

Minutes of Bucklesham Parish Council MeetingHeld on Wednesday 25th June 2025 at 7:00pm

In Bucklesham and Foxhall Village Hall, IP10 0DZ

Present

Cllr Trevor Bickers

Cllr Rhea Gardner

Cllr Clive Lenton (Chair)

Cllr Gemma Marriage

Cllr Kathryn McDonald

Cllr Kathryn Roper

Ruth Johnson (Clerk)

7 members of the public were present

1. Apologies for absence:**a. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies were sent from Cllr Seagroatt (prior engagement).

b. To accept apologies for absence.

Cllr Lenton proposed Cllr Seagroatt's apologies be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Roper and all were in favour.

2. To receive any:**a. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest.**

There were none.

b. Declarations of Non-Pecuniary Interest.

There were none.

c. Applications for Dispensation on Agenda Items.

There were none.

d. Declarations of Gifts or Hospitality received over the value of £50.00

There were none.

e. Notification of Lobbying with reference to Planning Applications to be discussed.

There were none.

3. Public Participation – To receive:**a. Reports or comments from any member of the public:**

A member of the public shared their concerns over the planning application to connect Bucklesham Solar Farm to the grid. The gentleman was thanked for the prior correspondence that the Council had received from him, and the support that he and his family members have shown the Council with regards to the sharing of information.

4. To agree Minutes of meeting dated 14th May 2025.

All Councillors agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. Cllr McDonald proposed that the minutes should be signed, this was seconded by Cllr Roper and all Councillors agreed.

The minutes had already been published on the website in draft form in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

5. Planning:

- a. To discuss DC/24/4139/FUL Engineering operations to connect the Solar Farm on the C375 Brightwell Road

The Chair noted that all Councillors had studied the documents provided prior to the meeting. Councillors were reminded to align their comments to material planning considerations. The Clerk reminded the Council that they had made 'No Objection' to the original application in January 2025, and since that time further consultees' comments had been added to the planning portal. Suffolk County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), had recommended approval of the application. Suffolk Highways had requested a Traffic Management plan be implemented if approval is granted, which had also been added to the application.

Councillors made the following comments:

- The C375 Brightwell Road is a 60mph road and there are concerns about the number of HGVs using this road to enter and exit the site.
- There are concerns about the number of vehicle movements during the construction phase.
- The addition of a Banksman at both North and South entrances should help with HGVs entering and exiting, and the concerns of the school traffic.
- Brightwell Parish Council have concerns about HGVs travelling through their village. As HGVs cannot turn right coming from the east to the Brightwell Road beyond Innocence Lane, will they use the width restricted Nacton Lane?
- Kirton Parish Council made 'No comment'.
- We should ask that signs are erected on Nacton Lane stating 'No Solar Farm HGVs'.
- The school has many out of catchment children who arrive at school by car and those cars park all the way from the school staff car park gate on the C375 to opposite the lay-by, and the lay-by is used as a turning point and often parents park in the lay-by too. Therefore there are children crossing the C375 at the beginning and end of school (8:25am - 9:00am and between 2:30pm and 3:30pm)
- We will need to closely monitor the traffic once construction starts and should ask to see the traffic log periodically.
- We need to ensure there is strict adherence to the traffic management plan.
- The Automated Traffic Count is now 2 years old and since that time there has been a considerable increase in traffic with Oak Tree View residents and people travelling to and from Brightwell Lakes. We should request an updated ATC.
- There are concerns that the laying of the cables so close to the school playground and playing field will cause noise disruption, and the dust and vibrations from the construction works could affect the children, and this should be looked at again by the East Suffolk Environmental Protection.
- The large rolls of cable will likely be delivered on low loaders and these will struggle to enter and exit the North Entrance now that a post and fence has been erected. Their measurements need to be revisited.
- Could we ask for a temporary reduction in the speed limit from 60mph while the construction phase is ongoing?

Cllr Lenton proposed that the Council register a further comment of 'No Objection' to the application but that the Local Planning Authority consider adding the following conditions to any approval:

1. The LPA look again at the measurements for the North Entrance regarding the swept path for large vehicles turning off the C375 following changes on site since the initial assessment.
2. That a temporary speed reduction be in place on the C375 Brightwell Road during the whole of the construction phase.
3. That deliveries are not allowed before 8:30am and after 2:30pm.
4. That the LPA look again at the environmental impact of dust, noise and vibrations of the construction phase as it is so close to the school, especially the cabling installation.
5. That all construction traffic is strictly prohibited from using Nacton Lane and a sign be in place to remind drivers.
6. That an updated ATC be carried out.

This was seconded by Cllr Roper with 5 Councillors in favour of the proposal and one abstention.

The Clerk was asked to write to East Suffolk via the planning portal.

Action: Clerk

b. To discuss DC/25/2271/FUL Erection of two story side/single story rear extension (following demolition of single storey side extension) 38 Levington Lane, IP10 0DZ

The Chair noted that all Councillors had studied the documents provided prior to the meeting. Councillors were reminded to align their comments to material planning considerations.

The Clerk had been in contact with the architect who stated that the new residents were a young couple who wished to renovate the property and one day raise a family in the village, rather than a developer who wished to sell it on.

Councillors made the following comments:

- No objections.
- None of the neighbours have objected.
- The design is a mirror image of the extension on number 40, the attached property.
- We should support residents who wish to improve village properties for the better and develop family homes.
- I think we should show support to these new residents.
- I am glad they are developing it as a family home rather than it remain empty.

Cllr Lenton proposed that the Council register a comment of 'Support' to the application. This was seconded by Cllr Bickers and all were in favour.

Action: Clerk

Chair's initials:

6. To receive agenda items for the next meeting of the Parish Council (Wednesday 9th July 2025).

There were no other agenda items as at the meeting from Councillors, but the Clerk reminded them that all projects going forward would be included and that any new items should be notified to her at least one week before the meeting.

Action: Clerk

Points of Interest

Cllr Bickers informed the Council that he and Cllr Gardner had attended a meeting with Bradley Powell from Pretty's Solicitors with regards to the Community Benefit Fund Agreement. The meeting was very positive and Cllr Bickers would give a full report at the July meeting in order for Councillors to make a decision as to the way forward.

The meeting closed at 7:25 pm.

Signed:

Chair

Date:

Ruth Johnson
Clerk to Bucklesham Parish Council

Chair's initials: