

Ilketshall St. Andrew Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of 3 November 2025, 7.30 pm.

1. **Welcome.**

The Chair of the Parish Council (Gerald Godfrey) welcomed those present at the meeting, which included all 5 Parish Councillors (Gerald Godfrey (GG), Ian Braid (IB), Colin Ward (CW), Penny Ward (PW) and Rod Apps (RA)). There were 15 members of the public present.

2. **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Judy Cloke (County Councillor), and from Anthony Specca & Toby Hammond (District Councillors).

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

Gerald Godfrey declared that he had an interest relating to Item 14 of the Agenda, in that his farm had recently taken a lease on an area of land that was included in the area being considered by RES for the siting of a solar farm.

4. **Minutes of previous meetings**

The Minutes of the meeting of 1st September 2025 were unanimously approved by the Parish Council, and signed by the Chair.

A member of the public commented that the Minutes of the 1st September 2025 were incomplete, in that they did not include an account of the discussion relating to the Shipmeadow Solar Farm proposed that occurred under Item 14, Any Other Business. It was pointed out that the discussion was held under the “Any Other Business” item rather than under a specific agenda item, and therefore that no decision was made arising from the discussion.

Members of the public claimed that the discussion should be minuted, and the Parish Clerk offered to include an account of the discussion in the Minutes for this meeting, rather than amending the minutes for the meeting of 1st September 2025.

Members of the public were dissatisfied with this proposal, and a call for a vote of confidence in the Parish Clerk was made by a member of the public. It was pointed out that a vote of confidence in the Parish Clerk would be something for the Parish Council alone to propose and vote on, and it was not for members of the public to propose. A call for the Parish Clerk to resign was then made by a member of the public. The Parish Clerk considered that, given the behaviour of a significant portion of the members of the public present, there was no possibility of the business of the Parish Council meeting to be conducted in an orderly and productive manner, and resigned with immediate effect.

Given that a Parish Council is required to have a Parish Clerk appointed, the meeting then ended at 7.42pm.

Summary of the discussion relating to the Shipmeadow Solar Farm proposal, under Item 14 [Any Other Business] at the meeting of the Parish Council on 1st September 2025:

RA noted that RES had, on a number of occasions since November 2023, requested meetings with both the Parish Council and the Land Management Company in order to discuss access routes for the construction of the proposed solar farm in particular. RA noted that, given that there has been no discussions with RES by any organisation within the village since November 2023, it

would potentially be very useful for there to be discussions with RES in order to get an update as to what their intentions are. RA noted that the Parish Council had declined the invitation from RES to participate in any discussions on account of the need for Parish Councillors to be open-minded, and to be seen to be open-minded, in relation to any proposal prior to a planning application being submitted. The Land Management Company is, however, in a different position from the Parish Council, and the issue is that the community does not currently have any input as to what an eventual planning application might constitute. Particularly in relation to the access routes, it could perhaps be the case that a less disruptive and damaging route could be identified in discussions with RES.

A member of the public asked the question: "What would you hope to gain?". RA responded that the potential gain would be greater detail on what RES' current intentions are, and possibly to identify proposals that would be less disruptive.

GG noted that a landowner had informed him that RES had given up on the proposal.

A member of the public suggested that it would be best to "let sleeping dogs lie".

No decision or agreement of any kind resulting from the discussion was made.

Signed

Date