

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in St Peters Church On Thursday 9 January 2025

Present: - Kate Homan, Polly Fenwick, Paul Archer, Robert Foster, Robert Ensich, Gregory Franco, Edith Osborn as Clerk
Three residents.

A quorum was established.

1 Apologies: Nicki Whetstone

2 Declarations of Interest
There were no new Declarations of Interest.

3 Open Forum for public participation

The Chair confirmed that the purpose of the meeting was to review the Scoping Report and respond by the deadline of 14 January 2025. The Chairman of West Wrattling parish council had read through the Kingsway Scoping Report over the Christmas period and had drafted a response which the Chair had reviewed. She had also drafted a response including feedback on cultural, heritage, community and the rural setting.

The Scoping document is a large document and covers what Kingsway feel should be scoped in and out. The parish council response is an opportunity to add and comment on what is in the report. It was noted from the Report that area C is assumed to be the same type of land in all respects as areas A and B.

The Chair advised that the response had to be submitted by Tuesday, even though Carlton parish council had not been included in the original group of parish councils contacted by the Planning Inspectorate.

Comments were as follows:

- Listed cottages in Willingham Green have not been included in Appendix 4
- There is an impression that the comments for area C have not been written at the same time as for area A and B. There is very generalised information not adapted for area C.
- It appears that Kingsway Solar may have uploaded a second version of the report over the Christmas period.
- Aerial pictures of the surrounding land showing architectural finds would be useful to send in with the response
- 614 artefacts have been found on the ancient bridleway running behind Cromwell Cottage. The Historic Environment department at the County Council keep that information
- The Icknield Way is not included in the report or the International route, E2, either
- The Moat House, Weston Colville, has a grid connection corridor running through its land to feed cables to the batteries
- The first section of the response should be about scene setting and emphasise the rural area.
- The grading of the land should also be mentioned.
- The scotchguard chemicals mentioned in the report should be checked.
- It was noted that the grass is left to grow wild at the Solar farm at Highpoint but is cut twice per year by the Solar company. There are wide margins at the edge of the fields allowing wildflowers to grow.
- Wetland sites such as Wicken Fen and Chippenham, although not in our area, could be affected in relation to migrating birds.
- Will there be compensation for those people who live near solar farms. There could be compensation for the community as a whole

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- Deer are not mentioned in the report
- Heavy vehicles on narrow roads are a concern
- The size of the carbon footprint will increase as a result of all the construction workers coming into the area.
- Robert Foster proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair for preparing the response to the report.
- It was noted that there have been a few other planning applications approved in the local area; Great Wilbraham solar farm, Six Oaks solar farm and the bio-mass plant at Streetly End.
- It was noted that more appropriate land should be stated in the Report rather than inappropriate land
- It was suggested that areas in the village should be nominated as areas where the land cannot be developed. A request would be sent to residents for information on the history of any such land.
- The Chair requested whether the parish councillors wanted to join the Parish Council Alliance. All councillors agreed to join the Alliance.
- The timeline for next steps:
The Scoping Report is guiding the design of the project.
Spring 2025 – Statutory Consultation
May/June 2025 – Environmental Report
November 2025 – Development Consent Order

4 Kingsway Solar Farm – Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report and response by the parish council

The Chair confirmed that the parish council would submit their response based on the comments raised by residents.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The Meeting closed at 8.55pm