



**GISLINGHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**



Working for our Community

Email: clerk@gislinghamparishcouncil.com

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5th August 2026 at 6.00pm**

Present: Cllr Fell, Cllr C Calver, Cllr F Oliver, Cllr R Gray, Clerk/RFO – S Budd,
6 members of public

Apologies: Cllr C Saunders

1 Chair's welcome and to consider and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr Fell welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies from Cllr Saunders were noted and approved by council.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items

None

3 To consider Requests for Dispensations on Agenda Items

None

4 Planning

5 DC/26/02338 - Ivy Lodge Farm, Back Street, Gislingham, Eye Suffolk IP23 8JH - Full Planning
Application – Conversion and extension of barn to 1no. dwelling.

6 DC/26/02339 - Ivy Lodge Farm, Back Street, Gislingham, Eye Suffolk IP23 8JH – Application for Listed
Building Consent - Conversion and extension of barn to 1no. dwelling.

The Council raised no objection to the proposed conversion of the property. However, the Council does not support the proposed extension, noting that it would cut into the side of the existing building and is therefore not acceptable.

7 Ecopower Suffolk

Members of the public attended to discuss the forthcoming Eco Power solar project. Two residents asked what information the Parish Council intended to include in its consultation response. The Clerk outlined the key areas where clarification is being sought, including visual impact, planting and screening, hedgerow proposals, and concerns that the compensation package appears inadequate. Two other residents spoke in favour of the project, highlighting potential biodiversity benefits, the value of wild planting, and the importance of renewable energy. They noted that progress on installing domestic solar panels is slow and that energy generation is needed now. The land proposed for development is Grade 3 agricultural land, considered to be of lower quality, and the scheme would still allow sheep grazing beneath the panels. Additional hedgerow and wildflower planting was seen as likely to encourage wildlife. It was also stated that the land would be returned to farming in the same, or potentially better, condition at the end of the project's lifespan.

Several residents requested clearer information on the distance of the panels from the road edge, asking whether sufficient space would remain for walkers and dog walkers to move safely off the carriageway. Some residents expressed that the scale of proposals makes it feel as though the village is "under attack".

Information shared from a neighbouring parish indicated that previously planted hedging for a similar scheme had been low-budget, with much of it dying due to weather conditions and lack of watering.

Some screening had also blown down in high winds and had not been replaced. These concerns will be reflected in the Parish Council's response.

The Chair reported seeing approximately ten people on Thornhill Road who stated they were carrying out soil testing for the Great Grid Upgrade. It was noted that this relates to the pylon project, not the solar farm.

Residents also felt that the consultation information provided was minimal and unclear, and requested more accessible and understandable material for both the Parish Council and the wider public. It was further noted that each solar field would include a battery storage facility, raising concerns about fire risk. Residents asked whether these units could be co-located in a single area rather than dispersed across multiple fields.

Cllr Fell will speak with Cllr Warboys to obtain further details on who is leading and coordinating the projects.

Date of the next Parish Council meeting 17th August 2026

Meeting closed at 19.20pm