in
height and prune all branches overhanging School Lane back to trunk,
1no. pine (T2 on plan) - crown lift to 4 metres above ground, 1no. group
of unknown species (T3 on plan) - reduce in height to gutter level;
Sunnyside, School Lane, Easton, IP13 0ES**

The above application was noted without response.

Close of meeting: 19:43

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cllr Gibbon', written over a horizontal line.

**Cllr Gibbon (Vice-Chair)
22 September 2025**