

**MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020 AT 7:00 PM**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr. Stephen Brett - Chair  
Cllr. Hilary Ward - Vice Chair  
Cllr. Stephen Morphey  
Cllr. Philip Baskett  
Cllr. Graham Bickers  
Cllr. Beth Goose  
Cllr. Nat Bacon (part)

**Apologies for absence:**

Cllr. Julian Wallis – accepted  
Cllr. Paul Collins - accepted  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

**In attendance:**

County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf  
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond  
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
No members of the public

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None.

**3. Public Forum**

a) Cllr. Richard Smith said that the County Council has been transformed by the coronavirus pandemic. Endeavour House is virtually closed with all staff working from home on COVID-19 measures and this is likely to continue for some time. £73 million has been spent to date on COVID-19 and it is expected that only £33 million will be returned from central government. This expenditure is unbudgeted but there are adequate reserves. Decision making in the County Council has been delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and others in accordance with the constitution. Cllr. Smith said 40 staff members had been taken from COVID-19 work and assigned to review the Sizewell C DCO application. Cllr. Smith said he is personally against Sizewell C for many reasons including the severe and long lasting effect on the environment and the effect on the roads; particularly whether the A12 can cope with EDF Energy's predicted traffic levels. Cllr. Smith will present his case to the Planning Inspectorate but will only be allowed 5 minutes to speak.

b) Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf said that the Ward Members are incredibly busy with the various energy projects. Cllr. Haworth-Culf spoke about the increased traffic on the A12 due to tourists and day trippers which has resulted in a number of accidents. This will be compounded by the additional Sizewell C construction traffic and the numerous buses bringing in workers. Cllr. Haworth-Culf thanked the members of the Council who participated in the recent Joint Local Authorities Group meeting on Sizewell C. Cllr. Haworth-Culf concluded by informing the Council that the COVID-19 Business Grant scheme would end this month.

b) Cllr. Jocelyn Bond said she supported the initiative to register Quiet Lanes in the district. In response to a question from Cllr. Hilary Ward, Cllr. Bond said she would welcome any nominations to celebrate volunteers from the parish who were helping those in need during the coronavirus pandemic.

**4. Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett, and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

## 5. Matters Arising

Cllr. Graham Bickers informed the Council that he had successfully negotiated with Sovereign to include the spring horse and the goal post at Eastbridge playing field in their annual inspection at no additional cost as a Bronze Plus package.

## 6. Energy Projects

The Council noted Cllr. Paul Collins previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I.

## 7. Parish Matters

a) The Council discussed a resident's concern about the timing of the County Council's verge cuts which is detrimental to wildflowers and wildlife. It was agreed that verge cutting during the peak growth season is necessary as visibility on rural roads is a key safety measure.

b) The Council discussed the Community Council's proposed contribution for play equipment in Theberton. Cllr. Hilary Ward reminded the Council that she wrote to the Community Council in October 2019 to thank those who attended a meeting to view the Council's proposals for new and additional play equipment and for their positive and informative feedback. Cllr. Ward asked the Community Council to formalise their offer to provide funding towards the project by providing the Council with confirmation in writing. Cllr. Ward also asked the Community Council to provide the Council with information beforehand regarding any items of play equipment they wished to purchase for its consideration regarding safety, maintenance and insurance purposes. In December 2019, the Community Council replied that they had raised £3,500 to date. The Community Council said they were unable to provide a total amount as they intended to continue to fund raise during the following year and their contribution would be dependent on how much the Parish Council raised from grants. They also said they would like to see some equipment for the older children, eg a zip wire, new benches or a shelter and asked if the Parish Council had set a date for the erection of the gate. Following a discussion, Cllr. Hilary Ward agreed to write to the Community Council to confirm the amount the Parish Council raised from grants and to ask for an update on their position (however it is understood that many planned fund raising events were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic).

**ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to progress.**

c) The Council agreed to support The Local Electricity Bill which is a proposal to allow local authorities to generate renewable energy for community buildings and to sell any surplus low-cost electric to residents.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform Power for People**

d) The Council discussed the necessary repairs to the Speed Indicator Device and the quotation from Westcotec Ltd for £750. Cllr. Graham Bickers offered to obtain another quote for consideration.

**ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers to progress and Clerk to check budget for funds.**

e) The Council agreed to register an expression of interest for consideration of the following roads as potential Quiet Lanes in the parish - Potter's Street, Onner's Lane, Moat Road, Pretty Road, Hawthorn Road, Church Road, Baker's Hill/Cemetery Road and Chapel Road.

**ACTION: Clerk to register.**

f) The Council considered planning application DC/20/2651/FUL for a new detached residential garage and dwelling at Westhouse Cottage, Saxmundham Road, Theberton. Cllr. Graham Bickers referred to his previously circulated report and proposed that the Council objects to the application for the following reasons – the Council is concerned that the applicant intends to

remove a building which has evolved over many years, forms part of the parish's local historic landscape and is in keeping with its open Suffolk countryside setting. Heritage assets are irreplaceable therefore any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. The Council seriously questions the report which at present underpins that the cost of renovation is not a viable option. To allow the demolition of the existing building and the subsequent building of a new house would result in an additional negative effect on wildlife and its sensitive countryside setting. The Council believes if this was to be considered to be the best way forward then a far more innovative design, together with a more appropriate use of sustainable materials, should be used for its setting. The main problem with the application is that this proposal is very rudimentary in design standards and architectural quality which adds to the negative impact of removing the existing building which would impact its lovely setting. The Council is not against the use of modern design and would wholly support a more progressive approach, in particular if the existing building was retained in some form. If the intention is to accept the negative environmental and ecological impact on the site and its surrounding area then we feel this falls well short of the design that this site deserves. Cllr. Stephen Brett seconded. All in favour. Cllr. Jocelyn Bond agreed to ask for Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf's support to recommend that this application is considered by a referral committee rather than determined by an officer.

**ACTION: Clerk to write to the planning authority.**

g) The Council noted that the Maui Wau three day event during August 2020 at Peakhill Farm, Theberton was cancelled by the organisers. Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that his attempts to contact an Enforcement Officer at East Suffolk Council by telephone and email went unanswered. District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond asked Cllr. Bickers to write to her about his experience and she will look into why he did not receive a timely response and the licensing agreement for the event.

**ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers to write to Cllr. Jocelyn Bond.**

## 8. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position attached as Appendix II.
- b) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for Quarter 1 2020/2021.
- c) It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Beth Goose, and agreed to authorise the payments listed below. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£194.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Website Accessibility Training	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£7.50	LGA 1972 s.111
Zoom Meetings – Monthly Subscription	Sharon Smith	£4.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Newsletter Printing	Leiston Press	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.142

## 9. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**Cllr. Nat Bacon joined the meeting and apologised to the Chair for being late.**

## 10. Questions to the Chair

- a) Cllr. Hilary Ward asked about the installation of the gate at Theberton playing field. Cllr. Stephen Brett replied that several meters of fencing will be required at either side of the gate to make the entrance secure. Cllr. Brett has a quantity of stock fencing but he has been too busy

during harvest season to erect it. Cllr. Nat Bacon, Cllr. Graham Bickers and Cllr. Stephen Morphey offered to assist Cllr. Brett.

b) Cllr. Nat Bacon asked the Clerk for the contact details for the Chairmen of Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council and Westleton Parish Council to discuss EDF Energy's link road proposal which has the potential to create a rat-run on the B1125.

c) Cllr. Hilary Ward asked for, and received, the Council's support to nominate volunteers from the community who dedicate their time to help others in need during the coronavirus pandemic to the District Council's campaign to celebrate East Suffolk's volunteers.

#### **11. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

## **Appendix I**

### **1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C**

Our last meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> July we discussed the current efforts on addressing the DCO contents both individually and through the use of specialist individuals and expert service providers. These specialists and service providers are looking at a number of areas including socio-economic impacts, coastal issues and life-cycle carbon assessments. Preliminary work is also on-going in conjunction with Friends of the Earth, SWT and RSPB, amongst others around inland hydrology and other aspects of environment and ecology.

We have supported Zoom events with TASC and Anglia Energy Planning Alliance with other NGOs and Parish and Town Councils to engender information sharing and to keep each other apprised of any specific findings of general concern. Everyone is finding access to the contents of the DCO challenging due to its diffuse and interlinked nature which is not helped by plans and figures often being in separate documents to those referring to them. Several people have used the DCO Library Bus and also access through the EDF offices in Leiston and some have found the experience helpful but others have struggled to have enough time or space to adequately access the documents, particularly on the Library Bus.

Campaigning work continues to try to influence politicians at all levels of government. Any letters to PINS now elicits a response that encourages you to provide a valid Relevant Representation (RR) as this is now the only way PINS are able to receive documents given that the DCO application has been submitted and accepted.

We continue to work with the Anglia Energy Planning Alliance and parish and town councils to put pressure on District, County and Parliamentary MPs and Minister as well as a grouping of NGOs including RSPB, SWT, FOE, NT, TASC to work on the next steps in reviewing the DCO and preparing for the DCO examination stage.

We hope to be ready to share the draft RR following our next meeting and will arrange zoom and/or a possible meeting in the church on 5<sup>th</sup> September with restricted ticket only access to discuss this. Further details will be available closer to the time, given the uncertainty of restrictions that are being introduced regionally when Covid-19 spikes occur.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> August and we will be arranging further meetings through August and September to discuss DCO reading progress and the development of the RR.

### **2 Thebeton and Eastbridge Parish Council**

Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Paul Collins joined a virtual JLAG meeting on the afternoon of 29<sup>th</sup> July. The purpose of the meeting was mainly to hear from Parish and Town Councils what their issues were based on the submitted DCO. Short presentations from Philip Ridley and Bryn Roberts were given partly about the application process as well as some of the more specific efforts that are on-going. PR said that both ESC and SCC are very concerned about any examination starting this year given the current Covid-19 status. There was discussion about the National Policy Statements EN-1, EN-5 and EN-6 (nuclear) and the fact that EN-6 is being redeveloped as it only covers power stations that will be generating to the grid by end of 2025. This effort is incomplete and probably awaits a new energy whitepaper in the autumn (or spring 2012) and will require a further consultation although he pointed out that EN-6 does have a get clause that envisages applications being examined before the new NPS is finished.

ESC have two meetings arranged to consider their own RR on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September and SCC have one on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

On 26<sup>th</sup> August, Sharp Pritchard, SCC's legal advice will give a presentation to which we will be invited.

More generally Coastal Protection East still have issues about the lack of any clarity on coastal defence for the site, external consultations are looking at CO<sub>2</sub> Life Cycle Assessments and conflicting figures that appear in the DCO, community impact assessments are on-going and there is still unease about the transport strategy and vehicle numbers and control.

On the jobs and employment front, ESC and SCC are relying on apprenticeships etc to provide a significant number of opportunities for local children but they are also wary about the wide nature of EDF's definition of local which stretches out to Norwich, Maldon and Braintree and have concerns about the proposals for local unemployed/economically inactive target of 8% (TEAGS research has shown that at HPC they haven't reached 2% yet and are unlikely to do so and with this area having a much lower employment rate and relatively lower population and aging demographic, even 2% might be a stretch).

Mitigation funds for housing, tourism etc are promised but no figures are given and based on s106 agreements, access to funds will only be available if you can prove negative impact.

EDF do not think their plans have impact on the A12 but SCC are pushing for further mitigation around 7 Hills, Martlesham and Woodbridge.

We split into workshops for about an hour and in Cllr. Collins workshop with Lisa Chandler they covered a range of topics including traffic/bypasses, stopping the use of the Energy Coast phrase and ensuring that the Heritage Coast and Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB were the predominant reference in all JLAG and other documents and discussions. Levels of mitigation and the funds (quantity) and access (local control) were also discussed.

The workshop summary points included;

- Local area funding including the arts
- Cumulative impacts of all the energy projects
- Stop using the Energy Coast
- Traffic and rat-runs
- Noise and vibration
- Infrastructure and accommodation and Houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs)
- Anti-social behaviour
- Lack of staffic studies beyond Saxmundham and Darsham
- Potential rail impacts on Felixstowe
- Size and location of site and knock-on effects of no jetty
- Sizewell Link Road and the possibility it should be removed afterwards
- Community impacts
- Night train movements (noise testing going on last week and this week)
- Higher tourism impacts than being admitted by EDF (also raised and documented by TEAGS external study to be published soon)
- Monitoring and on-going mitigation – coastal and environmental
- Water supply issues – potable and naural/agricultural
- Park & Ride impacts on A12 and design issues

### **3 Scottish Power DCO Examination**

The examination is being restarted virtually on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The Examining Panel or Examining Authority (ExA) has changed slightly but otherwise these initial sessions will follow the same agenda as that which was proposed for Snape back in March.

These initial sessions really are only covering procedural proposals for the full examination which is likely to start sometime in October or November. It will not cover the contents of the application and our concerns about the proposals.

Our Relevant Representation was mainly about cumulative traffic impacts on the B1122 and is given below;

We are concerned regarding the potential cumulative impacts of construction HGV and other associated traffic on the B1122, from its junction with the A12 to Lovers Lane in Leiston, from:

- The current two proposals from Scottish Power Renewables, for East Anglia Two wind farm;
  - On-shoring and landside developments being pursued in parallel with East Anglia One North, or
  - On-shoring and landside developments separated by an unspecified time gap between East Anglia Two and East Anglia One North
- The Sizewell B Facilities Relocation
- The “early years” of any approved Sizewell C Construction when no relief road will be available but will potentially be under construction, according to current unapproved EDF NNB proposals

There are also four other potential developments in this area with as yet unknown development timescales, being Nautilus and Eurolink interconnectors and expansions to Greater Gabbard and Galloper wind farms some of which also have potential to overlap with these more developed projects.

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The current agenda items being proposed for full examination by the ExA contains the following;

## **6. Electricity Connections, Infrastructure and other users**

- Relationship with and implications for other major projects including East Anglia TWO, Sizewell C, Sizewell A decommissioning, Sizewell B operation and decommissioning and other transmission and interconnector projects.

## **19. Transportation and Traffic**

- Traffic generation, traffic management and highway safety.
- Effects on the Public Rights of Way (PROW) network including temporary and permanent diversion and/or stopping up.
- Implications for the Sizewell evacuation route.

This will cover the points we have raised in our RR. **I do not have any issues regarding the proposed examination from a procedural standpoint**, although feel it would still be better to be held at least in some part face to face. PINS do say at the beginning of their announcement of these virtual sessions that;

We propose to start the Examination using virtual methods but to remain flexible so that, should public health requirements allow, we have the option of holding physical events if we can.

For the September meeting.

As a result of this assessment we wish to hear from the Applicant, Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and Local Authorities where they consider changes may be needed to the draft Examination Timetable set out in Annex D and other procedural arrangements. You can use the [Preliminary Meeting Involvement Form](#) to request to be heard at the meeting, to identify the matters you would like to discuss or to make submissions in writing for consideration if you are unable to attend. You must complete the form by Procedural Deadline A (13 August 2020).

**I think we can pass on this invitation to speak.**

A link for the virtual meeting will be sent probably the day before the event i.e; 15<sup>th</sup> September. We do not need to register again as all Interested Parties (which T&EPC is) will receive all joining instructions for all sessions that we can be involved in.

Our references as Interested Parties are **20023668 – EA1N and 20023682 – EA2**. These meetings will cover both windfarms on-shore developments together. If someone wants to attend the hearing, you may need these references to identify yourself.

I had originally requested to speak at the initial Open Floor Hearings which will follow the above from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October and details of when/how these can be applied for will be published next week and an application made before 9<sup>th</sup> September.

This is the true start of the examination of the SPR DCO.

I will do so again once the link is available on the website.

## Appendix II – Financial Position

### Bank Balances as at 9 July 2020

Barclays Current Account	£2,232.94
Barclays Savings Account	£17.40
	<u>£2,250.34</u>

### General and Earmarked Reserves

EDF Energy Grant - Work Party Tools	£132.58
General Reserves	£2,495.00
Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£1,000.00
	<u>£3,627.58</u>

**Bank Balance less Reserves** **(£1,377.24)**

### Payments - August 2020

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£194.50
Leiston Press – Newsletter Printing	£20.00
Sharon Smith – Zoom Meetings Monthly Subscription	£4.80
SALC – Website Accessibility Training	£7.50
Sharon Smith – TASC CrowdJustice Donation	£50.00
	<u>£276.80</u>

### Receipts – August 2020

HMRC – VAT Recovery	£4,877.91
The Lion Inn – Newsletter Contribution	£47.00
	<u>£4,924.91</u>

**Net Balance** **£3,270.87**