



Castle Acre Parish Clerk: Ms Amy Hart
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Minutes of CA Parish Council Solar Subcommittee meeting (The Drovers), business conducted at Egerton House, Back Lane on January 28th, 2026, at 1: 15pm.

Present: Tim Hubbard (Chair), Cllr Stuart Barlow, Cllr Anne Mason & Cllr Ilga Chakrabarti.

Via Teams: Julie Barrow (Principal Planner & NSIPS Team Leader/Majors) & Lucy Smith (Senior Planner) of KLWNBC.

1. Declaration of Interests:

None.

- 2. Introduction:** TH (Chair) confirmed that the agenda for the Teams meeting would be to request information on the Registration / Examination process and upcoming representation deadline. Further Actions to agree regarding contact with Local MP's and the EDP would commence after the Teams.

The Teams Meeting commenced at 1:30pm.

- 3.** TH (Chair) requested information regarding the **Registration and Notification** process via the Planning Inspectorate, having not received any updates since Registering. JB (Principal Planner) confirmed that information can sometimes be available on the website prior to notification and to email the case team if unsure.
- 4.** Examination & process: JB (Principal Planner) confirmed that we are still in the 'Pre Examination Phase' all 'Interested Parties' can still register their interest via PINS (Planning Inspectorate) till 27/02/2026. The timetable for the Examination Phase would likely cover a six-month period which would involve Public Hearings, set by Agenda to cover the 'Key Issues'. Common themes being Historical Assets/Landscape & Environment. PINS will set up that Timetable; any hearings will be hybrid events (in person and livestreamed via Teams). To speak at hearings, a pre-registration must be completed. Directly after each hearing, if attending, you will be required to submit a record of your spoken points to the appointed Planning Inspector.
- 5.** It is likely there will be 9-10 deadlines and a continued cycle of points which can be commented on while the process is ongoing, all within the PINS portal too. PINS will be looking for Community Engagement to back up any Representations and Material Planning Considerations. Planning Inspector (likely one) appointed 'independently; by Secretary of State recommendation/Inspectors Report at the end of the process could be agreed or thrown out by Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will have three months to make the decision, which can be subject to delay.
- 6.** Next steps: IGP (Island Green Power) are to create a SOCG (statement of common ground) on areas IGP feel that there is agreement. This can be challenged via a PADSS (principal areas of disagreement summary statement). Remaining disagreements (which can change) will be highlighted for discussion through the lifetime of the process. JB (Principal Planner) confirmed that a sample 'Examination Timetable' would be sent following the meeting and information links.
- 7.** AM (Cllr Anne Mason) asked if CAPC could represent South Acre, as it has no active Parish Council, JB (Principal Planner) suggested Community Engagement would be necessary, but it was possible to represent both wards if agreed.
- 8.** Clerk (Amy Hart) asked if there were any way to 'fact check' / independent expert review of any representation documents, which JB (Principal Planner) confirmed that a Technical Consultant could be hired by CAPC at the approx. cost of 2K per project.

9. TH (Chair) asked what 'confidential annex' could represent as noted on EN01100013 7.2. JB (Principal Planner) confirmed that this information could be requested from both Developer & PINS.
10. **Community Benefit:** TH (Chair) requested if any Community Benefit could be agreed prior to project start or completion. JB (Principal Planner) stated that this is likely agreed upon completion of project based on £ per megawatt, Developers unlikely to commit to anything binding until completion.
11. **Site Selection Process:** TH (Chair) asked how Developers selected sites, JB (Principal Planner) stated that Developers in addition to checking for serviceable grid connections, may check Land Registry for Land Ownership.

Teams ended at 2:31pm.

Sincere thanks to Julie Barrow & Lucy Smith for their time.

Actions

- Cllr Mason to request Bird Watching Walks via Local Expert, to check and confirm species/rare wildlife sightings. All in agreement.
- Cllr Mason to confirm Archaeology of known sites overlay on Development Map. All in agreement.
- TH (Chair) to contact representatives of South Acre. All in agreement.
- CAPC to invite MP's James Wild, Terry Jermy and George Freeman to a Community meeting to offer Residents the opportunity to discuss their concerns at the VH. All in agreement.
- TH (Chair) to invite EDP Reporter to discuss matter with CAPC Subcommittee group. All in agreement.

The meeting closed at 3:08pm

Next full PC meeting: Thursday 12th February 2025 at 19:30pm in the CA Village Hall.