

Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.30pm on Monday 9 October 2023
at Bradwell Village Hall, Church Road, Bradwell**

Present: Cllr Tony Dunn (Chairman)
Cllr Glenn Lockey (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr Adam Deighton
Cllr Craig Evans
Cllr Antony Harding
Cllr Lesley Kinder
Cllr Michael Turner

In attendance: Mrs Nicki Watkins, Clerk & RFO
Mrs Christine Marshall, outgoing Clerk & RFO
County Councillor Ross Playle
Mr Zak Reid, Stakeholder Manager from Low Carbon
One member of the Public was in attendance.

23-4/100 WELCOME - The Chairman declared the meeting open and welcomed those present. He introduced the new Clerk & RFO, Nicki Watkins. On behalf of the Village Council, he thanked the outgoing Clerk & RFO for her service and hard work during the past eight years and wished her well for her retirement.

23-4/101 LINKS SOLAR FARM – The Chairman welcomed **Zak Reid**, Stakeholder Manager for Links Solar Farm, who provided a progress report.

Zak gave an overview of Low Carbon, a British-owned company dealing in renewable energy and who would be installing Links Solar Farm.

Links Solar Farm would be located between Bradwell, Cressing and Silver End, covering approximately 48 Hectares (111 acres) and providing power to almost 12,000 homes each year. Low Carbon had listened to residents' concerns and as a result, the solar farm would now be smaller than originally shown, leaving a "buffer" between housing and the solar farm, as well as retaining some trees.

Low Carbon would lease the land from Bradwell Estates for 40 years, after which it would return to agricultural land prior to handing it back. Low Carbon would be responsible for maintaining, repairing and/or replacing the solar panels and would ensure the ground was maintained and kept in good condition. They would use a local shepherd who would be able to use the land for grazing, which would also assist with maintaining the ground.

Work would begin towards the end of November 2023, aiming to be completed by Spring 2024. The first phase would require preparing the ground (erecting fencing, protecting the ecology, laying internal roads). After Christmas, the piling would be installed, taking approx. five – six weeks. It was anticipated that the impact of noise to residents would be minimal due the location of the farm. The

main part of the work should be completed towards the end of February, with testing, commissioning and demobilisation of the work site taking place in March/April. The project would be completed in May 2024.

Zak showed the route where traffic (HGVs/arctics) would access the site. Drivers would be instructed to follow this route and Low Carbon would monitor and track their movement. Drivers use “what three words” to navigate to the site, so there should be no need to deviate from the route.

Low Carbon had worked with Indaver when they laid their cables so there would be no further disruption to the roads.

Whilst there would be temporary diversions to the Public Rights of Way, walks would still be scenic and Low Carbon would ensure footpaths were maintained in good condition until the work was completed.

Once completed, the Parish Council would receive the Community Benefit Fund. There would be an option to receive this either as a lump sum or on a yearly basis and Zak would provide a breakdown of this, plus more information on how it could be received for the Parish Council to consider at a later date.

A copy of the presentation would be put on the Parish Council website and residents could obtain further information from www.linkssolarfarm.co.uk/the-project. Residents could also contact Low Carbon direct either by telephone or email as below:

Tel: 0800 048 7262

e-mail: info@linkssolarfarm.co.uk

23-4/102 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Members of the Council are subject to the Local Authorities Code of Conduct Order 2007 (SI 2007/1159) (The Revised Code) with the additional, non-mandatory, section 12(2).

23-4/103 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There were no queries received from residents, however the following item was raised at the meeting: A120 being impacted by the number of lorries using it.

23-4/104 COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS
County Councillor Playle reported on the following:

Work on the potholes was underway. He would provide the Parish Council with a spreadsheet showing the current status of the potholes.

He reported from the most recent Local Highways meeting and noted one application had been received for the triangle by Ashley Grove. This should appear before the next meeting in January 2024.

The booking system for recycling centres was currently being trialled across the county. Whilst no decision had been made, initial feedback appeared to show a “high level of satisfaction”. Essex County Council were running a public

consultation from 9 October to 19 November 2024, the results of which would be reviewed by an independent private company.

Referencing the A120 closure, Cllr Playle was aware that some residents had not received a letter from National Highways (Parish Councillors included). He would follow this up. The Chair noted that National Highways would be attending the next Parish Council meeting so would be able to provide a further update.

Cllr Kinder noted some residents in Bradwell were significantly affected by the closure of the road given there were no buses running overnight. One resident, who worked shifts, would have to walk from Bradwell to the Marks Farm roundabout to take another bus.

Cllr Playle reported that Essex, Southend and Thurrock Councils were looking at “devolution 2”, which could result in extra funds for adult skills and business. No decision had been made, but he noted other councils in the Greater London area were also considering this.

There were no District Councillors in attendance. Cllr Playle left the meeting at 8.30pm.

23-4/105 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr Lockey, seconded: Cllr Kinder; all in favour.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

23-4/106 VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Cllr Harding acknowledged the progression of the work on the potholes, with four out of 15 completed. He was still trying to obtain information with regards to the BT manhole covers.

Two salt bins had been purchased. Councillors agreed these would best serve the village if one was placed outside the Village Hall and the other outside the church. The Chair would speak to the Church Warden to agree the best location. The Clerk would find out the process of filling the salt bins and report back to Cllrs. Deighton and Harding. The Clerk would also complete the Local Fund Claim form to reimburse the Parish Council for the cost of the bins.

Action: Chair & Clerk

23-4/107 IWMF The Chair and Cllrs Deighton and Turner had attended the liaison meeting. The Admin Block staircases were now in place, and they were able to see where the Stack would go. The facility should be running from late 2025, being fully operational by 2026.

The Chair reported that Ed Moorhouse from Oasthouse Ventures would be attending the next meeting to discuss Rivenhall Low Carbon Greenhouse. He explained this was a system capable of producing tomatoes at Rivenhall and transporting them to Brentwood, where the main distribution centre to Supermarkets was located. The Chair’s initial thoughts was that this was a good

initiative enabling harvesting and recycling of water, use of excess heat, use of carbon dioxide from the IWMF, the creation of 500 jobs and where no houses would be affected. Further discussions would be had at the next meeting.

23-4/108 ESSEX WASTE PARTNERSHIP'S WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX - CONSULTATION

The Chair would draft a response for consideration by Councillors.

Action: Chair

23-4/109 Playing Field

Cllr Kinder reported that she is awaiting confirmation for when the replacement equipment would be installed. The previous clerk had chased this on 15 September. The table tennis table would not be moved, but the top will be replaced.

The Council had previously resolved for the supply and install of a new Rotadisk roundabout. Three quotes had been received and the Clerk would advise Braintree District Council and proceed with submitting the S.106 form.

Action: Clerk

A resident queried how often the table tennis would be used and hoped the new equipment would be more accessible for those assisting young children.

23-4/110 CHURCHYARD

RE-WILDING PROJECT

The Chairman reported he and Cllr Lockey had prepared the ground. He and Cllrs. Deighton, Evans, Harding and Kinder had raked the ground and sowed the seeds. The Clerk would send the invoice to Indaver for the agreed grant for the re-wilding project.

Action: Clerk

23-4/111 FOOTPATHS - No report. The Footpaths Officer would be invited to next meeting.

23-4/112 PLANNING MATTERS:

23/02280/PLD – Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development – Single storey side extension. Agers Doghouse Road Bradwell Essex CM 77 8BH – **For information only, no comment required.**

23-4/113 FINANCIAL REPORTS – the RFO presented the reports for August and September 2023 prior to the meeting, together with an updated Bank Reconciliation following receipt of bank statements. A correction was noted as the Agenda had referred to financial statements only for September 2023, rather than August and September. There were no queries.

- i. **It was resolved** to accept August and September 2023 reports. **Proposed: Cllr Lockey, seconded: Cllr Deighton, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation as at 31 August 2023: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lockey, seconded Cllr Turner, all in favour**

- iii. A motion to approve **September 2023 expenditure**: the list of payments and cheques to be signed was presented. There were no queries, and it was resolved to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Lockey, seconded: Cllr Tuner, all in favour.** Cllrs Dunn, Lockey and Turner signed the cheques.

23-4/114 TRAINING

The Clerk had been advised by the outgoing clerk that Councillor training needed to be arranged with the EALC. The new Clerk would take this forward by seeing when the Village Hall was free, obtaining dates from the Councillors to attend the training and liaising with the EALC to see when they could run the training.

The Clerk advised Councillors that she would be attending the Budget & Precept and the New Clerks courses in October. The Chairman signed the bursary form entitling the Parish Council to reclaim 75% of the cost of the course.

The Chairman advised the Clerk that the EALC had introduced a bursary for Councillor training enabling them to reclaim up to 75% up to a value of £240 per Councillor. The Clerk would see that this is used towards any training organised.

Action: Clerk

23-4/115 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Cllr Turner had been asked when the dust cart would next be in the village and noted that the second litter pick had not yet taken place. The Clerk would find out the dates and see when the Village Hall was free to coordinate the litter pick.

Action: Clerk

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. Presentation by Ed Moorhouse, Oasthouse Ventures, regarding the Rivenhall Low Carbon Greenhouse proposal
- ii. Nigel Allsop and Suzie Cumming (National Highways) to be invited to provide details of the proposed resurfacing of the A120, including an update on the Village gates.
- iii. Date for next litter pick
- iv. Footpaths Officer

23-4/099 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 13 November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Bradwell.

Items for inclusion in the Agenda to be sent to the Clerk no later than 12 noon on Friday 3 November 2023.

Action: All

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.