

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th JANUARY 2022 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
Cllr. Laura Bonnett
Cllr. Nat Bacon (part of the meeting)

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Tom Lagden – written and accepted
District Cllr. Russ Rainger
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

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

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

None.

3. Public Forum

District Cllr. Tom Daly referred to the previously circulated monthly report from the Ward members. Cllr. Daly said that the Draft Cycling and Walking Strategy consultation closed this week. He is pushing for cycle lanes to be on the other side of hedgerows rather than on the roadside to increase safety and he supports the old Leiston railway line being used as a cycling and walking route. Following a question from Cllr. Stephen Brett, Cllr. Daly confirmed that the District Council's Council Tax levy is likely to be 2% next financial year which is the maximum amount possible before a referendum is required. He said that recuperation is required for revenue streams.

4. Minutes

Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the Council approves the minutes of the meeting on 8th December 2021. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

5. Energy Projects

- a) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his monthly report, attached as Appendix I.
- b) The Council approve the Sizewell C Post Deadline 10 submission to the Planning Inspectorate.
ACTION: Councillors to send any final comments to Cllr. Paul Collins.
- c) Cllr. Graham Bickers informed the Council of his intention to resign at the end of the meeting. Cllr. Stephen Brett accepted his resignation and gave thanks to Cllr. Bickers for all his hard work for the Council, particularly for the projects he is interested in.
ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council.
- d) Cllr. Graham Bickers updated the Council about progress with the Property Valuation project. 35 residents so far have responded to the Council's letter asking for further details about their properties. These will be reviewed by the valuers which will enable them to determine which properties to value to obtain a broad range of information that will assist the Council to demonstrate to EDF the impact the construction of Sizewell C will have on the environment and any resultant effect to the value to their properties. Cllr. Brett accepted Cllr. Bicker's kind offer to continue to support and guide the Council with this project.

6. Parish Matters

- a) Cllr. Hilary Ward raised concerns about the overgrown and untidy area around the Theberton village sign. Cllr. Stephen Brett explained that volunteers have been unable to trim the area due to a developer's new water pipes which need to be connected to the main supply. The first attempt to connect the water

pipes failed as a hole could not be bored through the reinforced concrete. The road is due to be closed for four days at the end of January to dig a trench to connect the pipes. Following this, Cllr. Nat Bacon agreed to mow the grass and cut back the brambles.

ACTION: Cllr. Nat Bacon to strim the area around the Theberton village sign in early February.

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett informed the Council that a resident asked if it was possible to restore the gold inlay on the Theberton and Eastbridge village signs. The Council agreed to obtain quotes and consider this further.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to obtain quotes. Clerk to check whether CIL expenditure is permitted and add to next month's agenda.

c) The Council agreed to apply for two Talking Benches from the ESC Community Partnership to replace the worn benches in both playing fields. Cllr. Stephen Brett said a resident has offered the Council a free picnic bench for Theberton playing field. The Council accepted this kind offer.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council and Cllr. Stephen Brett to inform the resident.

d) The Council agreed to identify stretches of highway verges which may be included in the County Council's scheme to manage verges in a way that benefits wildlife by not cutting them during the flowering season but later in the year, around September time. The verges which may be included in the scheme will not include junctions or visibility splays so that highways' safety and visibility is maintained as a priority. Cllr. Laura Bonnett suggested that areas in the playing fields could also be set aside for wildflower meadows. Cllr. Nat Bacon recommended that any verges in the scheme should be trialled for one year and monitored for invasive species and to ensure any decision to cut later is reversible.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to circulate a parish map and Councillors to identify likely areas. Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

Cllr. Nat Bacon apologised to the Chair as he had to leave the meeting. County Cllr. Richard Smith apologised to the Chair for his lateness and joined the meeting.

7. Public Forum Resumed

County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that the Secretary of State has granted the Planning Inspectorate's request for a three month extension to the examination of Sizewell C. Cllr. Smith said that a final decision about whether to grant a Development Consent Order will not be received until the end of May 2022. Cllr. Smith said high energy prices may make Sizewell C more likely to receive approval but conversely it may not as Sizewell C will be paid for by a levy on energy bills which are already shooting up.

Cllr. Smith reported that the County Council's budget process for 2022-2023 was underway. The Scrutiny Committee will examine the proposals on 11th February and they will then be put in front of the Cabinet and Full Council for endorsement. Cllr. Smith said the proposed 2.99% increase is likely to be approved and this is the maximum the County Council can increase its precept without calling a referendum. The County Council do not intend to cut any services this year as central government has been more generous than expected which has helped to balance the budget with only £1.5 million drawn from reserves. Highways still has a relatively small budget of £15 million.

8. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

a) ESC Planning Protocol – following the resignation of Cllr. Graham Bickers, it was agreed to contact SALC to discuss how to take this project forward.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Clerk.

b) Jubilee Heritage Trail – Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that two residents have agreed to join the working group led by Cllr. Tom Lagden and supported by Cllr. Hilary Ward and Cllr. Laura Bonnett. County Cllr. Richard Smith reminded the Council of his offer of £500 from his Locality Budget to support this project.

ACTION: Clerk to add grant to next year's budget.

c) Eastbridge Common – a work party will strim the meadow this week.

d) Eastbridge Burial Ground Shed – still a work in progress.

ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers to provide receipts for materials.

e) Community Council/Jubilee Hall Management Committee – Cllr. Hilary Ward reported on the outcome from the last meeting. The Community Council intend to arrange a Fun Day for the parish in June 2022. It was agreed to discuss with them a joint celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Community Council said they are unable to assist with funding to replace the basketball back board in Theberton playing field. Cllr. Ward agreed to obtain an up-to-date quote from Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd for consideration at the next meeting.

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

f) Speed Indicator Device – the latest report is attached as Appendix II. Cllr. Paul Collins reported that the new battery has been delivered.

g) Police Crime Report – the Clerk said one public order offence was reported in Chapel Road in November 2021.

9. Finance

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

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed to increase the Clerk's salary rate to SCP 15 from April 2022. Seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward. All in favour.

c) The Council discussed the draft budget for the financial year 2022/2023. Three additional items of expenditure were added to cover the future costs of the broadband service in Jubilee Hall, the District Council's fees for emptying litter and dog bins, and a £500 contingency fund for the playing fields. Cllr. Stephen Brett offered to contact Leiston Football Club to ask if they had any spare goal posts. Cllr. Brett proposed that the Council accepts the budget. Seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to amend the budget and upload to the website. Cllr. Stephen Brett to contact Leiston FC.

d) Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed a 0% change to the parish precept for 2022-2023 which will be set at £7,688.53. Seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council.

e) The Council noted the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 3 2021-2022.

f) Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the following payments are approved. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£319.77	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's PAYE	HM Revenue and Customs	£53.20	LGA 1972 s.112
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith (BT)	£28.99	LGA 1972 s.19
Speed Indicator Device Battery	Paul Collins	£204.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Strimmer Repair	Westleton Garage	£270.05	PHA 1936 s.87
Burial Ground Litter Bin	Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£409.54	Litter Act 1983 s.5/6

10. Administration

a) The Council agreed meeting dates for 2022.

ACTION: Clerk to upload to the website.

b) The Council conducted the annual review of the cemetery fees and agreed to increase the interment fee to £250.

11. Correspondence

a) The Council noted the correspondence received between 3rd December 2021 and 6th January 2022.

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett, Cllr. Hilary Ward and Cllr. Paul Collins agreed to attend the B1122 site visit with EDF on 18th January 2022.

12. Questions for the Chair/Items for the Next Agenda

a) In response to a question from Cllr. Hilary Ward, Cllr. Stephen Brett said that EDF will deliver the Doughty-Wylie exhibition boards to him.

b) The Clerk said she would circulate an update about the Quiet Lanes project. Cllr. Laura Bonnett agreed to publish the update in the next newsletter.

13. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

The Examining Authority (PINS) requested a six-week extension of the time they have to make their final report to the Secretary of State which was rather begrudgingly agreed. The ExA was berated by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for the delay in the agreement, despite most of the delays being the result of EDF's 22 hastily cobbled together amendments, plus covid-19 illnesses in the ExA's team and the Christmas and New Years holiday. A letter by John Rea-Price criticising BEIS unreasonable and niggardly response was published in East Anglia Daily Times on 6th January.

Much time has been spent developing the Post Examination/Deadline 10 Consultation and Examination Summary for Stop SizewellC, Minsmere levels Stakeholders Group, B1122 Action Group and the Parish Council and following circulation last week has had a number of updates and amendments and the near final version has been circulated early this week for final approval/modification. Once submitted to PINS it will await the ExA's report and be sent to Kwasi Kwarteng, as Secretary of State at BEIS for consideration. The document will not be seen by the ExA as part of their deliberations and reporting responsibilities.

We continued to press all MPs, through an e-mail letter, for rejection of the Regulated Asset Base legislation or amendments and there was a reading in The Commons on Monday 10th January and the bill has now gone to the Lords where further amendments may be added.

The Parish and Town Councils meeting with Declan Burke of BEIS has been rearranged to 4th February. Precise details of the meeting will be available shortly and we hope that the 40 or so councils that were due to come for the previous event will still be able to attend and we are working with the Alliance to try to expand the attendee numbers.

We are in the process of setting up an event at Snape Maltings with a number of artists providing their services at no cost, other than travel expenses etc. Originally scheduled for early February, it has now been moved back into April due to Omicron. Further details will be available shortly.

New SZC site walks are now available on our website.

2 T&E Parish Council

No further progress on the Property Price Support Scheme, from an EDF perspective.

A number of suggestions have been received and incorporated into the Post Examination/Deadline 10 Consultation and Examination Summary document.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

No further news.

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

No further news.

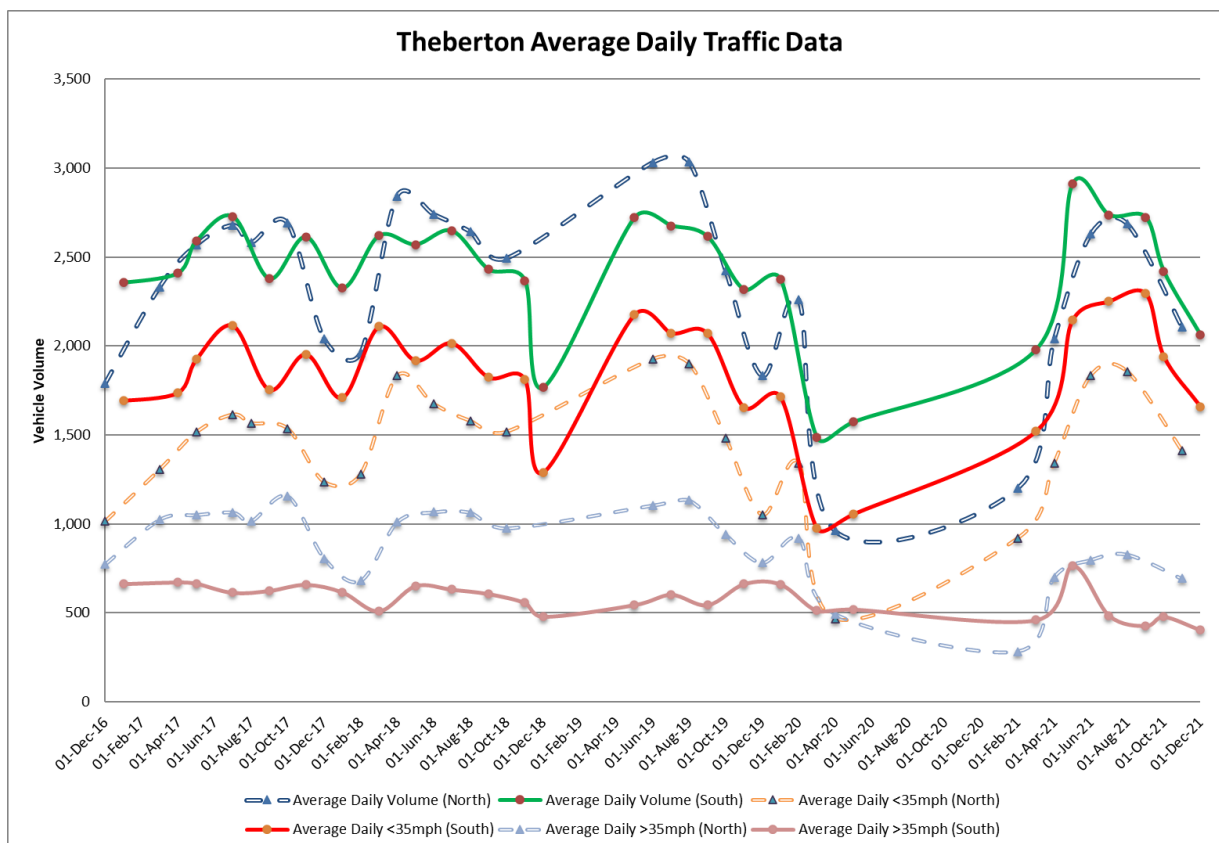
Appendix II – Speed Indicator Device

Theberton Speed Indicator Device Report 12 January 2022

The speed indicator device has been operational for fifty-three ~20-day periods since 20th December 2016. It is placed at one end of the village or other at ~30-day intervals. Last June the radar data logger failed hence the gap between May 2020 and March 2021 when the repaired SID returned to active monitoring.

Traffic volumes in the period since March 2021 are back to normal and the long-term averages for those exceeding 35mph is now **38.2%** from north and **24.5%** from south.

The **85th percentile speed*** is back at close to 40mph with **40.4mph** from north and **38.1mph** from south when they enter the village.



SID Start Date	15-May-20	02-Feb-21	05-Mar-21	06-Apr-21	06-May-21	05-Jun-21	07-Jul-21	08-Aug-21	07-Sep-21	16-Oct-21	08-Nov-21	11-Dec-21
Average Daily Volume (North)		1,202	1,981	2,042	2,912	2,630	2,736	2,685	2,723	2,418	2,105	2,064
Average Daily Volume (South)	1,574											
Total Vehicles (North)		14,428	1,981	20,421	2,912	34,187	2,736	37,596	2,723	2,418	29,469	2,064
Total Vehicles (South)	26,761		25,749		34,947	43,773	43,773	43,574	29,021			30,965
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)		11,030	19,770	13,415	25,767	23,825	36,025	25,999	36,734	23,281	19,774	24,905
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)	17,922											
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)		3,398	7,006	9,180	10,362	11,597	7,748	6,840	5,740	9,695	6,060	
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)	8,839		5,979									
Average Daily <35mph (North)		919	1,341	2,147	1,833	1,857	2,296	1,940	1,412	1,660		
Average Daily <35mph (South)	1,054											
Average Daily >35mph (North)		283	701	765	797	484	828	427	478	693	404	
Average Daily >35mph (South)	520		460									
85th percentile speed North (mph)		37.6	39.2	37.8	38.8	37.8	38.7	35.3	36.8	39.0	36.7	
85th percentile speed South (mph)	40.2		37.7									
% <35mph (North)		76.4%	65.7%	69.7%	69.2%	67.1%						
% <35mph (South)	67.0%		76.8%	73.7%	82.3%	80.2%	80.4%	80.2%	32.9%	80.4%		
% >35mph (North)		23.6%	34.3%	30.3%	30.8%	15.7%	19.8%	19.8%				
% >35mph (South)	33.0%		23.2%	26.3%	17.7%							

*The 85th Percentile is indicative of the speed that the majority of road users are travelling at.

Appendix III – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 13th December 2021

Barclays Current Account	£1,913.19
Barclays Savings Account	£22,000.00
	<u>£23,913.19</u>

Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£2,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£650.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£1,770.82
Jubilee Hall Broadband Grant	£536.80
Jubilee Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
	<u>£14,957.62</u>

Bank Balance less Reserves **£8,955.57**

Income – January 2022

DS Memorials – Headstone for Strowager	£75.00
Barclays Bank – Interest	£0.60
	<u>£75.60</u>

Payments – January 2022

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£319.77
HMRC – Clerk’s PAYE	£53.20
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£28.99
Paul Collins - SID Battery	£204.00
Westleton Garage – Strimmer Repair	£270.05
	<u>£894.00</u>

Net Balance **£8,137.17**