

Hacheston Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Planning Meeting of Hacheston Parish Council meeting held at Hacheston Village Hall on Tuesday 19th August 2025 at 7.30pm

1. **Apologies for absence & declarations of interest**

Cllr. Hurlock declared an Other Registrable Interest in item 3.2.

The resignation of Cllr. Lucy Lavender was also noted and Councillors wished to minute their thanks to Cllr. Lavender for all her hard work and enthusiasm

Cllr. Judd passed on his apologies (family commitment) and these were accepted.

Present

Cllr. James Hardy (Chair), Cllr. Terry Mee, Cllr. Chris Hurlock, Cllr. Linda Montgomery (during item 3.1).

Lydia Kindred (clerk) and 2 members of public.

2. **Minutes of 16th July 2025**

These were approved as a true record of the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

The residents spoke on the two planning applications and raising comments and concerns.

3. **The following planning applications were considered:**

3.1) DC/25/2733/FUL

Full planning application for the construction and operation of a Solar Farm (49.9MW) and Battery Energy Storage Scheme (50MW) with all associated works, equipment, enclosures, access and biodiversity net gains

Parcels to Northwest of Easton and South West of Letheringham

It was agreed to object to this application on the following planning grounds:

Cumulative impact– The large size of this application was noted and concern was expressed about the cumulative effect of this and other large-scale renewable energy schemes in the area, particularly when teamed with Sizewell C construction traffic which is already detrimentally impacting the village. Councillors were of the view that large applications like this could significantly change the rural character of the area.

Landscape and visual impact – The proposed development is of an overbearing scale and nature to these two small villages, with potential adverse effects on the character of the countryside and the setting of local heritage assets.

Highway impact– The proposal is likely to generate substantial additional construction traffic on rural roads, which raised concerns over road safety and capacity.

Tourism and local economy– The large scale and visual dominance of the development may have an adverse impact on the attractiveness of the area for visitors and therefore on local tourism.

Ecology and biodiversity– Despite some proposed biodiversity net gain measures, concerns remain regarding the loss and fragmentation of existing ecological habitats and the overall long-term impact on local wildlife.

The council also noted serious concerns about the proposed cable route through Hacheston and the level of disruption this could cause during the construction phase. However, it was acknowledged that this would not constitute a material planning consideration.

Cllr. Hurlock left the meeting at this point.

3.2) DC/25/2997/FUL

Erection of a Solar Photovoltaic Installation of 20 MW output and all associated supporting infrastructure including, cable routing, inverters and transformers, fencing, CCTV, and landscaping for temporary period of 42 years

Land South of Easton Lane, Glevering Park House, Glevering Estate, IP13 0EX

The Council noted that the applicants had engaged proactively with the Parish Council and local residents and had held a public consultation. It was further noted that the applicants had taken account of local concerns and had introduced measures to mitigate potential impacts, including enhanced Biodiversity Net Gain measures and a commitment to provide community benefit from the scheme.

This proposal was recognised as being of significantly smaller scale than the application considered under item 3.1.

In considering material planning issues, the Council noted that no written objections had been raised directly by residents to the Parish Council since the application went live. It was therefore agreed to support the application in principle, subject to the following comments:

Public visual amenity- The Council remains concerned about potential visual impacts on the landscape and urges careful consideration of screening and landscaping measures, especially to mitigate the visual impact on those living closest to the scheme.

Ancient woodland- The Council encourages the Planning Authority to give full weight to the advice of the Forestry Commission in respect of the ancient woodlands adjoining this land.

Cllr. Hurlock returned to the meeting at this point.

4. Updates on actions regarding Assertion 10 obligations

The clerk is drafting a report on the obligations and necessary actions in order that the Council can confirm compliance with this obligation. Breakthrough Communications has been engaged to provide professional assistance in this regard.

5. Correspondence

Letheringham Parish Council- Re planning application DC/25/2733/FUL- this had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

Stop Deben Solar- Re planning application DC/25/2733/FUL- this had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

Grupotec supporting statement regarding DC/25/2997/FUL - this had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

During items 4 and 5, two residents separately joined the meeting, and one voiced his concerns regarding planning application DC/25/2997/FUL and not being given sufficient notice of this planning meeting.

6. Receive other reports on actions

Deferred to next meeting.

7. Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as Wednesday 17th September at 7pm.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9pm.

Signed:
Chair

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Date