

**Burwell Solar Farm Community Liaison Group
2pm, Wednesday 12th October 2022
Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell**

**MINUTES
FINAL**

Members

Name	Role/organisation
Cllr Nick Acklam	Reach Parish Council
Cllr Charlotte Cane	District Cllr for Bottisham
Yvonne Rix	Clerk to Burwell Parish Council
Cllr Liz Swift	Chair of Burwell Parish Council
Cllr Paul Webb	Vice-Chair of Burwell Parish Council

In attendance

Name	Role/organisation
Andrew Boulton	Construction Manager, EDF Renewables
Kerry MacPhee	Community Liaison Officer, EDF Renewables

1. Welcome

LS chaired the meeting.

2. Introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr John Trapp and Cllr David Brown.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. Terms of Reference

The group have requested the following change be made to the ToFR:

1.3: The CLG will remain active throughout the further development and construction of the project, ***however, the group have requested that meetings do not cease upon completion of construction and continue if required thereafter.*** Updated ToR will be shared at the next meeting.

5. Project update

- Piling works began two weeks ago. The group fed back that noise levels are not intrusive.
- Most of the mounting structures have been delivered. Deliveries are now at their peak with increased presence of personnel on site until Christmas/new year.
- Reach/Weir's Drove junction road still to be widened.
- Module deliveries will begin tomorrow. There will be some overlap with frame deliveries but thereafter, lorry presence should drop to approximately five per day. It has been noted that until now, more than five lorries have been passing through with some backing up on Weir's

Drove. AB to follow up and ensure this doesn't happen.

- AB confirmed that High Town Drove has been resurfaced and Bellmouth widened.
- Project still broadly on schedule (some elements ahead of schedule, some behind so balances out).
- Access issue concerns were raised related to Sunnica and heavy HGVs. AB confirmed that no relation to Burwell or conversations around planning and road usage.
- National Grid have changed energisation date to end of March (due to winter demand) so energisation is likely in early April.
- KMP to confirm when the community benefit fund will be activated: whether it will be on energisation or once testing and commissioning are entirely completed.
- There will be eight or nine transformers on site. Not located close to receptors to minimise noise. On-site transformers will be smaller. Site transformers step up to 33KV and step down to 13KV at the substation.
- Transformer footprint larger on site as there will be 8 smaller transformers whereas National Grid will be 1 larger transformer.
- Noise from the solar farm is likely to be low level with no sudden noises that could affect bridleway users (horses and recreational users)
- Acoustic impact will be greatly reduced from early December once frame drilling and works complete.
- Perimeter fence now complete. Fence will have CCTV in place and will only trigger for people within the fence line to comply with GDPR

6. Community Benefit Fund (CBF)

- KMP confirmed the CBF is index linked to RPI.
- Burwell Parish have expressed that they would like to split the fund whilst Reach would prefer to combine the community funds. A decision was made that a split would be optimal though how this looks still in question. Both parishes will feed back to their local meetings. Reach have requested 70/30 whilst Burwell would like 75/25. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

7. AOB

- KMP to confirm when funds will be released.
- KMP to confirm whether RPI is at start of fund release or end and whether it's backdated.
- Future meetings to be held in Jubilee Reading Room, booking via YR.

8. Actions

- KMP investigate possible drop in or Q&A for communities.
- Respective parishes to feed back to their local communities on mooted CBF splits and return to the next meeting with a final decision.

9. Date and venue of next meeting:

2pm, Wednesday 30th November 2022 at Jubilee Reading Room.