



TIVETSHALL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Tivetshall Parish Council Meeting
held at The Village Hall Tivetshall
on 6th February 2025

These are draft minutes and will be approved at the next meeting

Present: Councillors –Steve West, Alyson Read, Rob Alleguen-Porter, Kris temple

Also Present:

No members of the public and our County Councillor Catherine Rowett were in attendance

1. To agree a councillor to act as chairman for the meeting

Alyson Read agreed to step in as Chair for the meeting in the Chair’s absence

Proposed Cllr Alleguen-Porter Seconded Cllr West

2. To consider apologies for absence

Carole Youngs sent her apologies due to ill health all agreed to accept.

3. To consider declarations of interest on items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensations

None

4. Minutes

4.1. To approve the minutes of the 9th January 2025

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting held on the 9th January 2025 and duly signed by the acting chair

Proposed Cllr West Seconded Cllr Read

4.2. Matters arising from the 9th January 2025 (for information only)

None

5. Public Participation to include reports from District and County Councillors

Catherine Rowett sent her report as **Appendix 1**

No Report from District Councillor Clayton Hudson

Delme Thompson sent no report

6. Finance

6.1. To receive the balance of accounts and bank reconciliation **Appendix 2**

6.2. To note receipts since the last meeting including Dec/Jan

None

6.3. To note payments at this meeting

a) Alan Arber	Salary Jan	£515.23
b) Alan Arber	Norfolk Pension Fund Clerks pension Jan	£186.75
c) Nick Sharpe	Salary Jan	£50.56
d) HMRC	Tax and NI Jan	£143.80
e) Lloyd’s bank	Monthly Credit card charge	£3.00
f) Unity Trust	Monthly bank charge	£6.00
g) NPTS	Vice chair finance Training	£48.00
h) Parish online	Annual Subscription	£96.00
i) ICO	Annual subscription	£40.00
j) Payments on Credit card		

k) Printer Ink		£29.98
March Payments		
l) Alan Arber	Salary Feb	£488.23
m) Alan Arber	Norfolk Pension Fund Clerks pension Feb	£186.75
n) Nick Sharpe	Salary feb	£50.76
o) HMRC	Tax and NI Feb	£143.80
p) Lloyd's bank	Monthly Credit card charge	£3.00
q) Unity Trust	Monthly bank charge	£6.00
r) J M Crerar	Gang Mowing	£837.50

Proposed Cllr Alleguen-Porter

Seconded Cllr Temple

6.4. To agree any payments that come in after the agenda posted
None

6.5. To receive a report on the parish Finances

The balance of the account on the 1st Feb was £18,682.24 and after today's payments for both Feb and March due to the clerks leave the final balance is £15,887.08 which shows our balance up on the year end last year of just under £2000 but this final figure is subject to any new payments that come in during the clerks leave in early March

7. Reports from Clerk and Councillors

7.1. To receive the Clerk's report including the Handyman's report **Appendix 3**

Proposed Cllr Alleguen-Porter **Seconded Cllr West**

7.2. To review and update Community Plan **Appendix 4**

All actions were updated

7.3. Receive update on requests to reduce speed limits on Station Road and around the School, Village Hall and Village Green

a) To receive SAM 2 reports from Dudley Adshead
No report received yet

7.4. To discuss and update the Bio-Diversity Policy with its actions and time frames **Appendix 5**
All actions updated

7.5. Formalising agreement with Parish council and Village Hall
Nothing has come forward on this.

7.6. To discuss the possibility of working with Community Payback team on village amenities to help handyman
The Clerk will be holding a meeting with the community payback organiser on Monday 10th February at 11.30 am and will report back at the April meeting to the council.

8. To receive the Village Hall report - None

7.1 To agree the nominations for the Village Hall from the Parish Council
None

9. Governance

Nothing to report

10. Planning

9.1 To hear any Planning applications received and after the agenda is posted.
2025/0208 following outline planning 2024/0006
Green Pastures, The street Tivetshall NR15 2BT
Reserved matters.

The council discussed this application and all agreed to support and felt that it was the best planning application they had seen that meets with the Tivetshall Neighbourhood Plan.

9.2 East Pye Solar Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping report comments that need to be in by 12/2/25

The Parish Council had received the recommendation's from Hempnall Parish council as detailed at their meeting dated 4/2/25 and agreed with their recommendations. These would be incorporated into the document from our Parish Council. Chair Alyson Read is working on a document to be sent in to the Planning Inspectorate in time to meet the deadline of 12/2 to be submitted by the clerk.

All agreed this is the best course of action and to be done by the submission date.

Our report and parishioners letter and Hempnall report as Appendix 6

9.3 To hear an update on Planning Enforcement issues

11. To update Highways Spreadsheet and review outstanding issues and consider any new issues arising.

All actions noted as required and will be reported asap

12. Correspondence

Community payback email received and meeting set up

NPTS spring seminar booked and paid for by one of the clerk's other councils

Police SNT meeting attended virtually on rural crime in our area

Planning application 2025/0208 received and sent round to all councillors

East Pye solar emails received

East Pye Solar Environmental Impact Assessment details received

East Pye Solar Environmental Impact Assessment report from Hempnall PC received

Casual Vacancy paperwork for Julie's vacancy received and on website

Website updated

Meeting with Waveney Pumps attended regarding siting of new defib on their building

BHF fully funded defib and case applied for

Play area report received from handyman

Precept request submitted

Ranger's workbook completion of work received

Email regarding quiet lane signs received saying NCC no longer have budget to replace these

ICO confirmation of annual subscription received

Email from Nick to say he has made the fallen part of the fence good

Emails regarding the cessation of the Norwich western link road at present

Clerk's Mental health training booked for 20/3

Response sent via vice chair to parishioner's email regarding goalposts on playing field

Email reply received to say Parishioner still unsure why the goalposts are not being installed

Defib status updated on the circuit

13. To consider any necessary training for the new Clerk/Handyman/Councillors

Practitioners conference report

The clerk attended the SLCC Practitioners conference over 2 days in the midlands at his own expense for one third with his other 2 councils paying a third each. This was due to a complaint by a parishioner regarding the council paying for his attendance at the SLCC National Conference.

He attended many workshops and sessions on Planning, VAT, Bullying, building resilience, working with councillors and difficult parishioners, AI workshops, Grants, Martyns law, Devolution and final procurement. All the clerk's councils benefit from his attendance which is why he attends these events and was disappointed on the council's decision not to assist with funding the conference but after a discussion this evening, it was agreed after this report that the councillors feel the third of funding was unanimously agreed to fund back to The Clerk the sum of £200 his payment of third of the cost of the course.

Proposed Cllr Alleguen-Porter Seconded Cllr West and unanimously agreed and this would be refunded.

Clerk booked on NPTS spring seminar in March

Clerk booked on Mental health training in March

14. To receive any urgent items for information and to consider items for the next agenda

Year End and Agar

Play Park Zip Wire
Bio diversity working group
Parish magazine article
Chairs resignation.

15. To receive date of the next meeting
April 10th 2025

Meeting ended 8.25pm

Progress report

Since the start of January we've been engulfed by the emergency Council meeting and debates about devolution (see below). I need to get fixed up with some visit dates with Highways and push for progress on things that aren't going well yet. I'm following up issues with the new signage in Furze Green as well as existing issues in Forncett. I'm looking forward to seeing the plans for the new speed limits in Bressingham.

I've had some answers from the buses team about some of the mysterious new bus stops. I've put in the January suggestions for things to improve our buses and I am planning to make a suggestion on that for our proposed amendments to the Cabinet's budget plans on the 18th February.

I've signed a letter to the government about protecting chalk streams, and I've been involved in campaigns in support of the climate and nature (CAN) bill which is vital to protecting our countryside and wildlife and also legally enshrining our commitments to climate action agreed internationally for the sake of the whole world. We need it to protect us from this government which seems intent on vandalism across our country in the name of the nonsense they call growth.

There's further bad news now in that the government is trying to prevent environmentalists from challenging destructive infrastructure plans by way of judicial review.

Devolution

Just before Christmas, the government put out a plan for local government reorganisation and restructuring that has sent the entirety of Suffolk and Norfolk into a spin, along with many other parts of the UK. Proposals include elected mayors for large areas (in our case Norfolk and Suffolk together) and unitary authorities that combine the functions of District and County councils, and eliminate the layer of representation that is currently district councillors. Since these are the people closest to the actual places you live, and elected to serve small groups of villages rather than large areas, this seems like centralising power in large authorities, rather than devolution.

Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils decided to apply for the option of a fast-track restructure, which could include cancelling this year's May elections. Only the Green group voted against going for this hasty restructure programme and silencing the democratic voice. We also presented an amendment in favour of fairer voting systems for the new strategic authorities and mayors, which is essential if we are to get representatives who command the respect of a majority of the people. That was voted down, despite a number of speakers agreeing that it would help to restore confidence in our democratic procedures.

At the time of writing we are awaiting (every day) the minister's decision as to which councils are to proceed on the priority programme for reorganisation.

Budget

The Council will meet on 18th February to vote on Cabinet's the proposals for how to deliver a balanced budget for next year within impossible constraints, where revenue doesn't match the demand for what we have to deliver, and the level of council tax rise permitted doesn't match inflation or the increased costs for social care workers that result from the rise in the minimum wage and national insurance.

Appendix 2

31-Mar-24		Running Total			
Current Account	£13,971.30	B/F	13,971.30	Unity Trust account	15,887.08
		Expenditure	22,661.36		
		Income	24,577.14		
Total	13,971.30	Total	15,887.08	Total	15,887.08

Summary of Financial Position

Bank Reconciliation @ 1st February 2025

Bank balance - Unity	£18,682.24
Less unrepresented cheques	
Total	£18,682.24

Cash book

£18,682.24

Payments made at the last meeting

1,201.53

Payments made since the last meeting

ICO
Total

Annual Charge

£35.00
£35.00

Receipts since the last meeting

06/02/2025 Nick Sharp
06/02/2025 Alan Arber
06/02/2025 HMRC
06/02/2025 Norfolk pension fund
06/02/2025 NPTS
06/02/2025 Parish online
06/02/2025 Lloyd
06/02/2025 Amazon
28/02/2025 Unity trust

Handymans salary and expenses Nov
Clerks salary and expenses Nov
Tax and NI
clerks pension
Chairs training
Gov.uk annual subscription
Credit card charge
Printer ink
Monthly bank charge

Bacs 50.56
Bacs 515.23
Bacs 143.80
Bacs 186.75
Bacs 48.00
Bacs 96.00
bacs 3.00
C/c 29.98
bacs 6.00

Represented as:

1,079.32 £18,682.24 17,602.92

Neighbourhood Plan - Locality	45.02
Neighbourhood Plan - SNC	1,613.65
Covid Grant	149.79
CIL	133.83
General Reserves	16,829.99
VAT reclaimed	197.36
Vat to be reclaimed	60.36
Grants	£ 9,100.00

Summary of Financial Position

Bank Reconciliation @ 1st march 2024			
Bank balance - Unity		£17,602.92	
Less unrepresented cheques			
Total			
Cash book		£17,602.92	
Payments made at the last meeting		1,079.32	
Payments made since the last meeting	Total		£0.00
Receipts since the last meeting			
Balance 1st March 2024		£17,602.92	
Payments to be agreed at this meeting			
06/03/2025 Nick Sharp	Handymans salary and expenses feb	Bacs	50.76
06/03/2025 Alan Arber	Clerks salary and expenses Feb	Bacs	488.23
06/03/2025 Norfolk pension fund	Clerks Pension	Bacs	186.75
06/03/2025 HMRC	Tax and NI	Bacs	143.60
06/03/2025 Loyds	Credit card	bacs	3.00
06/03/2025 Unity Trust	Bank Charges	bacs	6.00
06/03/2025 J M Crerar	Gang Mowing	Bacs	837.50
			1,715.84
Represented as:		£17,602.92	15,887.08
Neighbourhood Plan - Locality		45.02	
Neighbourhood Plan - SNC		1,613.65	
Covid Grant		149.79	
CIL		133.83	
General Reserves		15,750.67	
VAT reclaimed		167.06	
Vat to be reclaimed		62.18	
Grants		£ 9,100.00	

Tivetshall Parish Council

Clerks Report

Yet again another busy month with the budget and other items to get done before my leave in early feb to mid-march when I visit my sister in New Zealand for 4 weeks

The Parish council budget has been finalised and after much discussion at the Jan meeting it was agreed that the precept would rise by 10% which the council feel is acceptable considering the many issues we have coming up around the pylons and solar farms and we need funds to ensure we can do the best for our parishioners on these issues. The budget was discussed at length by all the councillors over the last few weeks and as such we feel it is a fair and well-proportioned budget allowing for everything we have to pay out from salaries, Grass cutting, Dog Bins and general maintenance as you can see and I have put the budget on the website for all to see but happy to discuss on my return in mid-march at TTJ if parishioners wish to see how we work this out.

Both myself and Nick have had our yearly appraisals and I am pleased to report the councillors are very happy with us both in our roles and as such both of us have been rewarded with small one SCP point rise to show this as detailed in our contracts that will come into force in early April

Our new Gov.uk email boxes are all now in place and the only email address we use is the clerk@tivetshall-pc.gov.uk so please ensure you email the clerk via this email box as the old ones are now closed and not being used.

This month has been busy as I ensure that everything is in place for all councillors to ensure we function correctly and legally whilst I am away including payments for salaries and budget and precept work submitted.

I recently attended the SLCC Practitioners conference attending many workshops on such items as New vat law, Planning, devolution, Resilience, Martyns law, AI (which many clerks including myself use to save time), Play Areas, the need for accuracy at all times, working with councillors and finally how to deal with the major issue in our sector bullying especially from all areas including parishioners, county officers and councillors but I have to say I have a great group of councillors that provide me with the support when I need it (trust me I do many times) I have to say it was an amazing conference paid for by my other 2 councils and the third by myself for personal reasons but it was great value to my council at Tivetshall as all my other councils who also benefit greatly.

The council still have a space for new councillors and if anyone would like to take up the role, please get in touch asap direct to myself on the clerk's email address. It is not an erroneous role and you can undertake as much work as you want to or even as little as you want too. But I would say it is very rewarding most days.

Finally, due to the extra work falling on my desk I will only be attending TTJ once a month and look forward to seeing everyone at these wonderful events

Handyman's Report

Our handyman Nick has almost completed the upgrade of the pavilion on the [playing field and is undertaking the works needed on the play area at present to ensure it meets the requirements for our insurers who are very strict on any items around play areas and football pitches. The old fence that cuts the car park from the playing field needs some renovation and Nick has kindly donated a new gate that we will get put up with the help of some strong volunteers asap.

Appendix 4

Tivetshall Parish Council, Community plan.

All parts of the plan are in reference to Tivetshalls Neighbourhood plan

We as a council have agreed to focus on and deliver the following projects and actions for the coming year (Jan 2023-Jan 2024)

Project	Why	Agreed Actions	Progress	Councillor /Clerk Lead	Date to be completed
Speeding	To reduce speeding within our villages	New Sam machine working well Speed monitoring by police requested along Station Road. Clerk is submitting the reports to The Police. We are looking at the possibility of installing in a pole to hold the SAM 2 machine in Moulton Road	Ongoing with reports submitted at Parish council meetings Pressure to be kept on highways on this issue and to ensure all accidents are reported to Highways. Awaiting new SAM 2 machine	Dudley Adshedd/ Clerk Clerk/ Carole Clerk Clerk/ Dudley	Ongoing Speed checks undertaken Ongoing Ongoing
Playing Field	Playing Field lease expires in 2022, PC not able to plan longer term. Secure Ownership of playing field	PC to discuss with landowner and identify whether a new lease is likely to be agreed. The clerk would contact the landowners again on the possibility of a rolling lease to allow us to keep upgrading the play area if possible No grants can be obtained but as we do not have a lease on the field so this cannot progress. Dialogue has been opened with the landowners and the clerk too look at grants for goalposts from the FA Delme mentioned on the possibility of getting the field valued via Pride in Place Grant The playing field is around 4 acres in size Gate to be fixed on asap	Initial contact made with landowner. Keep contact going John and others to help with date to be fixed 3 quotes are needed. To be discussed at Sept PC meeting	RA-P Clerk Clerk and helpers All councillors	Ongoing Ongoing As soon as Possible Ongoing

		<p>The price for 2 sets of goalposts that are fixed into the ground clerk to continue to investigate this issue.</p> <p>The new gate donated by Nick Sharpe needs installing, when possible, with help from the lads at TTJ</p> <p>Possibility of a height restriction sign to be installed</p>	<p>Needs working party to help Nick</p> <p>Village hall committee to be advised and discussions to be held</p> <p>Discussions to be held with Village Hall committee</p>	<p>Nick</p> <p>Julie</p> <p>Village Hall Committee</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Pond Area/Village green Heritage project		<p>Village sign to be completely rebuilt it is hoped we can get a local builder to do this and is into heritage building projects</p> <p>Councillor Kris temple is looking to rebuild the Village sign on the green with costings of around £650 but we await quote</p>	<p>Complete rebuild needed of village sign</p> <p>Will be done by end of march</p>	<p>Rob</p> <p>Kris</p>	<p>Kris/Clerk</p> <p>Kris</p>
Litter Pick	Parish Litter Pick	<p>Litter Picks to Coincide with SINDC Great Litter Pick campaign. 2 litter picks a year</p> <p>The last litter pick was attended by 17 people with around 7 juniors attending and all roads were litter picked and lots of rubbish picked up</p>	Ongoing	<p>AR</p>	Ongoing
Parish Maintenance	Parish Council maintenance for Nick to attend too	<p>Nick is doing a great job and is an asset to the community</p> <p>Nick to look at the entrances to the footpaths from the road.</p> <p>Play area received and Nick to look at and undertake any work detailed in play inspection report.</p> <p>Fence outside the village hall to be replaced</p> <p>New gate for Play area donated by Nick and we need to look at what is needed to get it installed asap. This will be replaced with Hedging that we are getting from The Woodland trust in March</p> <p>Noticeboard at Village Hall to be renovated</p>	<p>To be done ASAP</p> <p>Nick is working through the list The Clerk has given him</p> <p>Need new prices for materials</p> <p>Nick to do this</p>	<p>Alyson</p> <p>Nick/Clerk</p> <p>Nick</p> <p>Clerk Nick</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

		A sand bag area for parishioners to collect from has been allocated by the side of the Pavilion.	Ongoing	Clerk	Ongoing
		Clerk will get a quote for the cutting of the hedge along the playing field	Clerk to look into this asap	Nick/Steve	Nov
Community Woodland	To be discussed	To look at the possibility of this and looking at areas for this to be planted. Clerk to look at Grants from maltings and solar scheme when known and path across the green also to be looked at under Parish Partnership or any funding schemes that come up	Areas to be looked at and details of what's needed to start the project Funding sources to be looked at	The Clerk The Clerk	Ongoing Ongoing
Enhance Public rights of way in Parish	Looking to enhance public rights of way in the parish	Looking at extra training, funding and ways to enhance our public rights of way via various methods. Green lane and Mill Road. Quiet lane signs need replacing	Grants to be looked at Clerk to actioned	Clerk Clerk	Ongoing Done
Flooding	Look to assist local parishioners with flooding issues and problems	Clerk has written to Mr Rackham the landowner regarding the ditches and field on Rectory Lane/the street behind the Post office and the ditches on green lane after the last bungalow there. Green lane Tivetshall Ditch needs cleaning (Baker Farms) Gissing road ditch to be finished (Lambert farms) Quiet lane signs to be looked into and a list made if where they were and it was agreed these would be replaced asap	Clerk to write letter and send to all councillors for agreement Clerk to contact farms Alyson and Steve West to do this	Clerk Clerk AR/SW	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing

Signed Chairman

**TIVETSHALL PC BIO-DIVERSITY
ACTION PLAN**

The Parish Council will manage its land and buildings to enhance and improve the biodiversity through best practises, engaging with its grounds contractors and volunteers and staff.

Desired Outcome	Actions	Location	Target Date	Who	How to publicise
Plant indigenous trees and wildflowers	Create a wildflower and tree corridor using fruit trees	3-to-4-meter strip between play park and playfield to create a natural barrier for when cars use the field for events.	March 2025	All/Contractor	Social and Newsletter
	Plant indigenous trees to create natural barrier	Between Housing and Village hall	March 2025	Councillors	Social and Newsletter
Reduce Mowing to create new habitats that benefit wildlife	Wildflower corridor	3 to 4 meter strip between play park and playfield to create a natural barrier for when cars use the field for events.	Spring 2025	All/Contractor	Social and Newsletter
	Wildflower habitat and raised beds with shrubs	Area in front of Hedge by the pond on the Green	Spring 2025	All/Contractor	Social and Newsletter
Enhance water bodies	Look for opportunities to reinstate or put in ghost ponds in areas that have flooding issues	Junction of Ram Lane and Bonds Road, Green Lane.	April 2025	Clerk/Flooding Officer	Talk to Landowners
	Find a way to provide water butts to parishioners at lower cost	Open to All Parishioners	April 2025	Clerk	
	Can we divert more water into Village Pond? (Nick to monitor levels)	Village Pond	April 2025	Clerk/Flooding Officer	

Install Bird/Bat boxes and create hedgehog friendly area and gardens	Look to purchase Bird and Bat boxes for Parishioners to buy.		March 2025	Clerk/Wildlife Rangers?	Social and Newsletter
	Install Bird and bat boxes	Village Pond. Woodland at the end of the Play Park. Area around Pavilion Both Churches	Spring 2025	Handyman	Social and Newsletter
	Investigate and publish ways Parishioners can help hedgehogs		Spring 2025	Clerk/Alyson	Social and Newsletter
Reduce reliance on pesticides and herbicides	Make part of the contract with our ground work teams	All Areas of Parish owned Land Emails to be sent to all contractors on this issue and only to spray in essential areas	March 2025	Clerk	Talk to Contractors
Health and Welfare	Look to install addition benches in the new habitats we create	Wildflower corridor on Playfield and Village green, Church Walk.	October 2025	Handyman	Social and Newsletter
	Register all Parish Green Spaces within our Neighbourhood Plan with the Queens Green Canopy		March 2025	Clerk/Alyson	Social and Newsletter
Grants, Training, involving local businesses	Access Grants/Support from Government and businesses		On Going	All	
	Attend training and seminars on Biodiversity		On Going	All	
	Install Bike Rack (VH to agree location. Clerk to purchase, Nick to	Village Hall/Play park	March 2025	Handyman/VH Committee	Social and Newsletter

install)				
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Suggested amendments to BEPS 3 Page doc: “Proposed Scope of the East Pye Solar EIA”

I suggested some text changes to the full BEPS Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report in regard to references to lighting impacts and impacts on rural tranquillity. Annetta Berry is incorporating these changes in to this document although they are not included in the version you received via Email. In order for the 3 page Proposed Scope document to be consistent with the re-worded longer report the following references to lighting need to be re-worded:

1) “Impacts of any lighting, including temporary lighting on wildlife and communities should be scoped in”

Replace with: “**Impacts of any lighting employed during the construction phase, on flora, fauna, dark skies, dark landscapes and residential amenity should be scoped in**” (*)

Reason for the change – light pollution concerns extend beyond impacts on ecology and all the negative consequences of introducing artificial light in to an area of rural dark landscape need to be fully assessed.

2) “Impacts of permanent motion-sensor lighting on wildlife and communities should be scoped in”

Replace with: “**Impacts of any lighting employed during the 40 to 60 years operational period, on flora, fauna, dark skies, dark landscapes and residential amenity should be scoped in**”

Reasons for the change – A) as for 1) above () and B) In light pollution terminology the use of the phrase permanent lighting usually refers to the employment of dusk to dawn lights. Light pollution campaigners advise that, when lighting is deemed necessary as part of a development, motion-sensor lights are used rather than permanent night time dusk to dawn lighting. We don't want to give the impression that dusk to dawn lights would be acceptable.*

I also suggest that impacts on users of PROW is scoped in as an entirely separate topic. These impacts will be huge and an initial study shows that over 22km of PROW will have solar fields along one side or both sides and many more sections of footpaths will have views ruined by the presence of solar panels and the associated infrastructure. I advise each parish council to identify one or more viewpoints from footpaths where the visual impact would be substantial and to ask for the production of photomontages from these locations to be scoped in for inclusion in the ES.

And finally in addition to requesting that cumulative impacts resulting from this scheme together with other renewable projects in the wider area (both built and proposed) are scoped in there is a case for the impacts resulting from the sheer size of the East Pye scheme to be scoped in as a separate topic. No mega solar farm has yet been built in the UK and therefore the overall impact of all the various aspects of this kind of project has yet to be observed. The sum total of all impacts (on PROW, ecology, landscape, etc) over a large area of countryside really should be scoped in and assessed – these combined impacts cannot be covered under individual subject headings.

David Hook (Chairman – Hempnall Parish Council)

Advice from the planning officers at SNC (Claire Curtis) and NCC (Stephen Faulkner) overseeing NSIP projects on what to include in a scoping response

Both advised that responses should be limited to stating which topics should be scoped in that are not already in the list. This can of course include a request to scope in topics that East Pye want scoped out.

As well as identifying a topic / issue to be scoped in Claire and Stephen said it was important to provide a brief explanation as to why you want this topic covered.

Below are 2 examples of how you could phrase your responses – I have chosen Lighting and rural Tranquillity as these are topics on which I have done a considerable amount of work for CPRE both nationally and locally.

Lighting should be scoped in as a separate topic because most of the countryside covered by these proposals is located in an area of Rural Dark Landscape as defined in Norfolk County Council's Environmental Lighting Zones Policy. Residents and visitors alike appreciate the local rural dark landscape and dark skies. The impact of any form of night-time artificial lighting on these treasured assets, ecology and residential amenity needs to be fully assessed.

The impact on Rural Tranquillity should be scoped in as a separate topic because most of the countryside covered by these proposals is defined on the CPRE Tranquillity Map of England as "Most Tranquil" and East Pye admit that: *"this is an undeveloped area with a valued sense of remoteness and tranquillity. It has stayed historically intact and unspoilt because it avoided the effects of the Industrial Revolution."* It is important that these few remaining untouched areas of rural England should be protected from development to preserve their integrity for future generations. The vast scale of this scheme and the distances it stretches across the landscape, some 15 KM, would have a significant impact on the area's *"valued sense of remoteness and tranquillity"* and these aspects should be scoped into the Environmental Impact Assessment.

NB Tranquillity is not just about an absence of noise it also covers an absence of artificial structures, lighting etc.

David Hook (Chairman – Hempnall Parish Council)

Tivetshall Parish Council South Norfolk – 6th February 2025

**Response to Planning Inspectorate on the
Environmental Impact Assessment for East Pye Solar**

The Parish Council has consulted with residents and also referenced the Tivetshall Neighbourhood Plan which was adopted in December 2022. References are made to the Neighbourhood Plan throughout this response.

Areas East Pye Solar have requested to scope out the following categories:

- Air Quality
- Water Environment -
- Major Accidents and Disasters
- Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields
- Telecommunications, Television Reception and Utilities
- Wind Microclimate
- Daylight, Sunlight and Overshadowing
- Glint and Glare
- Lighting
- Waste and Materials
- Socio-Economics
- Human Health
- Arboriculture; and
- Ground Conditions

It is notable that, contrary to what East Pye Solar claim, all these aspects pose significant impacts, which are either extremely challenging to mitigate or which question the viability of the entire project. We call for these areas to be scoped into the Environmental Impact Assessment, with our reasons outlined below.

East Pye Solar also propose to scope out subsections of categories that would be otherwise included in the Environmental Impact Statement. Again, this appears to be because they pose significant impacts that are impossible to mitigate, and they are therefore hoping not to address them publicly in detail.

The applicant should justify how this is considered to be one NSIP project

1 Ibid, 5.1.1, pg. 96

Water Environment should be scoped in.

During the preparation of **Tivetshall Neighbourhood Plan** there were areas of the parish that experienced significant flooding and surface water drainage issues. **Station Road** in close proximity to the EPS proposed access road for Sites 1 and 2. **Lodge Road** and including damage to private properties. **Station Road** further east and south of **Site 2**.

Detailed plans should be submitted of the proposed mitigation for each affected residence. If screening by native hedges/trees is proposed, it would take a decade to grow tall enough to have any effect. Therefore, there needs to be a proper assessment of the interim impact of glint and glare on affected homes until any 'native species' screening is effective.

As it is proposed that native hedging/trees will be used for screening purposes, there will be at least a decade until such new plantings reach a height adequate to screen infrastructure that is either 4.5 or 3.5m high.

Contamination/damage to soil should be scoped in. Effectiveness of Environmental Mitigation should be scoped in. Mitigation proposals should be created for all endangered species recorded at all sites, both in desk-based and on-site surveys. Peer-reviewed evidence should be supplied that proposed mitigations are effective. How will they address levels of uncertainty? How will they meet the costs of ongoing monitoring and data collection to check mitigation is effective? How will they address issues of ineffective mitigation? How will they guarantee that measures proposed as mitigation to address the environmental impacts development are implemented as originally proposed? How will mitigation measures be enforced? How will funds be attached for this purpose to the project if the shell company dissolves?

EPS state: 'The land within the Scheme will be restored and returned to its original use as far as reasonably practicable after decommissioning. This will include removal of the solar PV panels, substations, conversion units and BESS.'

As this is BMV agricultural land, it should be guaranteed that the land should be returned as agricultural land of the same or better quality at decommissioning. This is supposedly the reason these schemes and land use can be categories as 'agricultural' rather than industrial - that they improve soil quality and biodiversity, not permanently damage good agricultural land.

Compression, contamination estimates during construction and decommissioning for each site and specific equipment to be installed on that site should be provided.

Site/soil specific depth of compression at each site should be provided. Evidence from other sites with that specific type of equipment/soil.

Modelling of time for soil to recover from compression should be provided.

Modelling of long-term impacts to different grades of BMV soil should be provided.

Modelling and evidence of time for soil to recover homogeneity after decommissioning should be provided.

Length of time for soil to return to previous agricultural grade after decommissioning should be provided. Guarantee of return of soil to at least previous BMV grade should be provided.

Quantity, locations and contamination impact of cement/concrete on soil should be provided.

Waste and Materials should also be scoped in to demonstrate how and where damaged panels will be recycled, and how all equipment will be recycled at the end of its lifespan. Chinese panels should not be used for this project if they contain PFAS and are unable to be recycled in the UK. It is particularly important to know. How will unrecyclable materials such as PFAS (forever chemicals) be dealt with. Figures in the EIA to calculate waste production are currently incorrect by a factor of two.

Estimates of breakage of panels on transit and installation should be provided.

Breakage of panels due to weather events- storms, hail, debris falling on to panels, bird strikes should be addressed

PFOS/PFAS from underground cables. Long term impacts of leaving them in the soil should be addressed

Materials of metal mountings, method and depth of installation, leeching/weathering impacts on soil should be provided for each specific site.

Leeching reports for all equipment/materials to be installed should be provided.

Contamination implications of weathering, microcracking and damage to panels on soil contamination should be provided.

Weathering and deterioration impacts of other equipment on soil should be provided.

Impact of decommissioning on any Biodiversity Net Gain should be scoped in

How will all land will be decontaminated and returned either to its former agricultural grade or an improved grade once the project is decommissioned. Modelling of soil contaminants from site, specifically lead and PFAS, on future crop growth. Impact on the soil beneath the panels if the minimum height is 0.4m.

Sheep will be unable to graze beneath panels, how will the soil therefore regenerate? There will not be improvements to soil quality on these areas.

Details of vegetation management plan including spraying and their impacts should be scoped in. Sheep will not be able to graze beneath panels if height is 0.4m. Use of pesticides will have a negative affect on biodiversity and surface water run off.

New internal access tracks are likely to be a maximum of 6m wide, constructed of hardcore or gravel over a levelling layer of substrate.' How do they propose to decontaminate this land and return it to agricultural use?

Access There is insufficient consideration for building new roads on sites capable of carrying and turning articulated lorries and storage of materials. Also, there is an unrealistic understanding of the potential for access from minor country roads without damaging verges. The access along a current farm track off Station Road is in an area already known for vehicle accidents including one fatal.

The impact of decommissioning and return to agriculture on any BNG gain during operation should be scoped in. Will any biodiversity net gain remain after decommissioning?

Tivetshall Parish Council
6th February 2025

Stephen Asbey
Cherry Tree Barn
Tivetshall St Margaret
Norfolk
NR15 2AX

February 6th, 2025

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for supporting the campaign to block East Pye Solar Farm. We in Lodge Road feel strongly that it is going to affect our enjoyment of our homes as the proposal is very close and, in some cases, less than 100 yards from our property.

We have very few facilities here but appreciate the peace and quiet of our home and quiet lanes and footpaths. The proposed solar farm would span multiple fields and meadows, potentially disrupting local ecosystems and altering the rural character of the area. The installation of extensive solar panels would harm wildlife habitats and diminish the natural beauty of this wonderful countryside.

The Battery site is not far from us as the crow flies and we are very concerned about the potential declines in property values, as well as the negative effects on local businesses, and overall disruption to our way of life.

Noise is audible from the sites and we understand there needs to be a substation for every 100 yards of solar panels. There are so many alternatives to this destructive proposal, and we are very concerned that there has been a lack of adequate consultation and transparency from the developers. The project is being advanced without fully considering local opinions and concerns.

The project would occupy approximately 2,700 acres of productive farmland. Converting this land for solar energy would undermine food security by reducing areas available for agriculture. These fields are grade 2 land producing excellent essential crops and the solar could be put on the cable run fields yet the farmers there have only been offered the cable run. Illogical and not cost effective. Large-scale solar projects should prioritise non-agricultural sites, such as rooftops, car parks, or brownfield areas, to avoid compromising valuable farmland and to minimize impact on rural communities.

Again, many thanks for your support at this most worrying of times.

Yours faithfully

S. Clarke on behalf of

Stephen & Donna Asbey, Suzanne & John Clarke, Elizabeth Rose & Joshua Simmonds
Residents of Lodge Road, Tivetshall St Margaret.