

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7:00 PM AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair
Cllr. Hilary Ward – Vice-Chair
Cllr. Adam Hurrell
Cllr. Stephen Morphey
Cllr. Graham Bickers
Cllr. Paul Collins

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Tom Lagden – written and accepted
Cllr. Laura Bonnett – written and accepted
Cllr. Nat Bacon – written and accepted
County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Tom Daly
District Cllr. Russ Rainger
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
No members of the public

2. To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations

None.

3. Public Forum

None.

4. Minutes

Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the Council approves the minutes of the meeting on 13th October 2021. Seconded by Cllr. Adam Hurrell. All in favour.

5. Matters Arising

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that the information signs had been erected in Theberton playing field. The Clerk said she had ordered an ownership sign for Eastbridge playing field.

ACTION: Clerk to collect sign and Cllr. Stephen Brett to erect.

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett said he asked two residents to lay the poppy wreaths at the War Memorial in Theberton and the Burial Ground in Eastbridge on Remembrance Sunday.

c) Cllr. Stephen Morphey suggested that hedging may be required to separate the Burial Ground from the playing field in Eastbridge.

6. Future Projects

a) Due to the absence of Councillors, the decision to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 with a permanent memorial and to nominate a Festival Community Champion was postponed.

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

b) The Council agreed, in principle, to support the suggestion of using the anonymous donation to create a heritage walking trail around the parish. The project will also include reinstatement of the Jubilee well if permission is obtained. It was decided to create a Heritage Trail working group to include Councillors and members of the community. The membership and terms of the working group are to be decided.

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

c) Due to the absence of Councillors, further consideration of provisions for teenagers in the parish was postponed.

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

7. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

a) Eastbridge Playing Field – the Clerk reported that 100m of free hedging (mixed native with canes and guards) has been ordered by Cllr. Laura Bonnett from Suffolk Tree Wardens. Once received, Cllr. Bonnett will organise a work party to plant the saplings. Cllr. Bonnett also successfully applied for a grant for £106 from the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Community and Conservation Fund for hedging and deer netting to protect the saplings from cattle. Cllr. Stephen Brett said 100m of free hedging would be sufficient and the deer netting was not necessary.

ACTION: Clerk to contact AONB Fund to explain the circumstances and decline the grant offer.

b) Theberton Playing Field – Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that the minor repairs to the play equipment were completed and Cllr. Nat Bacon had ordered a replacement cap for the rocker horse. Cllr. Brett was authorised to order a ton of play bark to top up the surfaces under the play equipment. Cllr. Brett said the petanque piste was now completed and came in under budget.

c) ESC Planning Protocol – Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that a successful discussion took place at the SALC Joint Area Forum with excellent support received from all the Town and Parish Councils present, with the exception of one. A working group of interested parties was formed to meet and agree upon a wider remit of problems experienced across all the Towns and Parishes which will be submitted to ESC's Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that the first meeting will be held virtually and the Clerk will take minutes. The membership of the working group will be discussed and agreed upon in conjunction with SALC.

d) Eastbridge Common – Cllr. Stephen Brett said the wildflower meadow will be cut by a working party shortly.

e) Burial Ground Shed – Cllr. Stephen Morphey, Cllr. Graham Bickers and Cllr. Adam Hurrell have been working to repair the shed which is now watertight. They will undertake further work to complete the repairs.

f) Community Council/Jubilee Hall Management Committee – the Council agreed that the fireworks display was excellent. Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that she attended the latest meeting of the Jubilee Hall Management Committee and that they are trialling an online banking system.

g) Eastbridge Burial Ground – the Clerk reported that she has ordered a litter bin for the Burial Ground which will be added to ESC's schedule for emptying. The Council reviewed the DEFRA Consultation on Amendments to Burial Regulations and confirmed that the Burial Ground meets all the criteria for existing cemeteries. The Clerk said one interment had taken place last month. Cllr. Stephen Morphey queried why some holes had been dug in the top right hand corner.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to inspect holes.

h) Police Crime Report – the Clerk said no crimes were reported in the parish in September 2021.

8. Highways

a) The Council agreed to respond to the SCC HGV Routes Review by stating that all routes, with the exception of the B1122 and Eastbridge Road before Abbey Farm, through the parish were unsuitable for HGVs.

ACTION: Clerk to respond.

b) The Council noted the latest monthly report from the Speed Camera Device. Cllr. Paul Collins reported that the batteries were still not lasting long enough. Cllr. Collins said a new SID would cost approximately £1,400 to £1,700 whereas a new lithium ion battery would cost about £170 plus VAT. Cllr. Collins was authorised to order a replacement battery.

9. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position, attached as Appendix I.
- b) The Council noted the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 2 2021-2022.
- c) The Council agreed to a resident's request to buy 12 sets of litter pickers/bag hoops for community use. Cllr. Hilary Ward said she had 5 hi-viz vests in stock which she would deliver to the resident.
ACTION: Clerk to order litter picking sets.
- d) Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the following payments are approved. Seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£536.05	LGA 1972 s.112
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith (BT)	£28.99	LGA 1972 s.19
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£10.20	LGA 1972 s.111
Poppy Wreaths x 2	Sharon Smith	£34.00	LGA 1971 s.138b
Petanque Piste Materials	Woolnough Contractors Ltd	£934.80	PHA 1936 s. 87

10. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received between 8th October 2021 and 4th November 2021.

11. Energy Projects

- a) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his monthly report, attached as Appendix II.
- b) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that the Council has been asked to enter into a Deed of Covenant with NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council. The Clerk said that Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council have also been asked to sign up to a similar Deed. Cllr. Brett explained that the Deed binds the Council to participate in the B1122 Early Years Working Group which will be established by the Sizewell C Transport Coordinator if Sizewell C goes ahead. The purpose of the B1122 Early Years Working Group is to address the road safety and environmental transport impacts of construction traffic likely to arise prior to first use of the Sizewell Link Road on the B1122 between and inclusive of Middleton Moor and Theberton. The Council agreed to take up EDF's offer of free legal advice about the Deed and, in principle, authorised the Clerk to sign the Deed on behalf of the Council.
ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to contact solicitors.
- c) Cllr. Graham Bickers informed the Council that he had contacted ESC to ask why the Property Price Support Scheme was removed from the Deed of Obligation and deemed not to be Direct Mitigation. Cllr. Bickers received a reply stating that ESC are not responsible for determining the Deed of Obligation and the Property Price Support Scheme will operate outside of it as this was also the case with Hinkley Point C. Following a discussion, the Council decided not to pursue this matter with ESC as the Deed of Obligation has now been signed by all parties. Cllr. Bickers said the Council has still not received a reply from Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson as to why the Property Price Support Scheme for Sizewell C differs from Hinkley Point C. The Council agreed to send a follow-up letter after Cllr. Stephen Brett has asked Tom McGarry for an update on the matter. The Council agreed to send the valuation letter to all residents with some further amendments.
ACTION: Clerk to amend, circulate, print and arrange distribution of the valuation letter. Cllr. Stephen Brett to contact Tom McGarry.
- d) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that Steven Merry of SCC Highways informed him that street lighting is required for any type of pedestrian crossing. Cllr. Brett replied to ask how many street lights and what distance will they cover. Steven Merry said he will find out and report back. The Council agreed to consult the community again about the proposed pedestrian crossing when the specific details about the extent of street lighting is obtained.

e) Cllr. Paul Collins reported that he and Cllr. Stephen Brett attended a meeting hosted by ESC about the Nautilus Interconnector. There are five potential sites for the onshore substation but the Theberton site is quite unlikely. However, Cllr. Collins said there are further interconnectors coming and there needs to be a co-ordinated approach to avoid digging up the countryside multiple times to lay the cables.

12. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 10:15 pm.

Appendix I – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 14th October 2021

Barclays Current Account	£455.58
Barclays Savings Account	£24,018.24
	<u>£24,473.82</u>

Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£2,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£650.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£757.74
Petanque Piste Grant	£779.00
Jubilee Hall Broadband Grant	£621.85
Anonymous Donation	£10,000.00
	<u>£14,808.59</u>

Bank Balance less Reserves **£9,665.23**

Receipts – October 2021

ESC – Community Infrastructure Levy	£1,249.46
Tony Brown's Funeral Service – Interment Fee	£250.00
	<u>£1,499.46</u>

Payments – November 2021

Sharon Smith – Clerk's Salary	£536.05
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Sharon Smith (BT) – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£28.99
Sharon Smith – Clerk's Expenses	£10.20
Sharon Smith – Poppy Wreaths	£34.00
Woolnough Contractors – Petanque Piste Materials	£934.80
	<u>£1,562.03</u>

Net Balance **£9,602.66**

Appendix II – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

We participated in ISH 15 and submitted our oral summaries and the joint Deadline 10 submission expressing our continuing overall concern with the SZC project.

An update to the initial Deadline 10 document was provided to PINS before the end of the examination with all the examination library links to various supporting documents.

Despite calls from our MP to extend the examination, no extension was sought or granted, so the examination finished as expected on October 14th.

The Examining Authority (ExA) now has until 14th January 2022 to make their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (SoS BEIS) and he has 3 months to make a final decision on whether to grant the Development Consent Order or not which takes us to 16th April 2022.

In the meantime, developments continue, and the government has introduced a bill to enable a Regulated Asset Base (RAB) method for financing new nuclear developments. EDF have stated categorically that they can only build SZC using such a financing method and they simply cannot afford to build it using the Contract for Difference method used at Hinkley Point.

The government also placed £1.7bn in the budget to support a Final Investment Decision for a large new nuclear development but it is unclear exactly what this means and where it leaves the position of China General Nuclear, given they currently have a 20% stake in SZC (and a 33% stake in HPC) along with being the primary developer at Bradwell (currently paused as a development).

EDF are updating their estimated cost for SZC (currently nominally set at £20bn) but refused to present that to the DCO examination citing commercial confidentiality.

So, £1.7bn is not enough to replace the £4bn that CGN has an option on and, despite much press stating that the government wants to remove CGN from the SZC project (and possibly Bradwell), it is unclear where that aspiration lies at the moment. Recent statements by CGN's UK subsidiary at Bradwell have indicated that they believe CGN's interest in all three power stations is still very much alive, despite the pause at Bradwell and recognising that their involvement at HPC continues.

Our Sum-of-Us petition on RAB has been reinvigorated and currently there are close to 100,000 sign-ups.

Letters have been sent to all MPs regarding RAB and our opposition to its impact on household energy bills. We have also addressed a letter to Scottish MPs whose constituents will be expected to pay the RAB levy on bills despite the Scottish Parliament and SNP being diametrically opposed to any additional nuclear developments in Scotland.

Alison attended COP26 for three days in collaboration with the Liberal Democrat and Green Party attendees.

We worked with Anglian Energy Planning Alliance to organise a meeting for Parish Councils at Snape and over 20 Parish and Town Councils attended to hear updates from Alison, Michael Mahony (SASES) and William Kendall (on behalf of local businesses). We are encouraging all Town and Parish councils to respond to the Deadline 10 submissions by EDF before Christmas. These responses will not be seen by the ExA but will be passed to the SoS BEIS along with the ExA's recommendation regarding SZC.

Declan Burke, a senior civil servant in BEIS with responsibility for New Nuclear will visit the area for a meeting with Parish Councils at Snape on Monday 29th November. Prior to the meeting we will be giving him a driving tour to the Park & Rides, Two Village Bypass, Sizewell Link Road, B1122 and Yoxford roundabout and the main development site prior to lunch at Snape and a "town hall" meeting with the Parishes and Town Council representatives. This has been arranged because he, perhaps foolishly, let it be known that he had visited EDF at Sizewell to discuss their community engagement, without talking to the community. So, this is why he has agreed to come for this visit. Through the AEPA, we are organising a set of questions and presentations for the "town hall" meeting and will end up with a Q&A session.

We are proposing to hold further monthly SZC site walks from the Eel's Foot in November and December. Details are on the website.

2 T&E Parish Council

We made a joint submission at Deadline 10 with Stop Sizewell C and Minsmere Levels Group (see above).

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

No further news.

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

Councillor Brett and I attended a Zoom session with East Suffolk Council on Nautilus on 18th October.

We also submitted a response to the Nautilus first non-statutory consultation which has been circulated. This initial consultation was essentially about potential on-shore DC/AC converter stations along with potential cable routes from the Thorpeness and Aldeburgh areas.

We do not know when the statutory consultations will start but we and ESC assume it will be mid-2022.