

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 10th AUGUST 2022 AT 7:00 PM

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett - Chair
Cllr. Hilary Ward - Vice Chair
Cllr. Stephen Morphey
Cllr. Bob Flindall
Cllr. Nat Bacon (part of the meeting)

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Laura Bonnett – written and accepted
Cllr. Paul Collins – written and accepted
Cllr. Adam Hurrell – written and accepted
District Cllr. Tony Cooper
District Cllr. Russ Rainger

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
District Cllr. Tom Daly
County Cllr. Richard Smith
No members of the public

The Council noted the resignation of Cllr. Tom Lagden and a vote of thanks was recorded for all his work for the Council.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith said that, following the summer break, emphasis will be on balancing the County Council budget which will be difficult. Cllr. Smith reported that the Gullwing Bridge at Lowestoft is progressing well and should be open next year which will help to transform Lowestoft. With regard to Sizewell C, Cllr. Smith said that a decision has been reached and the government did not take note of the Planning Inspectorate's recommendations. Cllr. Smith said he was pleased that Stop Sizewell C challenged the government's representative about the desalination plant which is not green despite EDF's claims. Together Against Sizewell C is in the early stages of a Judicial Review and Cllr. Smith expects Stop Sizewell C will do the same by the end of this month. EDF are going out to the market to find £20 billion but in 12 years' time the cost is likely to be £30 billion and investors are likely to be aware of that.

b) District Cllr. Tom Daly summarised his previously circulated written report. With regard to the Dark Skies project, Cllr. Stephen Morphey explained that District Cllr. Russ Rainger was trying to assist and that further information had been provided. Cllr. Daly said he spoke on behalf of the Council at a Full Council meeting and explained that approval was needed from the District Council to progress the project. Cllr. James Mallinder, the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment, said he supported Dark Skies initiatives and the importance of them. Cllr. Mallinder said he is willing to meet with the Council but he has been very busy lately and it is on his radar. Cllr. Daly said these statements have been recorded at Full Council which will hopefully prompt Cllr. Mallinder to give his approval. Cllr. Morphey agreed to contact Dark Sky Discovery to assess the parish again and to seek formal designation.

Cllr. Nat Bacon arrived and apologised to the Chair for being late.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Bob Flindall, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 13th July 2022 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

5. Energy Projects

a) To Council noted Cllr. Paul Collins previously circulated written report.

b) The Council noted a letter received from a resident about the proposed pedestrian crossing in Theberton. Cllr. Stephen Brett explained that EDF made the proposal as a temporary mitigation during the early years of the construction phase before the by-pass and the Sizewell Link Road are built. When the proposal was first mooted at a public meeting, several residents raised strong objections to the requirement to provide street lighting around the pedestrian crossing. However, the Council acknowledged there are many older and young residents in the parish and their safety needs to be ensured and isolation, caused by the heavy traffic, needs to be prevented. Cllr. Brett said that Steven Merry of SCC Highways is in favour of implementing a 20 mph speed limit throughout Theberton. County Cllr. Richard Smith replied that he makes the decision about speed limits and he is not in favour of 20 mph limits as the police do not enforce them. Cllr. Smith said that the residents enjoy the dark skies in the parish and the street lighting will flood light the pedestrian and will be substantial. Cllr. Hilary Ward asked for other traffic calming measures to be considered. Cllr. Smith replied that humps could be put in but they are not favoured by buses or the emergency services. The Council concluded that another public meeting should be held to hear the residents' views. Cllr. Smith added that Steven Merry has agreed to take another look at implementing a 30 mph speed limit in Eastbridge and he suggested that the Council should invite David Chenery, also of SCC Highways, to conduct a site visit and that he will support the request.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain copy of Highways' plans for the pedestrian crossing. Public meeting to be arranged. Clerk to invite David Chenery to conduct a site visit. Clerk to reply to the resident that all options are being considered.

6. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

a) Platinum Heritage Trail – following the resignation of Cllr. Tom Lagden, Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed to arrange a handover of the project and to update the Council at the next meeting.

b) Eastbridge Burial Ground – Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that an interment took place during the month. Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that both sides of the shed roof have been slated and the next steps are to put the capping and guttering on.

c) Village Signs – Cllr. Stephen Brett to obtain quotes.

d) Jubilee Well – Cllr. Stephen Brett to contact the landowner.

e) Kissing Gate – Cllr. Nat Bacon reported that the refurbishment is ongoing.

f) Eastbridge Swift Tower – Cllr. Bob Flindall reported that the Waveney Bird Club met with the landlord and Adnams to discuss the project to site the swift tower in the Eel's Foot garden.

g) Playing Fields – Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that the new basketball backboard has been erected and the post painted. The Council thanked Cllr. Nat Bacon for arranging this. Cllr. Ward also reported that the Talking Benches will be installed in the playing fields this week. The Council considered providing picnic tables in the playing fields. Cllr. Bob Flindall said Reckford Roost Farm Shop in Middleton sold suitable picnic tables and Cllr. Nat Bacon agreed to obtain a price.

ACTION: Cllr. Nat Bacon to obtain a quote for picnic tables.

h) Community Council/Jubilee Hall Management Committee – Cllr. Hilary Ward gave the following report: the Community Council has arranged an opening event for the petanque piste; the summer BBQ event was a great success; further events are being arranged including the fireworks event; the Hall Management Committee are looking into allowing motorhomes to park overnight at the Jubilee Hall; during October, the Jubilee Hall sheds will be cleared out and an inventory taken; and the Doughty-Wylie boards are now being stored in the sheds.

ACTION: Clerk to check if the Council's insurance policy covers the fireworks event as it is held on Parish Council land.

i) Speed Indicator Device – Cllr. Paul Collins reported by email that there is no report this month as the updated device along with its solar panel is still at the southern end of the village until next week. Cllr. Collins said it remains to be seen how effective the solar panel is at the southern end because the tree next to it is shading the panel whilst leaves are on the trees. At the northern end of the village, there are no

longer any shading trees near the pole that the device is attached to. After discussion with the Chairman, a second solar panel bracket has been ordered for that pole, as moving the bracket from one position to the other each month is not an option. The Council ratified the decision to spend £147 plus VAT.

j) Quiet Lanes – the Clerk and Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed to erect the remaining signs. The Clerk reported that the remaining roads will be designated soon.

k) Police Crime Report – the Clerk said no crimes were reported in the parish in May and June 2022.

7. Planning

a) Cllr. Bob Flindall recommended that the Council considers preparing a Neighbourhood Plan as part of its strategic objectives project.

b) The Council resolved to respond to the SALC ESC Planning Process Survey raising concerns in particular about the lack of transparency and clarity in the planning process and the inability of the Council to influence whether an application is considered by the planning committee which would enable the Council and the Ward Members to make verbal representations.

ACTION: Clerk to respond.

8. Parish Matters

The Council discussed tree cutting on the verges of the B1122 when approaching from Leiston. It was agreed to report the matter to Highways via the online reporting tool as the trees are on Highways land.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

9. Items Postponed

Due to the lateness of the hour, the following agenda items were postponed until another meeting.

a) To discuss improvements to the adjacent laybys and signage to Theberton Woods.

b) To discuss footpath access from Hawthorn Road to Pretty Road.

9. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position attached as Appendix II.

b) The Council noted the report from the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2021-2022.

i) The Council accepted the recommendation to increase the Fidelity Guarantee insurance cover from £25,000 to £50,000.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

ii) The Council noted that in accordance with the Practitioners Guide, it is recommended that smaller authorities should use secure e-mail systems and gov.uk addresses which are owned by the authority rather than relying on the use of personal email addresses that can change regularly. This reduces the risk of correspondence going astray or being delayed. After due consideration, the Council considered the risk was minimal and the cost of approximately £66 per annum per email address was not justifiable.

c) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for Qtr 1 2021-2022.

d) The Council noted the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Qtr 1 2021-2022.

e) It was proposed by Cllr. Nat Bacon, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey, and agreed to authorise the payments listed below. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£323.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith	£31.68	LGA 1972 s.19

10. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 9th July 2022 and 3rd August 2022.

11. Questions to the Chair

In reply to a question from Cllr. Stephen Morphey, Cllr. Stephen Brett replied that, due to the long spell of dry weather, the ground was too hard to erect the 'no dog' signage at the playing fields.

12. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 14th September 2022 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

Activities have been a little less public this month since the announcement of the approval of the DCO on behalf of Kwasi Quarteng, Secretary of State for Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

We attended an NGO meeting with the Office for Nuclear Regulation regarding the current status of the Nuclear Site License for Sizewell C which is current in abeyance awaiting resolution of two issues regarding company ownership and ownership of the land upon which Sizewell C will be built. These issues will not be resolved until the Financial Investment Decision is made, which is not expected to be until at least the middle of 2023.

Several questions were asked regarding the lack of potable water supply and ONR interest in the current ground testing for ground anchors and soil mixing. Their only comments on these subjects were.

- 1) The ONR expect a permanent supply of potable water to be found and available at the time that cold testing of the reactors starts. They said that as the primary and secondary cooling systems were closed loop systems that water availability should not be a problem when the tertiary cooling system was a continuous supply of seawater. So, there was some confusion when we asked why 2M litres of water per day were being requested and they agreed to go back and determine why the requirement was at that level.
- 2) Their attitude to the current ground testing was that it was a normal pre-construction activity but as the cut-off wall was not a nuclear safety structure and is only being constructed so the site can be dewatered, it is not part of the NSL evaluation. I pointed out that because the ground level was at only +1mOD, the suitable crag layer does not appear on the site until about -9mOD and that all of the material in between will have to be excavated and replaced with suitable backfill alongside the construction itself, then without the cut-off wall, the nuclear platform simply cannot exist at all as the cut-off wall maintains the integrity of the structure and all the facilities within. So how is this not a nuclear safety issue. They agreed to go back and look at this again and respond.

I also asked several further questions about both Taishan and Flamanville and these are being handled as FOI requests.

I have to say, in my opinion, that the ONR's scrutiny of the NSL and this specific site seems to be flaky at the edges with too much reliance on SZC being a clone on the HPC reactor and support buildings but not enough deeper thought about the site specific structural and geological differences at the Sizewell.

Beyond that, we are currently in discussions with our lawyers about a barrister appointment and a potential Judicial Review application.

Much work is being done reviewing the SoS decision and the ExA's recommendation, looking at why the SoS overrode the ExA's opinion that "the case was not made" for Sizewell C.

Whilst TASC has already declared moving forward and having sent a Pre-Action Protocol letter to BEIS and EDF, we are not yet at that stage but will be discussing next steps shortly with our lawyers.

Having said that we are also coordinating and sharing our efforts and thoughts with TASC and others as part of our preparation.

2 T&E Parish Council

Despite warm words from EDF at the Deed of Obligation meeting on Thursday 12th May, we still await written confirmation of the more flexible approach outlined at the meeting.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

The SPR decision has been approved. The SASES JR request has been approved to go ahead on six grounds and a date is set in November for the hearing. The decision on the SEAS request was negative but they are pursuing another route for an oral hearing.

4 Eurolink, Nautilus, Multi-Purpose and ESO Kent Interconnectors

No further progress.

Appendix II - Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 14th July 2022

Barclays Current Account	£7,922.51
Barclays Savings Account	£19,913.85
	<u>£27,836.36</u>

Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£3,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£650.00
Community Infrastructure Levy 2021-2022	£1,265.94
Community Infrastructure Levy 2022-2023	£997.34
Jubilee Hall Broadband Grant	£354.53
Jubilee Hall Broadband Fund	£150.00
Platinum Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
	<u>£16,417.81</u>

Bank Balance less Reserves **£11,418.55**

Payments – August 2022

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£323.50
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£31.68
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Equipment Maintenance	£17.99
	<u>£373.17</u>

Net Balance **£11,045.38**