

## Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of 23 February 2026, 7.30 pm.

#### **1. Welcome and Chair's Statement regarding the nature and purpose of the meeting.**

The Chair of the Parish Council (Gerald Godfrey) welcomed those present at the meeting, which included 6 Parish Councillors (Gerald Godfrey (GG), Ian Braid (IB), Colin Ward (CW), Richard Hall (RH) and Rod Apps (RA). There were 30 members of the public present.

GG informed the meeting that the purpose of this Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council was to consider, and agree on, the submission that the Parish Council should make in response to the additional documentation that DPD Energy has submitted regarding the proposed route for the connecting cable between the solar farm and the sub-station on Clarkes Lane. The central aim of the meeting was to get comments and feedback from residents concerning the proposal, and particularly the "cable route", and therefore it was essentially an "open meeting" without a need for the usual "Public Participation" item.

#### **2. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Penny Ward, which were accepted.

#### **3. Declarations – Pecuniary and Other.**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. Planning Application – DC/25/2109/FUL. Redisham Hall Farm solar farm proposal.**

A draft response from the Parish Council had been prepared previously and had been made available via the Parish Council website.

During the discussion, issues associated with the "Cable Route" document which could enter into the response by the Parish Council included the following:

- The need for a greater emphasis on the economic impact of the road closures associated with proposal, and therefore that it might be worth referring to the additional costs imposed on residents and businesses. Reference was made to the normal practice associated with the repair of potholes, when the whole road was closed.
- The need to emphasise that the proposers (OPD) did not include any evaluation of alternative means of connecting to the sub-station, notably via an overhead cable (declared as the intended system at the public meeting organised by OPD) or by an underground cable across farmland.
- That the removal of any objection from Suffolk Highways warranted explanation. It was noted that Suffolk Highways had imposed requirements regarding the access arrangements to the solar farm itself, but had no concerns about any aspects of the "Cable Route". It was suggested that Suffolk Highways should be approached for an explanation of their stance.

- That it would be appropriate to include photographs, or videos, in the Parish Council submission in order to emphasise the narrowness and other features of the roads involved in the proposed "Cable Route". In order to avoid file size issues, videos could perhaps be placed onto the Parish Council website and invitations made to view there.
- A condition of approval should be that a total resurfacing of the roads should be required upon completion of the works, given that it was extremely unlikely that patching of the trenches created by OPD would result in a satisfactory, stable or durable result.
- A 4-way traffic light system at the junction of Top Road, Ringsfield Road, Tooks Common Lane and Great Common Lane would inevitably result in long delays, and therefore backing-up of traffic (including HGVs) on Top Road and Ringsfield Road in particular. Given the impossibility of HGVs passing each other on parts of these roads, very severe traffic congestion seems all but certain.
- The renovation work on the Church on School Road is time-sensitive and has to be undertaken when disturbance to bats would not result. Unrestricted access to School Road during these periods was therefore critical to the completion of those renovation works.
- Concerns were expressed about the health risks associated with electro-magnetic radiation from high-voltage cables under road surfaces.

**5. Confirmation of date of the next meeting:**  
Monday 2 March 2026, at 7.30, was confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Signed .....

Date .....