

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 11 March 2025 commencing at 7.45pm at Ash Village Hall, The Street, Ash, TN15 7HB.

Present: Cllr S Fishenden
Cllr M Aspinall
Cllr R Brammer
Cllr C Clark
Cllr J Clucas
Cllr F Cottee
Cllr P Kirtley
Cllr I MacLeod
Cllr M Manley
Cllr V Ngwenya
Cllr J Scott

In attendance: Alison de Jager – Parish Clerk
Karen Law – Deputy Clerk and Finance Officer

Megan Johnson-Hodges – Assistant Clerk
Cllr M Lindorp – Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Penny Cole – Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Perry Cole – Sevenoaks District Council
6 members of the public

8928/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Gorton, (holiday), S Hobbs, P Kirtley, (holiday) I MacLeod and G Pender (family commitment) Cllr R Brammer PROPOSED that the apologies and reasons for absence are accepted. SECONDED: Cllr M Manley and AGREED. Apologies were also received from Cllrs Penny and Perry Cole, Sevenoaks District Council.

8929/25 Declarations of Interest

- a. Cllr J Clucas declared a prejudicial interest in item 3. Grant application as she had given a monetary donation to the No New Ash Green Solar Group.

The meeting was suspended at 7.46pm

- **Public Session**

Topics raised by members of the public included costs of retaining expert witnesses, Greenbelt vs Greybelt, glint and glare of solar panels and the visual impact. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) – requirements to accommodate, fire risks and contamination of aquifer, requirement of emergency services responses.

The meeting reconvened at 7.52pm

Having declared a prejudicial interest in the following item, Cllr J Clucas did not take part in the discussion or vote.

8930/25 Grant Application

- a. **No New Ash Green Solar Group – item deferred from Parish Council meeting of 20 February 2025.** The advice received from Kent Association of Local Councils

(KALC), Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Grants and Donations Policy were considered. Cllr J Scott PROPOSED that guidance is sought from KALC to ascertain if a donation can be made through a third party. SECONDED: Cllr R Brammer and AGREED.

Cllr S Fishenden PROPOSED that no donation is awarded to the No New Ash Green Solar Group. SECONDED: Cllr M Aspinall FOR: 5 AGAINST: 4 ABSTENTIONS: 1 NO VOTE: 1

The meeting closed at 8.17pm

Signed:

Date: Chairman