

**MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7:00 PM AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair
Cllr. Hilary Ward – Vice-Chair
Cllr. Nat Bacon
Cllr. Adam Hurrell
Cllr. Stephen Morphey
Cllr. Graham Bickers
Cllr. Tom Lagden

Apologies for absence:

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

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Tom Daly
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

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith said the expertise of Theberton and Eastbridge with regard to Sizewell C was very great and the parish had covered itself in glory and should be proud. The examination period for Sizewell C concludes this week. Cllr. Smith paid tribute to the Planning Inspectorate; they have acted fairly, clearly been on top of their brief and have allowed time for observations and questions. Cllr. Smith also commended the community for all the work it has done and the arguments put forward. If the DCO is approved, EDF still needs to find £20 billion which will be difficult to raise unless the government makes the public pay. He said if Sizewell C goes ahead then he will support the efforts of the County Council to ensure the community gets the best possible mitigation and compensation for the coming years.

Cllr. Stephen Brett said that he attended the latest EDF briefing arranged by SALC. EDF were asked about the arrangements being made to enable Town and Parish Councils to have ongoing dialogue with them. They replied that the Deed of Obligation will publish details about a series of fora, two transport and one community, which will meet quarterly and will include representatives from EDF, the Local Authorities and one elected Councillor or Clerk per parish. All the parishes surrounding the development are included in the Community Forum and Theberton and Eastbridge will be included in the Transport North Forum. Cllr. Smith said he hopes he will be involved with the Transport fora as he is the Cabinet Member for Transport Strategy.

With regard to the Council's letter about the Sizewell C Property Price Support Scheme, Cllr. Smith said he forwarded it to Bryn Griffiths, Lead Officer for Sizewell C, for the rationale as to why it differs from the Hinkley Point C scheme. He has not yet received a response. Cllr. Brett said EDF may agree to alter the PPSS to be similar to HPC's but that it should be included within the Deed of Obligation to ensure EDF remains accountable.

Cllr. Smith said that the County Council are undertaking a review of HGV routes through Suffolk. The review will begin on 22nd October, last for eight weeks, and will be conducted through Town and Parish Councils which demonstrates local democracy. The HGV routes were last reviewed in 2011. Cllr. Smith asked the Council that, if it raises issues local to its parish, it is mindful that HGVs have to go somewhere and therefore to make recommendations that do not impact greatly on neighbouring parishes. The County Council will also look at sat nav routes for HGVs.

Cllr. Brett informed Cllr. Smith that he had spoken to Peter Sparrow, Highways Community Liaison Engineer, about introducing a speed limit in Eastbridge. Mr Sparrow advised that Cllr. Smith needs to take this matter forward by instructing the Highways Speed and Safety Team to conduct a speed survey. Cllr. Smith said he would speak to Mr Sparrow.

b) District Cllr. Tom Daly said the Green Party/Labour/Independents group have made representations to the Examining Authority with regard to Sizewell C, individually and as a minority group, on the main issues: transport, water, ecology and sea level rises. Cllr. Daly said the group had asked the Examining Authority to reject the project as it is irrational. He said he has been involved with all the energy projects in the area and he believes there needs to be a coordinated approach which he will be bringing forward at a Full Council meeting. He hopes to obtain an explicit statement from the Leader of the Council. Cllr. Daly said he was happy to provide further information about the emergency works at Thorpeness cliffs, the recently launched Small Business Grants Scheme and the legalities around lighting bonfires.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

a) Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the Council approves the minutes of the meeting on 8th September 2021. Seconded by Cllr. Graham Bickers. All in favour.

b) Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the Council approves the minutes of the extraordinary meeting on 15th September 2021. Seconded by Cllr. Graham Bickers. All in favour.

5. Energy Projects

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett said that, in his opinion, the Examining Authority will not be able to recommend the DCO for Sizewell C, particularly due to the environmentally unsustainable transport proposals which they said they would raise specifically with the Secretary of State. Also, due to the problems with the potable water supply. Cllr. Brett said the thirst for water will be large in the driest area of the country and there are real fears as some local businesses rely on the water table. Cllr. Brett agreed with County Cllr. Richard Smith that the Examining Authority has been vigorous.

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that he and Cllr. Paul Collins will attend a briefing from ESC about the Nautilus Interconnector. The Council agreed to respond to National Grid's public consultation.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to draft a response and circulate.

c) Cllr. Graham Bickers explained to the Council that EDF's current Property Price Support Scheme is inadequate and EDF are in denial about the likely fall in the value of properties in the vicinity of the construction site. Cllr. Bickers proposed that the Council offers to support the community by gathering information about property values over a number of years to provide evidence to EDF. He proposed that the Council sends letters to all residents offering them a free, professional valuation of their property. The Council could collate and present the valuation information anonymously and cumulatively to EDF to urge them to take action. Cllr. Bickers said residents who bought their properties less than 10 years ago will not be included in the PPSS therefore they may need to challenge EDF if they experience blighting. Following a discussion, the Council agreed that it would be preferable to offer the services of a professional valuer to residents but there would be no obligation to share the information with the Council. The residents could keep their property valuation confidential and have documented evidence should a blighting problem arise in the future.

ACTION: Council to comment on Cllr. Graham Bickers' previously circulated draft letter.

6. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett summarised the latest correspondence from a resident of Eastbridge Common. The Council reiterated its stance that residents have no right to park on, or maintain, the Common however the residents are responsible for maintaining the track. The Council noted that the track has been maintained sporadically since it was last resurfaced at the Council's expense. The Council agreed to maintain the wildflower meadow on the Common in the usual way: strimming in autumn, waiting for growth, treating the nettles in spring, and re-seeding the area.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to write to the resident and organise a work party to cut the meadow.

b) The Clerk reported that Cllr. Laura Bonnett ordered 100m of mixed, native hedgerow saplings with

canes and guards, free of charge from the Tree Wardens of Suffolk for Eastbridge playing field. Cllr. Bonnett also applied to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Community and Conservation Fund for a grant for £500 for more hedgerow saplings and deer netting to attach to the existing posts to protect the saplings from cattle. A work party will be required at the end of November to dig in the saplings and attach the netting.

ACTION: Cllr. Laura Bonnett to ask for volunteers via the newsletter.

c) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that he and the Clerk inspected the litter bin at the Burial Ground and agreed it was unsightly. The Council agreed to purchase a new bin and ask East Suffolk Norse to add it to their schedule for emptying. Cllr. Brett agreed to dispose of the wire bin. Cllr. Brett gave thanks to Cllr. Stephen Morphey for cutting the grass and keeping the Burial Ground tidy. He said the hedge needs to be cut back again and the gates need to be cleaned.

d) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that he was waiting for a delivery of granite to complete the petanque piste. Cllr. Brett said he had received a request from a resident to provide seating around the petanque piste. Cllr. Tom Lagden said he may be able to source used picnic tables cheaply which may need some refurbishment.

e) Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that the scaffolding for the Burial Ground shed was ready to go up and repairs would commence next week.

f) Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that the recent Community Council/Jubilee Hall Management Committee was postponed as it was not quorate therefore there was no update on the basketball backboard.

g) The Clerk said that one crime of anti-social behaviour was reported in the layby on Main Road, Theberton in August 2021.

7. Future Projects

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett informed the Council of the site of the old Jubilee well in Theberton. The Council agreed that marking the site with a cast-iron hand pump may be a good idea for a permanent memorial for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 and to preserve the parish's heritage assets. Cllr. Tom Lagden said there was also a well to the rear of the Theberton Lion which the Council also agreed to mark. This would be subject to agreement from the owners/occupiers.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to collect paper records from the former Chairman.

b) The Council postponed the discussion about projects to be funded by the anonymous donation.

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

8. Playing Fields

a) The Council noted the play equipment safety inspection report for Theberton. Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Nat Bacon agreed to inspect a number of minor issues raised and to resolve them immediately if possible. They also agreed to erect the 'no dog' signage. It was agreed to order another sign informing playground users to report any issues to the Parish Council and to order play bark and top soil if necessary. Cllr. Hilary Ward said the rocker horse may need to be replaced soon.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Nat Bacon to resolve issues and order materials. Clerk to order sign.

b) The Clerk reported that a group of teenagers addressed Yoxford Parish Council at their last meeting which she thought may be of interest to Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council. The teenagers said that facilities are often considered for older and younger residents but there is a deficit in the middle for young people. They said the COVID pandemic made it difficult for them to socialise indoors so they often meet in fields which is unsatisfactory and unsuitable. The teenagers asked Yoxford Parish Council to consider providing them with a shelter, seating and solar lights. They agreed to respect and look after the shelter and to help build it. The Council agreed that they would be interested in providing a similar facility for young people in Theberton and Eastbridge parish. Cllr. Tom Lagden said he would ask some young

residents for their views. Cllr. Stephen Brett said that Cllr. Laura Bonnett may also wish to be involved as she had mentioned to him the idea of providing a youth club again.

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

9. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position, attached as Appendix I.
- b) The Council noted the bank reconciliation for Quarter 2 2021-2022. The Clerk explained that the bank reconciliation identified that she had received £150 by bank transfer twice in error for the SCC licence for the dog waste bin.

ACTION: Clerk to reimburse £150 to the Council.

- c) The Council authorised expenditure of £28 for two Remembrance Day poppy wreaths. (LGA 1971 s.138b)

- 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	£249.82	LGA 1972 s.112
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith (BT)	£28.99	LGA 1972 s.19
Play Equipment Inspection	Playsafety Ltd	£107.40	PHA 1936 s. 87
Payroll Services	SALC	£54.00	LGA 1972 s.111
External Audit Fee	PKF Littlejohn LLP	£240.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Dog Bin – Supply and Install	Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd	£192.00	PHA 1936 s. 87

10. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received between 3rd September 2021 and 7th October 2021.

11. Next Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

Appendix I – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 9th September 2021

Barclays Current Account	£1,496.88
Barclays Savings Account	£24,017.71
	<u>£25,514.69</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 **£10,706.10**

Payments – October 2021

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£249.82
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Sharon Smith (BT) – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£28.99
Playsafety Ltd – Theberton Play Equipment Inspection	£107.40
SALC – Payroll Services	£54.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit Fee	£240.00
Suffolk Coastal Norse – Dog Bin	£192.00
	<u>£872.21</u>

Net Balance **£9,833.89**