

# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 February 2026 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Broughton, Stephanie Dennis, Charles Doe, Martin Liddell, Tom Pace, and Ian Stockham. Also in attendance County Councillor Jessica Fleming and District Councillor Weller and one member of the public.

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Demangeat and Parry

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

Cllrs Broughton, Dennis and Liddell had been granted a dispensation to participate in matters relating to the EcoPower application.

## 3. Public Forum

County Councillor Fleming provided commentary to a report which had been circulated to Councillors. The report included information on Local Government Reorganisation and confirmation that the County Council elections had been cancelled for May 2026. Funding had been made available for bus services and Cllr Fleming suggested there could be a case for a bus on the B1118 and a bid could be submitted directly to the County Councillor. Cllr Fleming felt the cumulative impacts of the solar farm developments had not been considered and suggested the Parish Council looked at that along with how decommissioning would work.

District Councillor Weller provided commentary to a report which had been circulated to Councillors. Applications were encouraged to the Nature Recovery Grant to enhance existing wildlife corridors, tree planting and wildflower meadows. Cllr Weller gave an overview of the new waste collection arrangements which would take effect from June.

## 4. Minutes of the last meeting

a. The minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2026 were approved.

b. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2026 – none.

## 5. Planning

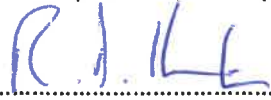

a. There were no planning determinations to note.

b. Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan Review Meeting – Cllr Liddell had attended the meeting on behalf of the Parish Council which had been convened to consider when to update the NDP. It had been confirmed that until both Planning Authorities (Mid Suffolk and South Norfolk) write new Local Plans the existing adopted plans would remain in place and there was an added complication for the DDNP because Mid Suffolk and South Norfolk were at different stages with reviewing and rewriting their Local Plans. It was understood that Brome and Oakley had been allocated, in revised government housing targets, an indicative 70 additional homes and it had been questioned how the Parish Council could control the process of this large housing target if it was not referenced in the current DDNP. It had been suggested that if the District Council allocations, to be included in the revised Local Plans, could be agreed in advance by the Parish Council it could save the estimated £10,000 fee to rewrite the DDNP. It was agreed to ask Mid Suffolk Head of Strategic Planning (Planning Policy and Infrastructure) to attend the March meeting to enable further understanding of, and discussion on, housing targets.

c. There were no other planning matters

## 6. EcoPower Suffolk

a. Scoping Consultation for Environmental Statement relating to an Order granting Development Consent for the Solar project (Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11. The Scoping Opinion in its current format was considered, and it was agreed to request additional items to be considered as part of the scoping. These are highlighted in the response appended to the minutes. Items

Signed .....  ..... Chairperson .....  ..... Clerk  
Date ..... 9.3.2026 .....

# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 February 2026 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

of factual correction and general information were also agreed to be included. Of particular note was for the Scoping not to just generically reference 'Brome' but to also consider Upper Oakley which would also be impacted by the proposed development. It was also agreed to append the Parish Council's three direct submissions to EcoPower for reference.

## 7. Finance and Governance

a. The current financial position was noted as £3376.03 in current account and £4,109.02 in the business account. The CIL balance was £2310.46.

b. It was agreed to make the following payments:

Amount	Payee	Details
£255.69	Sarah Foote	Clerk's salary February 2026
£171.76	HMRC	PAYE
£37.36	Sarah Foote	Clerk's expenses

c. Financial Regulations – it was agreed to adopt the revised model.

d. Standing Orders – it was agreed to adopt the revised model.

## 8. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

Date	From	Subject
02.02.2026	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish Update February 2026
02.02.2026	Mid Suffolk District Council	NSIP and large scale energy tracker February 2026

## 9. Urgent Matters and matters for report

None.

10. Date of next meeting – Monday 9 March 2026

Meeting closed: 21.13

Signed R. A. E. ..... Chairperson ..... [Signature] ..... Clerk  
Date 9.3.2026 .....

# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 February 2026 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

16 February 2026

This letter is submitted by email to [EcoPowerSuffolkSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:EcoPowerSuffolkSolar@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Sirs,

Reference EN0110019

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by EcoPower Suffolk Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the EcoPower Suffolk Solar project (the proposed development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

Brome and Oakley Parish Council thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIA Scoping consultation and offer the following response after the consultation documents were considered by Brome and Oakley Parish Council at its February meeting.

Firstly, the Council is concerned for the evident lack of local knowledge in how the EIA Scoping Report is presented. The Council feels it is not appropriate to use the generic term of 'Brome' throughout the report when describing the areas which will be affected by the development. The Council trusts the map below



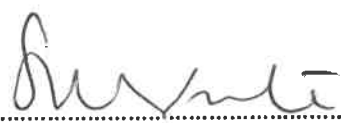
# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 February 2026 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

serves to inform and demonstrate how part of the parish of Oakley, namely Upper Oakley, is as affected by the proposal as the parish of Brome and that there are three distinct population centres in Brome - Rectory Road, Brome Street and a small area to the west of the A140 locally known as Abbey Close.

The Parish Council submits the following requests for inclusion in the Scoping Report:


<b>TOPICS TO BE SCOPED INTO THE EIA</b>			
<i>For reference, grey text denotes how the Scoping Report is currently presented.</i>			
<b>Agricultural Land and Soils</b>	The report notes how good the quality of the land is in our area and this has already been included in submissions to EcoPower. We have no further comment.		
<b>Biodiversity and Ecology</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>De-Commissioning</b>
Amphibians – not scoped in during operational phase ‘as development away from breeding ponds. We do not agree and should be scoped.	<i>ALREADY INCLUDED</i>	<b>INCLUDE</b>	<i>ALREADY INCLUDED</i>
Badgers – should be scoped in as routinely move along sets whilst foraging	<i>ALREADY INCLUDED</i>	<b>INCLUDE</b>	<i>ALREADY INCLUDED</i>
Aquatic Fauna – should be scoped in due to proximity to River Dove	<i>ALREADY INCLUDED</i>	<b>INCLUDE</b>	<i>ALREADY INCLUDED</i>
Barn Owls – other species of Owls such as Tawny and Little Owls should be included as present in vicinity and are also protected species.	<b>INCLUDE</b>	<b>INCLUDE</b>	<b>INCLUDE</b>
Red Deer and Roe Deer – these should be added as a separate line in the scoping and be treated as protected species. Proposed fencing could affect feeding and migration routes.	<b>INCLUDE</b>	<b>INCLUDE</b>	<b>INCLUDE</b>
Brown Hare – should be added as a separate line in the scoping. Proposed fencing could affect feeding and migration routes.	<b>INCLUDE</b>	<b>INCLUDE</b>	<b>INCLUDE</b>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	No further comments		
<b>Greenhouse gas</b>	No further comments		

Signed R. J. K. L. Chairperson  Clerk  
 Date 27 9.3.2026

# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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<b>Human Health</b>	Construction	Operation	De-Commissioning
Air quality – airborne dust, and emissions from vehicles using as yet undefined construction access routes.	INCLUDE	<i>NOT INCLUDED</i>	INCLUDE
Noise and Vibration – may not be significant at a community level, but at the level of individual dwellings and local neighbourhoods the potential for disruption is immense.	INCLUDE	<i>NOT INCLUDED</i>	INCLUDE
Transport and Access – needs to be scoped in during operation. What is going to be taken into account and how will the local community be affected? For the wellbeing of the local community and to allay anxiety over impacts to the rural improvement, transport and access at all stages should be included.	<i>ALREADY INCLUDED</i>	INCLUDE	<i>ALREADY INCLUDED</i>
<b>Landscape and Visual Amenity</b>	No further comments		
<b>Noise and Vibration</b>	Construction	Operation	De-Commissioning
Construction traffic vibration – it is essential that this is included at construction stage. There are many rural roads and heritage properties which will be affected.	INCLUDE	<i>NOT INCLUDED</i>	<i>NOT INCLUDED</i>
De-commissioning noise and vibration – with reference to our comment above please ensure consistency for considerations in this section. Vibration is scoped in at decommission but not for construction.			<i>ALREADY INCLUDED</i>
<b>Socio-economics</b>	Construction	Operation	De-Commissioning
Sensitive receptors – this should be included at all stages as residential dwellings are particularly close to access roads.	INCLUDE	INCLUDE	INCLUDE
<b>Traffic and Access Scope and Methodology</b>	No further comments		
<b>Water, Flood and Resources</b>	No further comments as all areas are scoped in		
<b>Air Quality</b>	Construction	Operation	De-Commissioning

Signed P. J. ILL ..... Chairperson  ..... Clerk  
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Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 February 2026 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

	and access to B1077 is not included in red line for draft development order. Draft order needs to be reviewed to include Nicks Lane if it is intended to be used.
Page 15	An area has been allocated for maintenance and welfare facility which has a maximum height listed but not width or breadth. This detail should also be included
Page 18 temporary haul routes	The Parish Council has already stated a preference for traffic to go out to the west on to the B1077. Further consultation on haul routes is required.
Page 34	A welcome observation is made about the land (predominantly 'very good Grade 2 agricultural land ')and this should be considered where planning panel locations and cable routes..
Page 64	It is incorrect to state that Brome and Oakley does not have an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan. These parishes are part of the adopted Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan which was adopted in October 2023.  <a href="https://www.diss.gov.uk/files/ugd/39e873_1a7250efbad6429f9601c56ad586ed09.pdf">https://www.diss.gov.uk/files/ugd/39e873_1a7250efbad6429f9601c56ad586ed09.pdf</a>
Page 65	Describes residents of parts of Brome but does not mention Upper Oakley. The development is likely to affect all users of public rights of way and visitors to the villages on a daily basis.
Page 66	It is suggested that the views are likely to limited, however, this is a very subjective statement and there cannot be a reliance on presuming that Oakley is a village predominately situated along the B1118 (Lower Oakley). Upper Oakley (see map) will be directly affected by the proposal.
Page 71	Again, both Brome and Oakley need to listed and it is incorrect to not include Oakley for the list of noise sensitive receptors.
Table C-10 Protected and notable species within the draft Order Limits	Include red and roe deer in list of species.  Under birds, grey partridge should be included as well as Kites, Sparrow Hawks and Kestrels.
Table C-8 Non-designated Wildlife Sites within 2 km of the draft Order Limits	Brown Hare to be added.

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Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 February 2026 at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

E-2 View Point 2 (Rose Farm)	This should include motorists and cyclists.
E-7	Generically, mentions Oakley but no mention of Upper Oakley or Brome Street. Further consideration should be given to local areas as set out in the map above.
E-8 Transport Routes	Brome Hall Lane is cited as a major transport route, however, this lane is little more than a narrow pathway. This is one of several incidents where there is a clear lack of local knowledge and all routes should be re-examined as part of the scoping consultation.
Visual Assessment	It is suggested that the height of panels will be from one meter to 3.5 meters with the notion of sheep grazing the grass. The Parish Council would rather lower height panels and have the grass managed by alternative source. Therefore, we request that the examination considers the use of lower to the ground panels to minimise visual intrusion.

Finally, the Parish Council remains fundamentally opposed to the use of productive agricultural land for solar farms. It is believed there is potential for significant harm to both the well-being of the community and to the natural environment. Previous representations made directly to EcoPower can be viewed here

1. <https://bromeandoakleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/Response-to-EcoPower-Suffolk-Non-Statutory-Consultation.pdf>
2. <https://bromeandoakleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/EcoPower-response-May-2025.doc>
3. <https://bromeandoakleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/EcoPower-response-January.doc>

The Parish Council welcomes continued consultation and engagement and is willing to provide further information if so requested.

Signed R. J. L. Chairperson ..... Clerk  
 Date 9.3.2026 .....