

BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Burwell Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th October 2025 at Mandeville Hall, Tan House Lane (Off Reach Road), Burwell CB25 0AR.

Present: Elizabeth Swift (Chair), Lea Dodds, Michael Geary, Richard Jenkins, Charlie Milner, Jim Perry, Geraldine Tate, Paul Webb, Brenda Wilson

In attendance: Katherine Hyett (Clerk),

FC/281025/01 Apologies

To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from: Ian Woodroffe (personal matters), Ken McCarthy (personal matters), Linda Kitching (personal matters)

Absent: Chris O'Neill and Gus Jones

FC/281025/02 Declarations of any interests known to Councillors

To receive Declarations of Disclosable and/or Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any agenda item.

No interests were declared.

FC/281025/03 Approval of Minutes of the meeting of 14 October 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Paul Webb, seconded by Jim Perry and agreed by all.

FC/281025/04 Public Forum

Open forum to provide an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions for future agendas or on items that are on the current agenda. To allow any members of the public and Councillors declaring an interest to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting. At the close of this item, members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council unless invited to do so by the Chair. Limited to three minutes per person, fifteen minutes in total.

No matters were raised in the public forum

FC/281025/04.1 Presentation from Ellis Selway - Project Manager: Wicken Fen Peatland Restoration & Wimpole Landscape Vision: Peatland Restoration Hurdle Hall

FC/281025/05 Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered:

25/01087/VAR Mahjong 27A High Street – respond by 31/10/25

To Vary Condition 1 (Approved Plans) of previously approved 25/00237/FUL, dated 8 May 2025 for internal alterations, upgrading of windows/doors, change of brickwork to render, removal of chimney.

No objection

Proposed Geraldine Tate, seconded Michael Geary, all voted in favour. Resolved.

25/01022/FUL 23 Melford Close– respond by 04/11/25

Garage conversion to habitable rooms

No objection

Proposed Paul Webb, seconded Lea Dodds, all voted in favour. Resolved

To propose and confirm response to the statutory consultation on the proposed Kingsway Solar Farm

It was resolved (proposed by Paul Webb, seconded by Geraldine Tate and agreed by all) to object to the Kingsway Solar Farm development for the following reasons:

- **Biodiversity and ecology**

Pylon and cable location could have adverse ecological impacts on local wildlife and nature sites such as Spring Close, Priory Meadow, Priory Wood and Pauline's Swamp, as well as the chalk streams and lodes that flow through and around those sites. A biodiversity impact study is required (including the potential loss of wildlife corridors). The study should consider the impact of both overhead and underground cable routes.

- **Impact on local residents**

Local residents will suffer extreme disturbance during the cable/pylon construction phase due to noise, dust, and increased traffic. This will directly affect local farmers and landowners, their well-being and ability to manage their land effectively. They do not feel they are being listened to, and the feedback is that they are bullied into having pylons on their land. We need to know how this work will be consulted, planned, measured, monitored and policed.

This area of the village is incredibly important in terms of residents' recreational needs. Weirs Drove and the surrounding areas (roads, footpaths and byways) are unique in providing safe, low-traffic access to the countryside for walking, jogging, cycling and horse riding. In addition, the area provides active-travel routes to Wicken Fen Nature Reserve and the Lodes Way cycle paths. No comparable recreational area exists anywhere else around the village (due to busy roads and limited public access to private land).

There is also concern about the impact of EMF (electromagnetic fields) exposure for individuals and the potential neurological impacts still being researched such as cognitive impairment, depression, fatigue, headaches and tumours.

- **Landscape impact**

We believe that the visual impact of the proposed 400kV overhead cable with 50 – 65m pylons, connecting to the national grid at a new substation (Burwell South) would unacceptably damage the local landscape, particularly at the following locations: The Weirs, Spring Close, Pauline's Swamp, Devil's Dike, Reach Road, The Rec, and along the numerous droves running west from the village.

The cumulative landscape impact is a particular concern. The new cables and pylons, added to the existing overhead cables, solar farms (existing and planned), and battery storage units (existing and planned), will inevitably produce an industrialised landscape. The area is very flat, making mitigation measures, such as changing the cable's route, unlikely to be effective. For that reason we request that the feasibility of cable burial is investigated, and a report issued.

FC/281025/06 Planning decisions from District Council

The following decisions were noted:

25/00891/FUL 36 Parsonage Lane - APPROVED

Single storey extension plus minor interior works

FC/281025/07 Notifications from ECDC of approved work to trees

The following decisions were noted:

25/00873/TPO Land Adj 8 Bloomsfield - APPROVED

G1 Group of 5 Sycamore - Reduce height and spread by 3m down to previous reduction points and remove deadwood. T2 2 x Sycamore - Fell due to deadwood, cavity and mess from nesting birds

FC/281025/08 Urgent Matters for Consideration

1) It was resolved to approve the following payments:

Proposed by Geraldine Tate, seconded by Paul Webb and agreed by all

Name	Description	Net Amount	Vat	Total Amount	Power
Burwell Window Cleaning	Various Properties	£68.00	£0.00	£68.00	LGA 1972 s.133
Lloyds Bank	Maintenance Supplies £676.80 Admin £134.11 Fee £6.00	£681.76	£135.15	£816.91	LGA 1972 s.111/LGA 1972 s.133/ Open Spaces Act ss9-10
Harrisons of Burwell	Boiler Repair MH	£150.00	£30.00	£180.00	LGA 1972 s.133

Atom Tech	Emergency Lighting	£266.57	£53.31	£319.88	LGA 1972 s.133
VHS Cleaning	Cleaning Supplies	£45.74	£9.14	£54.88	LGA 1972 s.133
Zion Landscapes	October Grass Cut	£1,270.00	£254.00	£1,524.00	Open Spaces Act ss9-10
Burwell Print Centre	Printing Annual Report	£671.65	£0.00	£671.65	
Wave	Mandeville Hall Water Fees	£183.53	£0.00	£183.53	LGA 1972 s.133
Engie	MH Gas	£148.83	£7.44	£156.27	LGA 1972 s.133
Engie	JRR Electric	£129.02	£6.45	£135.47	LGA 1972 s.133
Engie	JRR Gas	£108.87	£5.44	£114.31	LGA 1972 s.133
Engie	Cemetery	£15.67	£0.78	£16.45	LGA 1972 s.214(2)
Engie	Public Toilet	£22.38	£1.12	£23.50	Public Health Act 1936 s.87
Engie	Allotment Shed	£40.43	£2.02	£42.45	Small Holding and Allotment Act 1908 ss23,25
Engie	Pavilion	£328.52	£16.43	£344.95	LGA 1972 s.133
Engie	GMH	£456.73	£22.84	£479.57	LGA 1972 s.133
H Grainger	Ret of Dep	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	
S Bartoszek	Ret of Dep	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	
		£4,687.70	£544.12	£5,231.82	

FC/281025/09 Other Reports for noting

FC/281025/10 Other matters from Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council

TTRO 25-2089 Laburnum Lane, Burwell - Proposed Road Closure – invitation for comments

No comments

Meeting Closed: 8pm

Signed:

Dated: