

FRANSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an extra-ordinary meeting of Fransham Parish Council held on Tuesday 22nd April 2025, at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)
Cllr Emma Spratt
Cllr Gerry Taylor
Cllr Katharine Robinson
Cllr James Sheringham
Cllr Andrew Lake

One member of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from County & District Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. Open Forum for Public Participation.

A member of the public said what poor information and mapping is available on the High Grove website and asked if the dangers re electro-magnetic fields radiation had been considered. He said he was not against solar farms but did have concerns regarding the high number of solar farms and large pylons being installed in Norfolk.

The Chairman said there was no information currently available and the next consultation is awaited, when it was hoped better information would be provided; this is due in May. There were many other concerns including light pollution, visual mitigation, possible fires at the battery storage sites, noise, environmental and wildlife concerns, including the deer fencing which would force large numbers of deer into other areas.

The member of the public also had two concerns regarding the car park at the Canary and Linnet which was being used for late night activities by people arriving in their cars and playing loud music and also by the A47 road workers who were using the car park for their works vehicles, often late at night.

The Chairman said the Council will approach the Police and National Highways regarding these two concerns.

4. To consider the commissioning of a mitigation report in respect of the High Grove Solar Farm impact in the Franshams.

Council members raised concerns regarding commissioning a report too early and agreed that the expense cannot yet be justified. A mitigation report will cost up to £1,000 and, although it may be useful once the next consultation begins, until Council can be sure what it can provide, it was agreed not to proceed at this stage. However, Council did request that fuller detail was provided by the consultants.

Council also agreed to write to George Freeman, MP, regarding the concerns and request guidance as to the way forward.

5. To note the Annual Meeting of Fransham Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 20th May 2025, following the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The date of the next meeting was noted and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.37pm.

Signed:

Date:
