

Easton Parish Council

APPROVED MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON FRIDAY 8th MAY 2026 – 7 pm Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

1/26-27

PRESENT & APOLOGIES

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

Apologies: Cllr Siddall (absence approved).

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

2/26-27

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

25-30 members of the public attended. In a show of hands, all present indicated they objected to the planning application **DC/25/2733/FUL**. The public were asked for comments, and to highlight evidence that could be submitted in support:

- Flooding from the watercourse that runs down from Martley Hall, which runs off the Framlingham and Kettleborough Roads, may impact the site, as evidenced by the SCC s.19 report.
- The effect on bird life - whose presence can be evidenced by recordings on the Merlin app.
- Recordings of bat populations in Easton and Letheringham, which will be detrimentally affected by the solar panels. There is also evidence being collated of otter populations in the Deben
- Information is needed from the applicant about the chemical make-up of the proposed batteries so evidence of fire risk can be ascertained.
- The impact on skylark populations - evidence of them being likely to disappear from the Letheringham area.
- Road access for heavy vehicles, given the width of roads and bends, a report is being produced on road widths.
- Expert evidence is available on the impact on the landscape, (already uploaded to the portal).
- A report from a heritage expert has been uploaded to the portal, and there is an ESC heritage report. It is common ground there are heritage assets that will be impacted. As there is no confirmation from the applicant on the cabling route, this impact on heritage assets is yet to be ascertained.
- Damage and deterioration to the serpentine wall should be photographed and logged.
- There is an annex report on the portal about the impact on local tourist businesses.
- The applicant's own documentation includes a noise report with unsatisfactory conclusions, they seemingly cannot get below the ESC's noise requirements.

- Consultation fairness: a lack of procedural fairness in expecting responses within such a short timeframe, when full information has still not been provided by the applicants, for example the delay in archaeological evidence.
- Evidence confirming BMV land is 93% and 97% on the two parcels of land respectively.
- Glint and glare reports are available regarding the impact on local households.
- Parishioners were exhorted to renew their objections on the planning portal.

3/26-27

RECEIVE ANY CHANGES TO MEMBERS INTERESTS

No changes received.

4/26-27

RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

No declarations received. Cllr Siddall has previously declared an interest in relation to item 5/26-27.

5/26-27

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: To consider response to further consultation letter on: 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 unanimous view of parishioners present was to continue to raise objections. The councillors present unanimously agreed that the parish council should respond to the consultation expressing objections to this application. It was agreed in the first instance a letter should be sent to the planning officer requesting a suspension, or long extension of the consultation period, such as 90 days. It should be further suggested the consultation should not recommence until all parts of the application are made available on the portal, including the cable routing, given the procedural unfairness being caused to respondents. The wording of the letter could be agreed in principle, with a view to being sent out early next week. In the event of no further suspension / extension being allowed, the council would be in a position to submit their comments on the re-consultation on or around the current expiration date, 22 May 2026.

Meeting closed – 1946

Signed

Signed copy on file

**Cllr Ladbrook (Chair)
20 July 2026**