

BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 10 March 2025 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Broughton, Isobel Demangeat, Charles Doe, Kelly Keeley, Tom Pace, John Parry, Mark Prior

1. Apologies for absence – apologies were received from Cllr Stockham
2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests from members on any item to be discussed and requests for dispensations

Cllrs Broughton, Pace, Prior and Parry declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall. Cllrs Broughton, Keeley and Prior declared a pecuniary interest in item 5B.

3. Public Forum

At 19.37 Cllrs Broughton, Prior, and Keeley left the meeting.

A member of the public offered his services in assisting the Parish Council in responding to the forthcoming application as detailed below at agenda item 5B.

Other members of the public offered their views on the proposed development at item 5B and suggested a poll of what residents felt of the application.

At 19.52 Cllrs Broughton, Prior and Keeley returned to the meeting.

District Councillor Tim Weller provided a commentary to the report which had been supplied to council prior to the meeting.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

a. The minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2025 were approved.

b. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2025 – a summary of responses from the District Council to comments provided on the Sustainable Travel Scheme in connection to the development (DC/22/00416) on the petrol and electric charging facility with associated shop and roadside restaurant at Eye Airfield were noted.

5. Planning

a. There were no planning determinations to note.

At 20.00 Cllrs Broughton, Prior, and Keeley left the meeting.

b. The start of the non-statutory consultation for EcoPower Solar Farm Development and the proposed development consent order were noted. Correspondence from the Cabinet Member at Suffolk County Council on the application process was further noted. Concerns from residents were considered.

Discussions included how the community may be able to influence the way the development is progressed if approved, noting that some properties could be more affected than others, and that local knowledge on how the land lies, potential glint and glare and specific flora and fauna would be beneficial and not readily available in written reports. It was recognised that several Parish Councils were in the area affected by the proposed development and that working together on a joint response may be beneficial. It was, therefore, agreed to start the process of forming a working group which would comprise local parish councils and representatives from the County and District Council.

At 20.19 Cllrs Broughton, Prior, and Keeley returned to the meeting.



c. An update on the grant of planning permission for residential occupation contrary to the Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan– District Councillor Weller reported that the Head of Planning did not see a dissonance between the grant of permission and the DDNP. This remained contrary to the opinion of the Parish Council that this was a residential setting and not a holiday setting. Cllr Weller suggested that Mid Suffolk Planning Officers would be willing to attend a Parish Council meeting to further discuss and it was agreed the Clerk would organise this.

d. No other planning matters.

8. Finance and Governance

a. The current financial position was noted as £6,357.37 in current account and £4,055 in business account.

b. It was agreed to make the following payments.

Signed  Chairperson  Clerk
Date 14 April 2025

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Amount	Payee	Details
£248.06	Sarah Foote	Clerk's salary March 2025
£8.60	Sarah Foote	Clerk's expenses March 2025
£164.80	HMRC	PAYE
£130.18	Huws Gray	Village Hall Project
£443.27	Huws Gray	Village Hall Project
£40.40	Huws Gray	Village Hall Project

c. It was agreed to make a payment from Parish Community Infrastructure Levy to support the Village Hall solar panels/battery storage project to a maximum value of £2,000. It was noted that funds of £15,000 had already been received via two Mid Suffolk District Council funding schemes and the Village Hall Committee were congratulated on their success.

d. The following documents were reviewed and adopted by the Council:

- i. Standing Orders
- ii. Financial Regulations
- iii. Statement of Internal Control
- iv. Risk Register

e. It was agreed to appoint Trevor Brown to undertake the internal audit for the year ending 31 March 2025 and the scope of work was considered and approved.

7. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

Date	From	Subject
25.02.2025	Suffolk Police	ANPR Rota May to October 2025
03.03.2025	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish Update March 2025
03.03.2025	Mid Suffolk District Council	NSIP and large-scale energy developments update March 2025
05.03.2025	Mid Suffolk District Council	Letter regarding the adoption of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Local Development Scheme

8. Urgent Matters and matters for report

None.

9. Date of next meeting – Monday 14 April 2025. Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Monday 24 March 2025. It was agreed to ask Ecopower to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

Meeting closed: 20.37.

Signed Jan De Ru Chairperson Sarah Foote Clerk
 Date 14 April 2025