

**MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING  
HELD VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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  
Cllr. Paul Collins

**Apologies for absence:**

Cllr. Julian Wallis  
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond

**In attendance:**

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

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

Cllr. Graham Bickers, Cllr. Paul Collins and Cllr. Stephen Morphey declared an interest in item 8a.

**3. Public Forum**

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith thanked Cllr. Graham Bickers for his report and photographs about the poor condition of the surface of roads in the parish. Cllr. Bickers surveyed four roads and found that Highways cleaning and clearing of the roads prior to resurfacing them last year did not appear to be carried out to a sufficiently high standard which caused the top surface to delaminate. The surface is deteriorating at a fast rate resulting in unevenness and many pot holes. Cllr. Smith asked Cllr. Bickers to forward his report and photographs to Highways and wait for its response.

Cllr. Richard Smith reported that EDF Energy are holding another round of public consultation beginning on 18<sup>th</sup> November and lasting for one month. EDF now propose to bring more materials in by sea and rail but Cllr. Smith has not yet seen the detail. He is concerned for communities who live by the railway line as the freight trains will run through the night so as not to affect the passenger service during the day. He said he is cynical about whether this will happen as EDF will need to work with Network Rail whom they regard as grossly inefficient. EDF are not proposing to put in a passing loop which would allow trains to run through the day and provide a legacy. He said it was sensible to bring more materials in by sea but there needs to be an understanding of the safeguards that will be put in place to protect the sensitive coastline. The Joint Local Authorities Group are holding an event on 26<sup>th</sup> November comprising three, repeated, one hour sessions. Cllr. Smith is prohibited from taking part but will be present as an observer at all three sessions to hear Town and Parish Councils' views. The sessions will be led by Richard Rout, the County Council Cabinet Member for Sizewell C and his counterpart at the District Council, Craig Rivett. The sessions will be an opportunity to put forward views and to clarify information.

b) District Cllr. T-J Haworth-Culf thanked Cllr. Hilary Ward for attending the ESC Community Partnership meeting. Cllr. Haworth-Culf summarised the latest COVID-19 statistics for East Suffolk. The Home But Not Alone campaign has been relaunched for the second lockdown and Pink Orange are providing free meal kits to people in need. Cllr. Haworth-Culf spoke about the recent shed burglaries in the area and suggested the Council signs up to the police text messaging service which provides alerts to reported local crimes. Cllr. Haworth-Culf said she understood the parish's disappointment with the District Council regarding their stance on the SPR and EDF energy projects. She and Cllr. Jocelyn Bond are doing their best to support and represent the

parishes at District Council level. Cllr. Stephen Brett thanked both Ward Members for their support and said he understands their difficulties.

c) The Council received a briefing from David Knights about potential property blight in the parish resulting from the proposed development of Sizewell C. Mr Knights said he had researched this matter in Somerset when Hinkley Point C was first mooted. Three estate agents informed him that there had been little discernible effect on property values when the development was proposed and subsequently brought onstream. This was noted for all sections of the property market – low, middle and higher end, however Mr Knights acknowledged that the villages surrounding Hinkley may not be of the same calibre as Theberton, Eastbridge and the other villages surrounding Sizewell C. Mr Knights recently spoke to a number of Suffolk estate agents and they reported that people were happy to buy at market prices in the local area though it is difficult to quantify those who were put off by the proposed development. In towns around Hinkley, the estate agents reported mini-booms in property prices with two-bed houses increasing in value. Suffolk estate agents are anticipating the same effect in Leiston if Sizewell C gets off the ground. Mr Knights reported that EDF did not implement a formal compensation scheme for Hinkley Point C, but when people could not sell, EDF was generous and bought properties at market prices. EDF also funded schemes for double-glazing and noise abatement measures for properties close to the site. Mr Knights recommended that the Council's begins to keep a record of price values and time taken to sell properties. If changes arise when the development is underway then there will be proof to present to EDF and ask for compensation. He advised the Council not to play their hand without back-up. Cllr. Paul Collins suggested that this recommendation be communicated to other parishes and a central register can be maintained. The Council thanked Mr Knights for his sound advice and balanced report.

#### **4. Minutes**

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Morphey, seconded by Cllr. Beth Goose, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour. There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Theberton**

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed that the Council gratefully accepts the Community Council's offer of an aerial runway for the playing field. Cllr. Hilary Ward seconded. All in favour. Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Hilary Ward conducted a site visit and were happy with the proposed position for the runway provided there is adequate access for the tractor to trim the hedge. The Clerk reported that the additional insurance premium will be £70 per annum.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to contact the Community Council Vice-Chair.**

b) Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the Council funds the building of a dual petanque piste on the playing field. She has spoken to a number of residents who would be keen to use the piste for practice. League matches would continue to be held at the Eel's Foot. Cllr. Ward said funding may be available through the Community Partnership scheme as one of its identified priorities is to encourage and enable residents to be more physically active and healthy. Grants of between £250 and £1,000 are available. Cllr. Graham Bickers said he was not against the proposal but it was important to be mindful of the effect on the Eel's Foot and to make a balanced decision. Cllr. Ward agreed and said that a piste in Theberton may encourage new teams to form which may increase the league matches played at the Eel's Foot where players often have food and drink. Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed with Cllr. Bickers and seconded Cllr. Ward's proposal. All in favour.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Hilary Ward to obtain a quote for materials and apply for a grant.**

c) The Council noted the annual play equipment safety inspection report. Cllr. Hilary Ward and Cllr. Stephen Brett inspected the goal posts and found there was no structural rust which would render them unsafe. The Council agreed to use wire brushes to remove the surface rust and repaint in Spring. Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that the goal post in Eastbridge was in the same condition. The Clerk agreed to source the recommended signage for the basketball post. Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed to cut back the overhanging branch when the bird boxes are sited. It was also agreed to top up the bark chippings next Spring.

**ACTION: Clerk to add to Outstanding Actions list.**

d) The Council noted the play equipment tailored checklist and appointed Cllr. Nat Bacon to conduct regular inspections. The Clerk agreed to amend the checklist for use at Eastbridge.

**ACTION: Clerk to send checklists to Cllr. Nat Bacon and Cllr. Stephen Morphey.**

## **6. Eastbridge**

Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that he and Cllr. Stephen Morphey inspected the condition of the shed roof at Eastbridge burial ground and found there was no water ingress. However, the shed will need repair work in the short to medium term. In the long term, the roof will need replacing in its entirety as the roof plate is rotting. It was agreed to make temporary repairs to the roof and conduct a proper inspection next year.

**ACTION Cllr. Graham Bickers and Cllr. Stephen Morphey to make repairs. Clerk to add to Outstanding Actions List.**

## **7. Highways**

a) The Council agreed to apply for County Council funding for an electric vehicle charging point. It was decided that the most viable site would be Jubilee Hall, subject to agreement from the Management Committee. The charging point must be installed on public land.

**ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to obtain permission from the Management Committee and to submit an Expression of Interest form.**

b) The Council considered endorsing the Roadside Verge Campaign. Cllr. Paul Collins agreed to identify which verges are worth protecting from frequent and untimely mowing. These are likely to be in the minority and not on visibility splays.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to progress.**

c) Cllr. Graham Bickers updated the Council on the proposed repairs to the Speed Indicator Device. Cllr. Bickers sourced a cheaper quote but unfortunately the repair work offered was deemed to be unsuitable. The Council considered whether to pay Westcotec £750 to repair the data unit and the radar on the existing three year old SID, which may fail again, or to purchase a new model for around £1,500 with a two year guarantee.

**ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers to source quotes to purchase a new SID.**

## **8. Planning**

a) The Council agreed to object to planning application DC/20/4223/FUL – demolition of the 1960s bungalow and erection of a new single storey dwelling – Martins, Cemetery Road, Eastbridge. The Council agreed that the modern design of the proposed replacement building will not suit the village aesthetics as the existing and surrounding properties have a strong Suffolk design. The proposed replacement building will stand out and will impact greatly on the rural setting. In addition, the proposal for a flat roofed single storey building, which is 4+ metres in height to the front elevation, will give the impression of being quite similar to the present building with its pitched roof, however the north elevation is much longer and will have its own impact even in its present position but it will be seriously compounded by the proposal to move the building 6

metres forward from its present subservient position. This will impact the rural landscape and dominate the street scene from its raised position over the road. The Council agreed that reducing the height of the boundary hedge is not a material planning consideration but the proposal to move the replacement building forward will be further compounded by lowering the height of the hedge as it will be only 4 metres from the front elevation.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the planning department and to ask Ward Members for their support.**

b) The Council agreed to submit individual responses to the three ESC planning consultations: the Cycling and Walking Strategy, How to Engage the Community in the Local Planning Process and the Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy.

## 9. Energy Projects

a) Cllr. Paul Collins referred to his previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I. Cllr. Collins explained that, in order to meet the deadline, he submitted a Written Representation to the Scottish Power Renewables DCO Examination with the Chairman's approval as there was insufficient time to call a full Council meeting. The Council ratified the submission of the Written Representation. Cllr. Stephen Brett informed the Council that Tom McGarry, EDF Energy's Head of Stakeholder Engagement for Sizewell C, will attend the next meeting to brief the Council and answer questions.

**ACTION: Clerk to upload the SPR Written Representation to the website.**

b) The Council postponed the discussion of matters for planning conditions or potential s.106 funding arising from Sizewell C.

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

## 10. Police

Cllr. Beth Goose said there were 6 crimes reported in the parish in September 2020. There was a public order offence at Theberton playing field, and in Chapel Road, Eastbridge there were three criminal damage and arson offences, one anti-social behaviour offence and a theft.

## 11. Community Partnership Meeting

The Council postponed the report from Cllr. Hilary Ward.

**ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's meeting.**

## 12. Finance

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

b) The Council authorised the transfer of £4,000 from the operating account to the savings account.

c) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for Qtr 2 2020-2021.

d) 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	£3.60	LGA 1972 s.111
Petrol	Stephen Morphey	£12.53	PHA 1936 s.87
Annual Play Equipment Safety Inspection	Playsafety Limited	£139.20	PHA 1936 s.87
Newsletter Printing	Leiston Press	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.142

### **13. Administration**

The Council agreed meeting dates for 2021.

**ACTION:** Clerk to upload to the website.

### **14. Correspondence**

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

### **15. Questions to the Chair**

a) Cllr. Nat Bacon asked Cllr. Stephen Brett to accompany him on a site visit with the Environment Agency to assess the condition of the Minsmere River New Cut.

b) Cllr. Stephen Morphey asked for the Dark Skies project to be added to next month's agenda.

### **16. 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> December 2020 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

## **Appendix I – Energy Projects**

### **1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C**

Work continues on national awareness and campaigning. Our Facebook petition has now surpassed 18,500 signatures. The petition is still open and accessible at [www.stopsizewellcpetition.com](http://www.stopsizewellcpetition.com).

There has been further speculation by the press and BBC about the government being about to give “the green light” to Sizewell C following intensive negotiations about financing with the government. Much of this interest seems to have been driven by EDF and the Nuclear Industry Association but there has been little or no comment from within government during or following these reports. SMRs are clearly in the government sights with talk of providing the equity for a first installation.

There have also been reports that the Prime Minister will announce a 10-point plan to meet net zero commitments. Originally this was supposed to be at the CBI conference in late October but Alok Sharma replaced the PM at short notice and no significant mention was made. It is still being reported that the 10-point plan will be announced and may contain some reference to new nuclear but it is still unclear whether this will be focussed on large nuclear such as SZC or continue the supporting comments for SMR and AMRs.

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 have continued to work on various aspects of the DCO application including coastal geomorphology, inland hydrology and transport in preparation for the eventual examination but the surprise announcement of a further consultation following the close of the s56 period for submission of Relevant Representations has put the brakes onto this work a little. It appears that these changes must have been well known about by EDF during the s56 period as they were submitted to PINS just days after the s56 period ended.

We have made our feelings known to Ministers at BEIS as well as both ESC and SCC that such behaviour by EDF is unacceptable and throws all the RR submissions into the “maybe not relevant” pile. After the consultation is finished and assessed by EDF, some proposals to change the DCO application will be presented to PINS. The proposals may include all the changes in the consultation, some subset of them, or a subset including changes that have been requested during the consultation. PINS will then have to evaluate the changes to see if they are acceptable. The s56 consultation will need to be reopened, in some manner, to allow Interested Parties to amend or replace their RRs and allow people previously not considered to be within consideration for the DCO to provide a RR. For example, West Suffolk Council who are now involved because of the inclusion of land at Pakenham as compensation for land lost at Sizewell Marshes. We also know of other local landowners who now find themselves with additional land requests or new land requests where they were not previously involved in potential CPA requests.

On Sunday, we worked with a display company to project the Stop Sizewell C logo and a white elephant image on the BEIS building. Photo’s were taken and the BBC used one in a report on Monday. This was done at very short notice based on a report the Prime Minister, Alok Sharma and Rishi Sunak were due to meet Monday to discuss finance for new nuclear, prior to the 10-point plan for net zero being made public this week.

We now await the publication of the consultation documents and are planning to have a public briefing (probably virtual) once again on its contents on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**

Following the presentation at the open floor hearing, which was included in last month's report, I submitted a Written Representation to the examiners with additional details on traffic and transport along the B1122 based on EDF's cumulative impact assessments.

Because this had to be submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> November, it was reviewed by our chairman prior to submission and submitted based on authority agreed by the Parish Council following the SPR DCO submission, knowing that there may not be sufficient time for a full council meeting to be called.

## Appendix II – Financial Position

### Bank Balances as at 15 October 2020

Barclays Current Account	£9,864.61
Barclays Savings Account	£17.40
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	<b>£9,882.01</b>

### 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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	<b>£4,627.58</b>

**Bank Balance less Reserves** **£5,254.43**

### Payments – October/November 2020

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£194.50
Sharon Smith – Clerk's Expenses	£3.60
Leiston Press – Newsletter Printing	£20.00
Stephen Morphey – Petrol Expenses	£12.53
Play Safety Limited – Annual Safety Inspection	£139.20
Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreath	£17.99
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	<b>£387.82</b>

**Net Balance** **£4,866.61**