

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2021 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. Paul Collins
Cllr. Nat Bacon

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Julian Wallis
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

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

The Council agreed to postpone the disqualification of Cllr. Julian Wallis for non-attendance at Council meetings as the Chairman has not had an opportunity to speak to him.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to contact Cllr. Julian Wallis.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith paid tribute to the efforts of the local surgeries who are rolling out the COVID vaccine programme successfully.

Cllr. Smith said that, despite speculation, the County Council election, the Police and Crime Commissioner's election and other by-elections are still planned for 6th May but they may be delayed again. Central government has stated that no political activity, for example letter box leafleting, is permitted due to the COVID restrictions and that polling day will involve greater hygiene and social distancing measures. The purdah (silence) period commences on 25th March and he will need to be careful as all candidates should have an opportunity for an equal say.

With regard to Sizewell C, Cllr. Smith said that the first public hearing is expected just after Easter which will present difficulties as he will be fighting an election campaign. He hopes to play his part and participate fully in the public hearings. Cllr. Smith thanked Cllr. Paul Collins for his latest report which informed him that France are not commissioning any more EPR nuclear reactors.

Cllr. Smith concluded his report by informing the Council that the County Council budget will be considered on 11th February and a Council Tax increase of 4% is proposed. 2% is for adult social care and 2% for general expenditure. Cllr. Smith said that inflation is currently only 0.6% therefore he argued that a 4% increase was too high. In reply to a question from Cllr. Stephen Brett, Cllr. Smith said that he believes reserves are at a reasonable level as he ensured this when he was the Cabinet member responsible for Finance. He also believes there is further scope for efficiencies and the County Council owes it to the Suffolk public to run as lean and efficiently as possible.

b) District Cllr. T-J Haworth-Culf referred to the previously circulated monthly Ward report. Cllr. Haworth-Culf reported that more vaccination centres are opening across Suffolk and over 70s who have not yet been offered a vaccine can contact the NHS to request one. Cllr. Haworth-Culf said she had sent a letter to Leiston surgery to thank them for the roll-out of the vaccine.

Cllr. Haworth-Culf reported that the District Council had agreed to freeze its share of Council Tax this year as it has healthy reserves and it was considered unfair to increase it when many families were struggling financially.

c) District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond said that she and Cllr. Haworth-Culf spoke at the planning meeting about the Sizewell B facilities application but the decision to permit was reconfirmed. Cllr. Bond said she would send the Council details about why the District Council has changed its stance on the Scottish Power Renewables offshore windfarms. She urged everyone who has a view to contact District Cllr. Tony Cooper as he is the District Council's energy projects' representative for the area.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Nat Bacon, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 13th January 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

5. Matters Arising

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett, referring to item 16b, recorded a vote of thanks to Cllr. Nat Bacon and his team for arranging for free saplings to be provided from The Woodland Trust and for planting these around two sides of the playing field at Theberton. Cllr. Brett asked for Cllr. Bacon and his team to be thanked publicly in the newsletter. All in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to submit an article to the newsletter editor.

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett, referring to item 7a, said he thanked the Vice-Chair of the Community Council for funding and arranging the purchase and installation of the aerial runway in Theberton playing field. Cllr. Brett asked for the Community Council to be thanked publicly in the newsletter. All in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to submit an article to the newsletter editor.

c) Cllr. Stephen Brett, recorded a vote of thanks to Cllr. Stephen Morphey for trimming the hedge in the Eastbridge burial ground.

d) Cllr. Hilary Ward, referring to item 16d, said The Lion Inn recently experienced electrical faults which were traced to the defibrillator as snow had entered the cabinet. Cllr. Ward cleared the snow and sealed the cabinet.

6. Energy Projects

a) The Council discussed the upcoming meeting with EDF to review the Relevant Representation and Stage 5 consultation response. Cllr. Stephen Brett said that he and Cllr. Paul Collins will attend the meeting but it is important that they represent the views of the Council. Following a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed the following points:

- i) Pretty Road should be kept open;
- ii) The B1125 junction to the Sizewell Link Road should be removed;
- iii) A temporary pedestrian crossing in Theberton is required during the early years of construction;
- iv) Properties along the B1122 should be surveyed before construction begins and monitored throughout for vibration damage, particularly for listed buildings such as the Church;
- v) A quiet surface dressing is required on the B1122 where it passes properties;
- vi) Triple or secondary glazing is required for properties along the B1122;
- vii) Traffic calming measures to prevent speeding are required, including gates at each end of Theberton;
- viii) ANPR cameras are required on rural roads in the parish to monitor and prevent rat-running;
- ix) A lower speed limit in Eastbridge is required;
- x) Damage to the B1122 caused by heavy traffic should be assessed and repaired regularly;
- xi) The size of the accommodation campus needs to be reduced and another site identified;
- xii) There should be a cap on the number of workers permitted to occupy alternative accommodation in the parish;
- xiii) The size of the spoil heaps should be reduced;
- xiv) The spoil heaps should be managed to reduce dust;
- xv) The New Cut should be dredged to prevent increased flooding in the parish;
- xvi) A pump should be added to the sluice to reduce levels of excess flooding;
- xvii) The Leiston Drain should be maintained;

- xviii) The footpath by the sluice needs to be raised and improved;
- xix) A community compensation fund is required to pay for, eg, future repairs to Jubilee Hall and car park; a new shed at Eastbridge burial ground.
- xx) A property blight compensation fund is required.

b) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I.

7. Theberton Playing Field

a) The Council noted the post-installation safety inspection report for the aerial runway.

b) The Council agreed to pay the invoice for the post-installation safety inspection report and accept a further grant of £250 from the Community Council.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Community Council.

c) Cllr. Hilary Ward informed the Council that an application for £980 has been submitted to the Community Partnership Fund for the petanque piste.

8. Progress Reports

a) Cllr. Paul Collins reported that the Speed Indicator Device has been repaired and is operational.

b) Cllr. Stephen Morphey updated the Council about the Dark Skies Project. He corresponded with Nick Forster, Senior Site Manager at RSPB Minsmere, who informed him that they do not have a Dark Skies Policy but that they seek to produce as little light pollution as possible, both for biodiversity reasons and to enhance the visitor experience. They have sky seats for stargazing and hold guided family events where they encounter creatures who exploit darkness. He said that the current social distancing rules makes organising events related to dark skies impossible however, in the longer term, they would be happy to investigate greater engagement with a Dark Skies initiative.

c) Cllr. Graham Bickers said he has drafted a letter about property blight to be circulated to the neighbouring Parish Councils suggesting they record sale dates and prices of properties in their parish.

ACTION: Clerk to send letter once approved.

d) Cllr. Graham Bickers said he had not yet drafted a letter to Secretary of State regarding the issues with the planning authority.

ACTION: Clerk to add to the Outstanding Actions List.

e) The Clerk updated the Council about the Quiet Lanes Scheme. The following seven lanes have been nominated and designated by the QLS Team as 'proceed': Pretty Road, Moat Road, Onner's Lane, Potter's Street, Church Road, Chapel Road and Baker's Hill. The Clerk said the next step was to provide the QLS Team with a short description of the end points of the nominated lanes and the GPS coordinates for the signage. The Council agreed to be included in 'Wave 2' of the parishes that are proceeding with the project. Wave 2 runs from April to June 2021 and there are a number of deadlines to meet. The Council approved a parish briefing, previously circulated by the Clerk, to be published in the next newsletter informing residents and businesses of the scheme. Cllr. Stephen Brett asked if Eastbridge Road could be nominated.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett and the Clerk to walk the lanes to identify the end points and the GPS coordinates. Clerk to submit parish briefing to the newsletter editor. Clerk to contact QLS Team to nominate Eastbridge Road.

9. Police

Cllr. Beth Goose informed the Council that no crimes were reported in the parish in December 2020.

10. Finance

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

b) The Council reviewed the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 3 2020-2021.

c) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for Quarter 3 2020-2021.

d) It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins, and agreed to authorise the payments listed below. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£194.30	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£4.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Petrol Expenses	Stephen Brett	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.19
Speed Indicator Device Repairs	Westcotec Limited	£932.16	LGA 1972 s.111

11. Administration

a) The Council conducted the annual review of the Model Financial Regulations. Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the Council accepts the updated Financial Regulations. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

b) The Council conducted the annual review of the Model Standing Orders. Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the Council accepts the updated Standing Orders. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

c) Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the Council adopts the following GDPR documents: a Data Retention and Disposal Policy, a Personal Data Breaches Policy and a Freedom of Information Act Policy. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

12. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 8th January 2021 and 4th February 2021.

13. Questions to the Chair/Items for Next Agenda

a) The Clerk informed the Council that the noticeboards need attention. It was agreed to undertake this in the summer months.

ACTION: Clerk to add to Outstanding Actions List.

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett informed the Council that he and the Clerk have been reviewing the graves at the burial ground in Eastbridge. Cllr. Brett said there were many unmarked graves which the Council may consider marking in the future. He suggested placing numbered bricks at surface level, to ensure easy maintenance, with a correspondence plan with names and dates in a noticeboard. Cllr. Graham Bickers suggested that moulded numbers may be preferable visually and he agreed to look into this. All in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers to research moulds for numbers and Clerk to add to Outstanding Actions List.

c) Cllr. Hilary Ward suggested that the grant awarding bodies who have supported the parish should be publicised in the noticeboards with their logos and details of the grants. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

d) Cllr. Nat Bacon asked the Clerk to add the new aerial runway to the Theberton play equipment inspection checklist.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

14. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

EDF submitted their changes to the DCO based on the fifth consultation that took place late 2020. There is considerable concern from statutory consultees and others, also expressed during the consultation, that information required to assess those changes has not been made available either at the Stage 5 Consultation or in the document set provided to PINS and made available on the website.

The ExA will now be accepting additional Written Representations to respond to those changes, but they have not formally accepted the changes and are unlikely to do so until the Preliminary Meeting starts. There has been some question as to whether the ExA will consider the changes to be material or not, although as the examination hasn't started yet, it is questionable as to whether that matters or not.

The issue of the lack of supporting information may be of larger concern as EDF may try to get provision of that information as a condition within a granted Development Consent Order, thus taking the potential for serious public scrutiny away. It is interesting that Thérèse Coffey stated that the last thing she wanted to see was a DCO approval with lots of post consent conditions. This is certainly one of the areas that would be to EDF's advantage to get conditions inserted, instead of having to provide the information now, partly because to produce it now may further delay the project given the time it might take to develop and provide such additional information.

In the mean time we have been working to invite our new Minister, Kwasi Kwarteng, to visit Sizewell to see for himself the site and areas surrounding it. We continue to press BEIS on issues surrounding finance (RAB) and the ONR on proposed changes to the SZC reactor design to enable Direct Air Carbon Capture and Hydrogen production which EDF have been pressing. However, Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson has been stressing that no changes to the design from HPC should be made to keep costs and timescales on track.

EDF also have talked about discussions with local authorities about District Heating schemes for the low-grade waste heat that normally gets dumped to the North Sea. Julia Pyke has said that this could be piped up to 80 kilometres to support such a scheme, as Leiston clearly does not have developments as sufficient scale to make such a scheme viable. The idea of piping the heat out as far as Ipswich or Lowestoft and getting planning permission for such a pipeline seems to be laughable to me, no matter how environmentally sensible and laudable it might be.

We continue to work up our written representations and evidence base for the examination which will come upon us all too quickly and will require quick responses. We also continue to work on influencing government on the various aspects of the project where we think we might have some influence on any final decisions.

EDF have now registered a new EPR2 initial design with the French Regulator (ONR equivalent) given that the EPR at Flamanville has not exactly impressed the French Government and they have said they will not commission any more.

EDF and the French Government are in a quandary with the EU over their plans to break up EDF by placing the nuclear, hydro-electric and renewables in separate organisations with the nuclear and hydro remaining as nationalised companies. It appears that the pricing regime EDF want was seen to be too advantageous to the nuclear arm and may be considered as state subsidy which would break EU competition rules. One French minister has been quoted as doubting that there is a plan B available.

Wylfa was recommended to the SoS to be rejected by the Planning Inspectorate unless certain conditions were placed within the Development Consent Order. They were mainly environmental concerns but Hitachi has now withdrawn the DCO application completely which makes this a moot point after almost nine months of delay and prevarication by the SoS. However, in a further twist the Welsh Government has expressed a wish to buy Horizon to keep the project afloat, but apparently a significant sum is being asked for by Hitachi for the land at Wylfa and the Welsh Government has asked the UK government to consider funding this in some way.

2 T&E Parish Council

The request from EDF to convene a meeting with T&EPC is set for Thursday 11th February. It will be an initial meeting to;

- “discuss your council’s relevant representations and responses to the recent consultation on the proposed changes to the DCO”
and
- “a further opportunity to raise your questions and suggestions and to identify any areas of common ground and to explore possible solutions to any concerns should the project go ahead”

reflects the need for EDF to respond to our Relevant Representation before the examination starts in earnest.

A meeting was held between Lidia Bosa and four Eastbridge residents on 1st February to discuss housing blight, borrow pits, campus, roads and various pollution threats from the construction site. It was an initial meeting and a follow-up has been scheduled for 1st March.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

A response from Graham Gunby was received and he raised our points about Theberton B1122 mitigation with Steve Merry who is the transport lead at SCC. He suggested I e-mail the ExA with my concerns.

I wrote a Written Representation to the ExA for the SPR proposals and having cleared it with Steve Brett, sent it to the ExA via the PINS e-mail address for both proposals EA1N and EA2.

Appendix II – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 14th January 2021

Barclays Current Account	£11,170.34
Barclays Savings Account	£4,017.40
	<u>£15,187.74</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 £11,560.16

Income – December 2020

Barclays Bank - Interest	£0.02
--------------------------	-------

Payments – January 2021/February 2021

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£194.30
Sharon Smith – Clerk's Expenses	£4.80
Middleton Primary School - Donation	£200.00
Leiston Library - Donation	£50.00
Leiston Press – Newsletter Printing	£20.00
Stephen Brett – Petrol Expenses	£20.00
Theberton Play Equipment Maintenance Package	£17.99
Stephen Brett (Leiston Tyre) – Tractor Repairs	£60.00
Playdale – Aerial Runway Remaining 50%	£6,486.00
	<u>£7,053.09</u>

Net Balance £4,507.09