

EAST CLAYDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in East Claydon Village Hall
At 7.30pm on Tuesday 19 September 2023**

Councillors Present: Cllrs Peter Wright (PW), Gary Baldwin (GB), Martin Hughes (MH), Gareth Williams (GW), Christopher Utley (CU) , Christopher Jordan (CJ), and Dan Clemens (DC)

Also present: Carole Jackman (Clerk), Unitary Cllr Frank Mahon and ~50 Members of the Public.

OPEN FORUM:

Chair welcomed members of the public who were present because of concerns about the Rosefield Solar Farm (RSF) proposal for a new solar farm with battery storage on surrounding fields which will cover approximately 800 hectares (2,000 acres). Plans for a new solar farm with battery storage in Buckinghamshire, England, have been unveiled by EDF Renewables UK and PS Renewables. Located on land owned by Claydon Estates, Rosefield Solar Farm is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) because its generating capacity will be over 50MW.

Details of early plans for the scheme will be published for consultation on Thursday 28 September 2023. The “consultation” will run for six weeks.

The size of this development means RSF will apply for a type of planning consent called a Development Consent Order (DCO), which is decided by the government. Consultation forms a key part of the DCO process, both before RSF submit the application and as part of the examination process.

Chair said that the objective this evening was to get the initial views of residents and take instruction on how the Parish Council should proceed. The council was only made aware of the proposal on 11 September. RSF had issued leaflets to all The Claydons and Calvert Green.

The proposal impacts three tenant farmers and a clinical company, but as yet the full impact is not known. Residents were encouraged to attend the forthcoming consultation events.

A show of hands indicated that those present were unanimously opposed to the plans.

The following is a list of points/opinions raised:

- If the plans are approved, a second Substation or upgrading of the current Substation will be required.
- Wind turbines, as an alternative, were mentioned as they would require less land.
- It was noted that the solar companies normally approach the landowners, who benefit from substantial financial long term lease payments.
- Great Horwood, who experienced something similar, may have some advice.
- The local land is grade 3b but other areas with good agricultural land have been given permission for solar farms.
- Applications of over 50 megawatts go to the government for approval, although the Unitary and Parish Councils are consultees.
- A substantial team needs to be put together to oppose the proposal.
- Last year 335 solar farms were approved - 80% on appeal – 32 are in construction the rest will be in 2035-2040.
- Local councils are concerned about the cost of refusing planning as appeals cost them over £30,000 in legal fees.
- Free map tools are available to map out the proposed area.
- The full public consultation is inadequate.

- Farmland should be saved for food production and biodiverse security.
- Chances of stopping the proposal are fairly slim without major public action and opposition.
- Impact of HS2/HS2 maintenance depot / East West Rail/Energy from Waste Plant/Grendon Mega Prison/ Battery Farm in Granborough and major house building developments puts great pressure on the local area. The community must come together to add weight to any objections.
- Ultimately need professional advice.
- Need financial contributions to support this.
- Need to set up a meeting after the drop-in sessions arranged at short notice by EF.
- Rothschild have a charity to benefit the community which might be available to help.
- The Parish Council does not have sufficient funds to fight this .
- Need other parish councils to come on board - all The Claydon's and Calvert Green – set up an action group and report back to the parish council once a month.
- Written objections help – everything needs to be in writing.
- Need to let the Verney's know how we feel following tonight's massive turnout – perhaps a petition sent to the Verney's and ask how they justify this with their membership of the CPRE.
- Unitary Cllr Frank Mahon has photos of tonight's meeting which could be used to show the turnout.
- The battery storage application (500 megawatts) is still at the application stage.
- Geological surveys are at an advanced stage.
- Next Steps:
 - Draw up action Plan
- Those members of the public interested in helping were asked to leave their contact details before leaving the meeting.

8.30pm All but 2 members of the public left the meeting

1. **Apologies:** UC Angela Macpherson
2. **Members Interests:** None.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 August 2023**
The minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2023 were agreed by those present and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising:**
None.
5. **Planning** **(Appendix 1: 2022-23 applications and decisions)**
 5.1 **Planning applications**
23/01939/SO | EIA Screening Opinion for a proposed solar farm with associated works on land at Wings Farm, Marston Road, Granborough, MK18 3JX | Wings Farm Marston Road Granborough Buckinghamshire
 It was noted that EIA is not required.
Actions: Chair to speak to Granborough Parish Council and Cllr CJ to investigate the application further.
6. **Battery Container Project**
It was agreed to continue to support Granborough Parish Council and take further action when the planning application has been submitted.
7. **Rosefield Solar Farm**
During the Open Forum members of the public voiced their concerns about the proposals. Their points are listed above. During an earlier discussion, the following points had been raised:
 - To fight the proposal a Go Fund Me page was suggested.

- All objections must stick to points of law.
- Businesses and impact on public health a concern.
- Highlight the villages architectural heritage.
- Need volunteers to join a working group.
- Get as many parishes involved as possible.

It was agreed:

- To set up a steering group and lead as soon as possible.
- To get costings.
- To look into setting up a Charity or company limited by guarantee.
- To bring on board as many local parishes as possible.

It was noted that there is a meeting with Parishes and Greg Smith MP between 2-4pm on 10 October. Cllr GW stated that he has a meeting with Greg Smith MP to highlight what his company does.

8. Finance and Accounts

8.1 Accounts

Clerk had circulated the accounts prior to the meeting (**see appendix 2**) and Councillors approved them.

9. Village Hall

9.1 Solar Panel funding

Cllr GB reported that his application for funding of roof solar panels had been turned down.

9.2 General update

Cllr GB reported that he has found rising damp and woodworm in some areas and that the skirting boards need replacing.

10. School Car Park

Cllrs GB and GW are meeting governors to try to resolve the issues with the school not allowing anyone else to use the car park. It was understood during the original discussions and planning approval that it could be used for village hall events. It was noted that no cars were parked in the old school car park, but that the staff were using the new car park which is preventing parents from using it during pick up and drop off.

11. Roads and Pathways

11.1 Dead Tree

The dead tree opposite the village hall has now been felled.

Action: GW to get a price to remove the stump.

11.2 Hedges

Cllr GB had met with RTM regarding cutting back the hedge opposite the Emerald (on the bend between the wooden planked cottage and the dog bin) and had agreed for them to carry out the work for £120.

12. Devolved Services Agreement

Bucks Council is in the process of reviewing the Devolved Services Agreement, but no updates have been sent to Parish Councils.

13. Community Boards

Cllr GB has in hand an application to the Community Board for village hall funding and to Argos and Home Base who both have community funds.

14. EWR/HS2

HS2 is still repairing local roads – no further updates were available. The road to Buckingham via Sandhill Rd and Herds hill (to Padbury) will be closed during October

15. Heritage List

Following his request for feedback, Cllr CJ had received a suggestion from one resident to add more ridge and furrow grass land to the list. It also was agreed to add the green space between Botolph and East Claydon, the green space behind Hinton Close and to apply for the area around the church to be added to the conservation area.

16. Parish Magazine

The Parish Council had been informed that the cost of producing the recent parish magazine had been reduced.

17. General Correspondence

All correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

18. Any Other Business

Cllrs GB and CJ agreed to plant bulbs up to the value of £100.

19. Date of Next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at:

- 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17 October 2023.

Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Appendix 1

2023 Planning Applications

Reference	Address	Status
23/00115/APP	23 Orchard Way Botolph Claydon Buckinghamshire MK18 2NG	Approved
23/00212/ALB	1 Orchard Way Botolph Claydon Buckinghamshire MK18 2NG	Consent Granted
23/01083/PIP	Land Off Hinton Close East Claydon Buckinghamshire	Approved
23/01141/ALB	40 Botyl Road Botolph Claydon Buckinghamshire MK18 2LR	Consent Granted
23/01568/APP	4 Lacemakers Close East Claydon Buckinghamshire MK18 2FA	Approved
23/01662/APP	40 Botyl Road Botolph Claydon Buckinghamshire MK18 2LR	Approved
23/01939/SO	Wings Farm Marston Road Granborough Buckinghamshire	Decided

Appendix 2

Payments and Receipts

Date	Supplier	Ref.	Payment	Receipt	Comments
22/08/2023	HMRC			1,164.91	VAT Refund
24/08/2023	Oakpart Alarms	27	254.40		Inv 101930: VH Fire Alarm maintenance
04/09/2023	RTM	28	438.78		Inv 4251: August grass cutting
04/09/2023	PKF Littlejohn	29	252.00		Inv SB20231131: AGAR year ending 31 March 2023
04/09/2023	Albany Carpet contracts ltd	30	1,948.76		Inv 38295: Flooring: main entrance/ladies toilet/gents toilet
04/09/2023	Village hall			1,206.26	Donation from village hall
15/09/2023	Bucks Council -			10,750.00	2nd precept payment
19/09/2023	Andrew Hayns	31	45.00		Inv SS-0286: standard level service Sept 6 - Dec 6 2023
19/09/2023	Rachel Seago Designs	32	50.00		Inv TC 2450: Website maintenance Aug 2023
19/09/2023	ICO £35 in September	33 DD	35.00		ICO renewal
19/09/2023	C Jackman	34	593.89		Clerk salary July - Sept 2023
19/09/2023	HMRC	35	148.40		Clerk PAYE July-Sept 2023