

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in St Peters Church On Tuesday 7 October 2025

Present: - Kat Jones, Polly Fenwick, Robert Foster-Jones, Gregory Franco, Edith Osborn as Clerk
A number of residents.

A quorum was established.

1 Appointment of Chair until the next AGM

Cllr Fenwick proposed that Kat Jones be appointed Chair until the next AGM in May 2026 and Cllr Foster-Jones seconded the proposal.

2 Appointment of Vice-Chair until the next AGM

Cllr Jones proposed that Polly Fenwick be appointed Vice-Chair until the next AGM and this was seconded by Cllr Foster-Jones.

3 Apologies: Robert Ensich

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no new Declarations of Interest.

5 Administration

5.1 New signatory on bank account

The Clerk advised that Kat Jones would need to be added to the list of signatories on the bank account and she would liaise with Cllr Jones after the meeting.

5.2 Local Government Reorganisation Survey

It was noted that a response to this survey would be required by 12 October.

6 Finance

6.1 Payment authorisation

6.1.1. CAPALC	£ 25.00
6.1.2. Narked Ltd	£ 28.00
6.1.3. Narked Ltd	£225.00

Cllr Foster-Jones proposed that that the above invoices be approved and Cllr Fenwick seconded the proposal.

7 Open Forum for public participation

Various residents raised questions about the information provided by Kingsway Solar/Downing Renewable Developments.

8 Kingsway Solar Consultation

8.1 proposed solar farm and battery storage project and response by the parish council

Cllr Jones presented a slide show prepared by Cllr Fenwick.

She advised that Kingsway Solar is in the second phase of the statutory consultation period and the last opportunity to engage and comment on the project.

The parish council will be representing the collective voices of all the residents. There are still opportunities to talk to Kingsway Solar at presentations on Friday and Saturday.

The Kingsway Community Action Group have all of the latest information relating to the project. It is proposed that solar panels and battery storage be sited on a large area covering 546 hectares generating 500MW. Many villages will be impacted but the compensating community benefits package of £300k does have limitations. This will be one of the largest solar farms in Europe.

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Comments and points of note follow.

Having checked on the Planning Inspectorate website, there are many proposed projects in East Anglia. The Sunnica site action group have provided tips on actions which should be taken.

This is a nationally strategic infrastructure project which makes it difficult to follow a prescribed procedure.

The key concerns are:

- Land use
- Environmental
- Amenity
- Habitat and bio-diversity
- Some surveys have been completed but many are still outstanding
- Footpaths will be affected despite what has been written by Kingsway in their booklet
- Flood risk and water management

West Wrattling parish council have employed an expert on aquifers. Battery storage is proposed being located over Zone 1 aquifer, a bore hole is adjacent. The Battery Energy Storage System is proposed to be situated between two woods near A11. Carlton is in Zone 2 protection. Kingsway have noted on their plan that there is a flood risk on two sides of the land in parcel C. To access that field, access needs to be using the By road in Willingham Green with many lorries in and out, or a roadway is created for access on 3rd party land.

It is suggested that the parish council and all residents respond to Kingsway and say No to everything Kingsway have proposed, particularly as some of the information provided by Kingsway is incorrect.

The Consultation ends on 29 October.

If residents objected to the project in the Non-Statutory Consultation, then they need to do again.

The rules in the Planning & Infrastructure Bill will be changing.

There could be 400 movements per day into and out of the site.

Kingsway Community Action Group have a template letter which residents can use for their response.

Rochdale Envelope – this planning principle allows developers to make changes in design after permission is granted. Therefore, whatever is agreed now could be altered in the future.

Using a standard template letter will not fit all residents as the project will affect residents in different ways.

The parish council would like to submit their response by 23 October. All residents were asked to share their thoughts with the Chair by 14 October.

Area C affects residents.

Cable routes are proposed to be underground, substations are due to be located in Weston Colville and West Wrattling, Access routes are to be via the Byways.

Panels are 4.2 m high.

Screening is proposed in Horseshoe Lane.

15km of cables, 50m high pylons, years of construction

Constant noise from the site

Capacity to power 175k homes but some energy could be picked up by commercial users rather than domestic, will energy bills decrease?

The Kingsway Community Action Group's website advises on how to object to this project.

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

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm