

BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 28 May 2025 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Broughton, Charles Doe~~g~~, Tom Pace, John Parry and five members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence – apologies were received from Cllrs Keeley, Demanget and Prior. Cllr Stockham was absent.

2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests from members on any item to be discussed and requests for dispensations

None. It was noted Cllr Broughton had been granted a dispensation to participate and vote in items relating to EcoPower Solar Farm

3. EcoPower Solar Farm Development

a. To receive reports from Councillors appointed to attend resident group meetings and reports from any other community engagement - Cllr Parry and Cllr Broughton had attended a resident group meeting where the landowner had also been present. Potential mitigations were considered. It was understood that the landowner was yet to sign a contract with EcoPower. Doubts were expressed about the special purpose vehicle and its sustainability and longevity. Brome and Oakley Residents Group had provided a summary of opinions which had been circulated to councillors for information. The Chairman of the group was thanked for providing this document.

Councillors had also attended an open meeting with Adrian Ramsey MP and a useful Q&A session had taken place. Mr Ramsey had offered his support to residents and was keen for a liaison group with EcoPower to be set up and urged continued communication with EcoPower.

b. To consider and agree content for further representation to EcoPower and landowner (as agreed at meeting of 18 May 2025) – a draft document was provided to councillors for discussion. General feeling was that the scheme was not wanted in the villages but on the premise that it was likely to proceed full mitigations were to be considered for both the parishes of Brome and Oakley. It was noted that parts of Eye were also affected in the Brome Avenue, Eye location.

The draft document was reviewed in detail, some amendments made.

Public Forum

A member of the public asked if all comments received from residents had been included in the Parish Council representation. It was felt that they had been. Secondly, it was asked if all the mitigations were successful, if the scheme would still be viable.

Members of the public made further comments in relation to the Parish Council draft representation.

c. Any additional comments to be included in representation and timeline and process for submission – after consideration above it was agreed to accept and submit a further representation to EcoPower Suffolk and to copy the landowner, Warren Hill Farms.

4. Urgent matters - none.

5. Date of next meeting – Monday 9 June 2025. Meeting closed: 21.01.

Signed Chairperson Clerk

Date 28.5.2025