

**MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER 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

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Paul Collins – written and accepted
Cllr. Julian Wallis

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
One member of the public

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Cllr. Philip Baskett declared an interest in item 6g.

3. Public Forum

a) Mr Steve Nicholls, Vice-Chair of the Community Council, thanked the Council for securing funding for the new play equipment in Theberton. He said there is an increasing number of children in the parish, particularly older children, therefore the Community Council would like to fully fund an additional piece of equipment targeted more to this group. The Community Council canvassed village families and it was clear that an aerial runway was the favoured item. The Community Council asked for the Council's permission to site a 30m, wooden framed, aerial runway within the hedge line to the back of the playing field where there is a natural gradient. They have received a quote from Playdale Ltd to supply and install the runway and lay safety grass mats for £11,366, net of VAT. The Clerk informed Mr Nicholls that if the funds were donated to the Council they could purchase the equipment and recover the VAT. In response to a question from Cllr. Stephen Brett, Mr Nicholls confirmed that the Community Council would cover any future maintenance and repair costs although these were anticipated to be minimal for many years. Cllr. Graham Bickers said that an aerial runway was a high-risk item of equipment with a potential for serious accidents. District Cllr. Haworth-Culf replied that, to her knowledge, there had never been a serious accident on a zip-wire in East Suffolk. Mr Nicholls agreed to send the plans and the quote to the Clerk for consideration by the Council. Cllr. Hilary Ward thanked Mr Nicholls and the Community Council for their proposal and for encouraging older children to use the playing field.

ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

b) County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that he has registered with the Planning Inspectorate as an Interested Party for Sizewell C as a Councillor and as a concerned resident. He said he was happy with the County Council's position and that almost 1,200 Relevant Representations were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate with over 1,100 against the development. 63 Town and Parish Councils submitted a Relevant Representation and all were against to some degree. The Examination Process is likely to begin in January 2021. The County Council asked EDF to delay the start of this period as the Local Authorities resources are already over-committed to the coronavirus pandemic and other energy projects. To date, no response has been received.

Cllr. Smith summarised the latest coronavirus statistics from the Director of Public Health. East and West Suffolk are now on the regional 'watch list'. The trigger point is 30 cases per 100,000 of population and, last Friday, East Suffolk reported 31 cases and West Suffolk reported 35 cases.

By way of comparison, Suffolk as a whole reported 27 cases, East of England reported 42 cases and England reported 110 cases. The numbers are relatively low compared with areas in the North of England but precautions are still essential. The County Council is keen to ensure schools remain open but there may need to be a trade-off by restricting other areas.

Cllr. Smith reported that the County Council have announced £300,000 of funding to install 100 electric vehicle charging points in rural parts of the county. The funding will be on a competitive basis and Town and Parish Councils, and other non-profit organisations, are invited to submit an application. The funding will cover installation and set-up costs and may create a small income stream.

ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's agenda for consideration.

c) Cllr. T-J Haworth-Culf referred to the rising number of coronavirus cases across Suffolk and reminded the Council to adhere to the social distancing and hygiene guidelines even though the county is in the medium tier. Cllr. Haworth-Culf noted that there has been reports about people from higher tier regions moving into the area and she said the holiday rental companies are looking into this.

With regard to the proposed Scottish Power Renewables East Anglia One North and Two offshore windfarms, Cllr. Haworth-Culf reported that she and Cllr. Jocelyn Bond spoke at the Open Floor Hearings to represent the views of their Ward. She thanked Cllr. Paul Collins and said he, and all members of the community, spoke well. The Planning Inspectorate has issued the Rule 8 Letters which comprise their first set of written questions, a confirmed list of the principal issues and a final timetable for the process. Cllr. Haworth-Culf asked the Council to consider responding to keep the pressure up.

Cllr. Haworth-Culf referred to the annual canvass of all households in the district to ensure the Register of Electors is accurate and up-to-date. The response to the first round of Household Enquiry Forms has been poor and she asked for the Council's help to remind residents that they are required by law to either confirm or update the details of everyone in the household who is currently eligible to vote.

ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to draft a newsletter article about the canvass of electors.

Cllr. Haworth-Culf concluded her report by informing the Council that as part of its response to COVID-19, the District Council has now funded more than £100,000 to local community groups and organisations who are providing support for residents most in need.

d) Cllr. Jocelyn Bond, following up on an issue previously raised by the Council, said that if the Council was unable to contact an Enforcement Officer urgently then they should contact one of the Ward Members day, night or weekend and they will find a point of contact. Cllr. Graham Bickers thanked Cllr. Bond and said he had concerns that there is no fast track to contact an Officer immediately if, for example, a tree with a preservation order was being cut down.

4. Minutes

a) It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Graham Bickers, and agreed that the minutes of the virtual meeting of 9th September 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

b) It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Bickers, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett, and agreed that the minutes of the virtual extraordinary meeting of 29th September 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

5. Matters Arising

Cllr. Graham Bickers said he will update the Council about the repairs to the Speed Indicator Device at the next meeting.

6. Parish Matters

a) The Council further discussed the Community Council's offer to purchase an aerial runway for Theberton playing field. Once the plans had been received from the Community Council, Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Hilary Ward will conduct a site visit to check the visual amenity, the provision for overflow car parking from Jubilee Hall and the access arrangements for maintaining the hedge. The Clerk said she will check the insurance policy to ascertain whether there will be an increase in premium.

b) The Council considered funding and building a petanque piste at Theberton playing field to provide a recreational amenity for older residents. Cllr. Hilary Ward said that ideally two pistes were needed and that the Carpet Bowls Club may be interested in playing petanque outdoors during the coronavirus pandemic. It was agreed that the piste would be for practice only and league matches would continue to be held at The Eel's Foot Inn.

ACTION: To be added to next month's agenda for further consideration.

c) The Council further discussed planting a hedgerow at Theberton playing field next spring.

ACTION: Cllr. Nat Bacon to follow up.

d) The Council agreed to register an interest in Quiet Lanes and appointed the Clerk to lead through the process.

e) The Council discussed a resident's concern about parking at the top of Eastbridge Common on the grass verge. The Clerk informed that Council that advice on the government's website said that it was an offence to drive a vehicle onto common land unless the driver intends to park it within 15 yards of a public road or the driver has permission from the landowner.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the resident that the verge is within the 15 yard limit.

f) Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed to attend the ESC Community Partnership meeting.

g) Cllr. Graham Bickers proposed the Council supports planning application DC/20/3667/PN3 – prior notification of a proposed cattle shed – Church Farm, Pretty Road. Seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett. All in favour. Cllr. Philip Baskett, who had previously declared an interest in this item, took no part in the voting.

7. Councillors' Meetings and Progress Reports

a) Energy Projects – Cllr. Paul Collin's report is attached as Appendix I.

b) SALC Area Forum – the Clerk summarised her previously circulated report.

c) Jubilee Hall Management Committee – Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that the hall has been made COVID-19 secure and is open for one event per day. A new booking secretary has been appointed.

d) Cllr. Beth Goose informed the Council of the following crimes reported in the parish:

- April 2020 – one anti-social behaviour offence in Eastbridge near Bakers Hill, no further details;
- May 2020 – one violent and sexual offence in Eastbridge near Chapel Road, unable to prosecute suspect;

- June 2020 – two anti-social behaviour offences in Eastbridge near Chapel Road, no further details, two violent and sexual offences in Eastbridge near Chapel Road, unable to prosecute one suspect and there was a local resolution for the other suspect, one criminal damage and arson in Eastbridge near Chapel Road, no suspect identified, and one criminal damage and arson in Theberton on the playing field, no suspect identified;
- August 2020 – one violent and sexual offence in Theberton, Doughty Wylie Crescent, still under investigation.

8. Finance

- The Council noted the latest financial position attached as Appendix II.
- The Council conducted the annual review of the cemetery fees and no changes were made.
- 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
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£18.09	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk's PAYE	HM Revenue and Customs	£145.80	LGA 1972 s.112
Payroll Services	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£22.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath	Sharon Smith (Royal British Legion)	£17.99	LGA 1972 s.138b
Newsletter Printing	Leiston Press	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.142

9. Administration

- The Council conducted the annual review of the Risk Assessment and agreed with the Clerk's additions.
- The Council approved the continuation of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.
- The Council agreed to appoint the Suffolk Association of Local Councils as internal auditor.
- The Council conducted the annual review of the insurance policy and confirmed the terms of the policy remain acceptable and that all known risks and assets are adequately protected.

10. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 4th September 2020 and 8th October 2020.

11. Questions to the Chair

- Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that during his routine inspection he noted that a second nut has fallen off an item of play equipment at Eastbridge.

ACTION: Clerk to request Sovereign to carry out the annual safety inspection.

- Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that there is a hole in the roof of the shed in Eastbridge burial ground and it is open to the elements.

ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers and Cllr. Stephen Morphey to affix a temporary waterproof cover and assess the work needed. Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

- Cllr. Stephen Morphey agreed to research a Dark Skies policy.

ACTION: Clerk to forward initial research and contacts.

d) Cllr. Graham Bickers informed the Council of potential s.106 money arising from Sizewell C in the long-term future. Cllr. Bickers suggested that the Council begins to consider items which may attract funding from the s.106 pot or may be made a condition of planning. As an example, he suggested traffic cameras to monitor rat-running by Sizewell workers and a new village hall or substantial works to Jubilee Hall. Cllr. Bickers also suggested that the Council commissions a report on the effect of blight on property prices in the parish and said that he could arrange for a valuer to brief the Council.

ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

12. 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 11th November 2020 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

Our Relevant Representation was submitted on 29th September.

Work continues on national awareness and campaigning. A petition based on Facebook engagements and advertising delivered over 10,000 signatures to BEIS and No 10 Downing Street on Tuesday 6th October and Endeavour House (SCC) and Melton (ESC) Wednesday 7th October. The petition is still open and accessible at www.stopsizewellcpetition.com.

Several articles have been appearing from EDF and their supporters over the past few weeks although in the last few days several articles with a more sceptical and questioning attitude have appeared both locally and in the national press. Finance and Regulated Asset Base discussions plus speculation about government taking a stake in new nuclear have also been raised. It is not clear when government talks about nuclear, whether they are talking about large nuclear, the likes of HPC and SZC or Small Modular Reactors from Rolls Royce and their consortium. SMRs are clearly in the government sights with talk of providing the equity a first installation. Whilst much of this speculation has been generated around the Conservative Party virtual annual conference, we still await the publication of the new Energy Whitepaper and National Infrastructure Strategy, both nominally mooted to be published before the end of the year.

We are in close contact with people taking part in the SPR DCO Pre-examination meetings and discussions to understand better the process and how to ensure we optimise our contribution once the process gets started. It appears that the examining panel has been surprised at the level of interaction of local organisations and residents in the process and they have had to open additional dates for Open Floor Hearings in this first pre-examination phase of the process.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 2nd November.

2 T&E Parish Council

Our Relevant Representation has been submitted and we have had acknowledgement of receipt and our Interested Party reference.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

I attended the first procedural pre-examination meeting as an observer where discussions about the virtual nature of the examination were discussed and representatives of county, district and town/parish councils, other statutory agencies and NGOs such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust and campaigning organisations, like SASES, were represented. The initial meetings were all about organisation and delivery of the main hearings' agenda as well as the potential for exclusion of people who have poor or no access to internet access.

On 7th October I attended the first Open Floor Hearing as the final part of the pre-examination process. Jocelyn and T-J both spoke as our ESC representatives as well as representatives of Aldeburgh Society, Save Our Sandlings, SZA & SZB Stakeholders Group, SEAS and SASES. Later, in a second session, three individuals spoke personally on their objections, although there were 9 registered so 6 spots unfortunately were not used.

Four further sessions were held on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th October, mainly for individuals but also Aldeburgh Town Council, Therese Coffey MP, SCC, ESC and Anglian Energy Planning Alliance have assigned speaking slots.

There have been so many requests to speak that additional sessions have been organised in early November.

My representation on behalf of the Parish is given below, not word for word. You will be able to see a recording of the session from the SPR PINS website and my start time is around 45 minutes in.

At the end of the session I was asked to make a written representation that covered the points within my talk before Deadline 1 (which is 2nd November). If we wish to take part in Issue Specific Hearings and other Open Floor Hearings as part of the main examination, we must make our intention known by Deadline 1 also. The final program and draft agendas for the examination will be published on Monday 12th October.

The written representation will cover what is below, but we can add further points if we wish as well as support for other Interested Party representations. In my talk I endorsed the presentation of Peter Chadwick who spoke on behalf of Save Our Sandlings immediately before me, but all the presentations were good and worthy of support.

Initially I was introduced as coming from "Thebarton and Eastbridge Parish Council" and asked if the pronunciation was correct. I corrected the spelling for them and let them know that Theberton was once twinned with Thebarton in Australia (oddly enough I've been there well before I moved to Eastbridge) and assured them that we were not interlopers from Australia but just down the road.

The B1122 divides Theberton in two and has a 30mph speed limit through the village but has no pedestrian crossing. The B1122 is one of the main HGV access routes to the cable access points on Lovers Lane close to Sizewell.

Our speed indicator device records average speeds of just below 40mph at the entry to the village inside the 30mph zone.

We are concerned about the impact of increased levels of traffic that will be experienced in combination with the Sizewell B Relocation, early years of Sizewell C construction before the Sizewell Link Road is built as well as other wind farm and interconnector projects on the Parish.

As a Parish we are pleased to see that Scottish Power will update their assessment of cumulative impact as a result of EDF submitting their DCO Application to the Planning Inspectorate but are disappointed that there is no way that the impacts of other energy projects can be considered properly and assessed.

With up to 700 HGV movements per day from SZC alone, prior to the Sizewell Link Road being completed, the additional traffic due to the SPR project will cause significant issues for Theberton residents from;

- Ability to cross B1122 at peak traffic times

- Noise

- Pollution

- Vibrational damage to listed buildings with shallow foundations

When combined with regular SZB traffic and SZB outage traffic increases, daily increases could range between 30-50% above normal.

Traffic rat-runs are already a problem on some roads especially at shift change times and exacerbated during outages. Increased traffic will only increase such behaviour.

Eastbridge, close to RSPB Minsmere, is only accessible through single track lanes. The lanes have no speed limits, including through the village, and there is a connection road north to the village of Westleton, through RSPB Minsmere. This is a private road owned and maintained by RSPB.

As the B1122 becomes busier, traffic from the north will increasingly use this route.

During harvest time we are used to having to reverse to the few passing places in the lanes to allow large machinery and trailer tractors to get to and from the fields. Added rat-running will potentially cause chaos to these roads for farmers, residents and tourists alike.

Currently no mitigation is proposed by either Scottish Power for these projects or by EDF for the SZC project for the village of Eastbridge or for the B1122 through Theberton during the SZC early years or the two wind farm projects which are likely to be concurrent.

Addition of local speed limits within Eastbridge village and a pedestrian crossing in Theberton should be considered.

Another problem we are expecting is that of fly-parking by workers accessing these projects. This has been the experience at other large developments such as Hinkley Point and with the narrow nature of local roads and lanes will cause significant issues for residents, farmers, and tourists.

Ironically, with the staggered nature of these projects, SPR, SZC, Galloper & Greater Gabbard expansions, Nautilus and Eurolink interconnectors and the two National Grid Operator interconnectors from "Sizewell" to Kent, and no over-arching strategy or ability to coordinate the planning for all of these projects, all we can do is look on and be dismayed at the chaos and constant despoiling of the countryside from coast to yet another substation and national grid connection.

Whilst this may not be the responsibility or result of Scottish Power's DCO application per se, it is the inevitable and sad result for the residents of Theberton and Eastbridge and the surrounding area.

I endorse the points made by Peter Chadwick of Save Our Sandlings in the presentation prior to this.

Appendix II – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 10 September 2020

Barclays Current Account	£6,784.96
Barclays Savings Account	£17.40
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	£6,802.36

General and Earmarked Reserves

EDF Energy Grant - Work Party Tools	£132.58
General Reserves	£2,495.00
Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£2,000.00
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	£4,627.58

Bank Balance less Reserves **£2,174.78**

Payments - October 2020

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£194.50
HM Revenue and Customs – Clerk's PAYE	£145.80
Sharon Smith – Clerk's Expenses	£18.09
Leiston Press – Newsletter Printing	£20.00
SALC – Payroll Services	£22.80
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	£401.19

Receipts – October 2020

ESC – Precept Second Instalment **£2,773.59**

Net Balance **£5,254.43**

