

Annual Assembly Meeting - 2026

BPC Chairman Introduction

Welcome to the Annual Assembly Meeting. At this meeting we consider what has happened in Burstall over the past year. This ranges across the Parish Council, Church, Village Hall and Clubs from whom we hear a reports from each representative.

I look forward to this meeting, because it gives a snapshot of Burstall Village life.

- This year has been dominated by planning applications and issues relating to Pylons, Solar Farms and Battery Storage facilities (BESS.)
- Burstall Parish Council only have a small team of councillors contending with these issues, namely: Samantha, Steve, William, John Foster and myself. We have also enlisted David Card, who has considerable experience in local council affairs.
- Despite only being a small team we have undertaken a great deal of work. Each member of the team has contributed a great deal of time and expertise in making the Burstall case in a stream of submissions and documentation. This has taken a toll on everyone.
- One of the biggest issues has been where our team, over the past three years, have been trying to get our arguments recognised by the authorities relating to:
 - Over industrialisation of the Bramford Site (30% of UK Power)
 - The need for cohesive management of the of the Bramford site which is like the wild west.
 - Battery safety in the form of Suffolk Fire Services ability to fight a battery fire and toxic material release, both air and waterborne.
 - Battery and Solar Panel Toxic material leach into the soil.
 - Potential of contamination of the water aquafer for Ipswich.
 - Site Security.
 - Energy and site resilience.
 - Etc
- At every turn we have been stone walled by every authority we have contacted, Namely:
 - Babergh Planning Department – Philip Isbel Director of Planning & Authur Chavonie – Babergh CEO.
 - Babergh & Mid Suffolk Green Party
 - Health and Safety Executive
 - UK Secretary of State
 - Suffolk Fire Service Chief Fire Officer
 - East Anglia Daily Times - Management
 - National News Papers
 - MP – James Cartledge.
 - Etc.

- The major problems we are currently having to deal with are:
 - The Norwich to Tilbury Pylons where John Foster and Samantha have undertaken a great deal of work attending meeting, writing document submission and commenting on numerous documents on our behalf.
 - Trying to get Babergh to enforce the constant breaches of the planning conditions associated with solar farms, BESS sites and Bramford substation.
 - Trying to police the Building activities and traffic associated with the Solar Farm building programme.
 - The Alcemi BESS pre-application represents an existential treat to Burstall Village. This is a major problem which urgently require our attention. This application is for a BESS development on 37 hectares of prime farmland (40 million Batteries), which will be directly visible from Burstall village and in front of the current tree line.

- During the past year Dave Busby died and Marc Roland was elected as our Babergh District Councillor. Marc has had already been extremely active on our behalf at Babergh and is now part of our team fighting for Burstall. Recently Marc laid down a motion at Babergh for an immediate moratorium on any further development at Bramford until the cumulative effect, management, safety and security issues have been addressed. This was vehemently opposed by the Green Party Members, who openly insulted Marc and torpedoed the motion. This is an example what we are up against!

- Last week we had the Suffolk County Council election and Christopher Hudson was re-elected. Christopher has helped Burstall a great deal over the past years and we welcome him back as our County Councillor.

- Finally, Burstall Parish Council are effectively being required to make the arguments for a major national infrastructure site, with catastrophic consequences if there is an accident. We only have a small team and extremely limited funds to address these major issues. We cannot get funding from Government or elsewhere, which is effectively destroyed democracy and our ability to effectively fight for the safety and wellbeing of our constituents.

- To achieve the best we can without sufficient funding, we need support from the village. This is in the form of direct help to assess and write documentation and apply any specialist legal and technical knowledge. Also, we need financial help to be able to minimally fund the legal expenses associated with these issue. Here BPC has started a fund with donations already from Villagers and the Parish Council and we ask for your support.