

Letheringham Parish Council

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting held on Thursday October 9th 2025 at 7.00pm in Easton & Letheringham Village Hall

Members of the Council present:

Paul Clarke (PC) (Chair & RFO)
Trevor Gill (TG) (Vice Chair & Clerk)
Jan McNeill (JM)
Andrew Maskery (AM)

District and County Councillors present:

None

Members of the Public present:

Three – for part of the meeting

2025.47 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCE

Malcolm Ross (MR) – Absence for personal reasons unanimously approved.

2025.48 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Jan McNeill and Andrew Maskery declared a non-registerable interest in 2025.52 and agreed to speak only as members of the public on that item.

PC noted that without MR, JM & AM, the council would not be quorate (three members required) for item 2025.52 and the item could not therefore be decided. So, there was little point in discussing it.

2025.49 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

2025.50 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on September 8th 2025 were **unanimously approved and signed.**

2025.51 PLANNING AND LICENSING APPLICATIONS

Planning Application: **DC/25/2733/FUL**

Site Address: Parcels to the Northwest of Easton and Southwest of Letheringham.

Proposal: 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.

During the course of this item the three members of the public present left one by one around 7.45 pm.

The initial parish council response had been submitted to ESC on August 15th, outlining initial objections and concerns. The response had requested an extension to October 10th for a further response, considering issues more fully.

The content and structure of this second response was discussed at length and finalised, with emphasis on ensuring proper representations of all the points raised to members of the parish council by residents of Letheringham.

It was agreed unanimously:

- i) to request site meetings with the ESC Case Officer, the SCC Highways Engineer and the SCC Drainage and Flooding officer dealing with the application to enable issues to be fully explained on site.
- ii) to request that any ESC Councillors involved in deciding the application should visit the site ahead of determining the application to appreciate the local topography, tranquillity, landscape character and proximity to sensitive receptors, which are central to evaluating whether this proposal can be considered sustainable or acceptable in planning terms.
- iii) to endorse the formal response submitted by planning consultants James Bailey Partnership on behalf of Stop Deben Solar as their technical expertise ensured that the concerns of Letheringham residents were effectively presented focusing on the material planning issues raised by the application.
- iv) that PC would submit the finalised response the following day, 10th October, by email to ESC Case Officer and ESC Planning Admin. And cc SCC and ESC Councillors.

2025.52 FUNDING REQUEST

To consider a request from Stop Deben Solar for funds towards their costs.

No discussion or decision.

2025.53 DATES OF SCHEDULED MEETINGS IN 2025 & 2026:

2025: 8th December

2026, 23rd February, 18th May (Annual Meeting), 7th September, 7th December.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed:

Date: