

# MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 AT 7:00 PM

## 1. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett - Chair  
Cllr. Hilary Ward - Vice Chair (part of the meeting)  
Cllr. Stephen Morphey  
Cllr. Graham Bickers  
Cllr. Paul Collins  
Cllr. Nat Bacon

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Philip Baskett  
County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper  
District Cllr. T-J Haworth-Culf  
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond

### In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
No members of the public

## 2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

With the permission of the Council, the Chairman varied the Order of Business.

## 3. Petanque Piste

Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that she received a request from a resident to site the petanque piste at Jubilee Hall instead of Theberton playing field and she read out the resident's reasons for the proposal. Following a discussion, the Council agreed that they were unable to allow this due to the terms of the grant awarded by East Suffolk Council. The funds were specifically granted to provide a petanque piste as a public amenity on land owned and operated by the Council beside existing play equipment. Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that a volunteer has marked out the piste at the playing field and construction is scheduled to begin shortly.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the resident.**

Cllr. Hilary Ward left the meeting.

## 4. Quiet Lanes Public Consultation

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated written representations from residents. 19 were in support of the Quiet Lanes Scheme in the parish and 5 were against. After due consideration, Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed that the Council formally approves the implementation of the Quiet Lanes Scheme for Church Road, Pretty Road, Baker's Hill, Moat Road, Onner's Lane, Chapel Road and Potter's Street. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour. The Clerk reported that she had nominated the following roads for inclusion in the next wave of the scheme: Eastbridge Road, Saxmundham Road, Buckleswood Lane, George Road, Hawthorn Road, Harrow Lane and Abbey Lane.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the Quiet Lanes team.**

## 5. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Bickers, seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

## 6. Matters Arising

a) Cllr. Graham Bickers, referring to the potential for property blight in the parish due to the numerous energy projects, said he spoke to David Knights who may be able to provide evidence of blighting at Hinkley Point. Cllr. Bickers said he was also waiting for a confirmed price for a recent property sale in the parish which may provide the first evidence of blighting. The Clerk reported that Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council had agreed to monitor blighting in its parish.

b) Cllr. Stephen Morphey, referring to an action from a previous meeting, tabled a quotation for £300-£350 for materials to ensure the shed roof at Eastbridge burial ground is watertight. The Clerk confirmed that £1,000 had been budgeted for this. Cllr. Stephen Morphey proposed that the Council authorises the expenditure. Seconded by Stephen Brett. All in favour. Cllr. Morphey said the front door might also need attention and Cllr. Graham Bickers said the shed might need treating and painting.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Morphey and Cllr. Graham Bickers to progress.**

## **7. Casual Vacancies**

The Council noted the resignation of Cllr. Beth Goose and the disqualification of Cllr. Julian Wallis and recorded a vote of thanks to both Councillors for their time and valued service to the Council. The Clerk said the period for a by-election to fill the vacancies expires on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and, if no election is called, the Council may then co-opt two applicants.

## **8. Energy Projects**

Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I. Cllr. Collins said he and Cllr. Stephen Brett attended the second Sizewell C preliminary meeting. The Examining Authority has not changed its views therefore the examination period will officially begin on 15<sup>th</sup> April and will be completed within 6 months. There was no decision on whether to accept EDF's proposed changes to the DCO application. Cllr. Collins said the next step for the Examining Authority is to publish the examination timetable which will be subject to change. Site inspections will commence and Local Authorities and Town and Parish Councils will be invited to accompany the Examining Authority. The submission deadline for the Council's Written Representation is 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Cllr. Brett said that at the recent meeting with EDF they gave assurances that the plans for the Pretty Road bridge would be provided shortly. Cllr. Collins said that the Council could enter into Statements of Common Ground with EDF but it will just create paperwork and there is no common ground. Cllr. Brett agreed and said they could be divisive as the views of the parishioners differ.

Cllr. Brett informed the Council that a resident has undertaken a lot of work for Stop Sizewell C and he is keen to help the Council draft its Written Representation. The Council accepted this kind offer.

Cllr. Brett informed the Council that he and Cllr. Collins attended the recent SALC forum. They were not permitted to put their request for assistance with the examination of Sizewell C to the members. Following a discussion, SALC said they did not wish to get involved or take a view but offered to help coordinate the efforts by Town and Parish Councils. It was agreed to invite SALC to attend the next meeting of the Anglian Energy Projects Alliance.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Paul Collins to meet the resident. Clerk to circulate notes from EDF meeting.**

## **9. Planning**

a) Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that 19 responses have been received to date from the letter and survey sent to 148 East Suffolk Town and Parish Councils about ESC's Planning Protocol. Cllr. Bickers said that, in the main, they are supporting the Council's views however the large Town Councils seem to be abstaining. One respondent copied its reply to SALC therefore it was agreed to send the letter and survey to SALC to inform them. Cllr. Bickers said the deadline for responses is 8<sup>th</sup> May therefore the Council can consider its next steps at the June meeting. Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed that the Council supports the letter and survey questions. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to send letter and survey to SALC.**

b) Cllr. Graham Bickers referred to his previously circulated report and proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/21/1462/FUL – two storey extension to west facing elevation of dwelling. Remove and rebuild existing storage barn to form single storey extension linking to proposed two storey extension – The Alders, Potters Street. Seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett. All in favour. It was agreed to submit the following comment with the response: This might be an opportunity to improve the aesthetic qualities of the house with brick or boarded finish to the new extended parts of the building. This will vastly

improve the setting in which the property sits as any further rendered finish, particularly on the south elevation, will only further compound the less than pleasing qualities the building has in its present form.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform ESC planning.**

c) The Council noted planning appeal AP/21/0013/REFUSE – Westhouse Cottage, Saxmundham Road. Cllr. Graham Bickers recommended that this application continues to be refused on the same grounds set out in the Council’s original objection. Seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett. All in favour.

## 9. Parish Matters

a) The Council discussed the emptying of litter bins at the playing fields. The Clerk said she had reported that they were not being emptied to Suffolk Coastal Norse who replied that they had spoken with their operative and addressed this issue. Cllr. Nat Bacon confirmed that the litter bin at Theberton playing field had recently been emptied. The Council considered buying a lidded bin to prevent contents spilling out but it was decided to monitor the situation now that the bin is being emptied regularly. Cllr. Stephen Morphey said that the litter bins at Eastbridge playing field and burial ground are never emptied and he does so by hand and the bins often contain dog waste bags. The Clerk said she would speak to Suffolk Coastal Norse about the emptying of bins in Eastbridge. Cllr. Morphey suggested that a wheelie bin could be provided and he would ensure it was placed at the boundary on collection day and returned. Following a discussion, the Council agreed to consider the provision of dog waste bins in the parish at its next meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk to speak to Norse and add dog waste bins to next month’s agenda.**

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed that the Council purchases two front grass tyres for the tractor at a cost of £132 and to allocate the remainder of the work party tools grant towards this. Seconded by Cllr. Nat Bacon. All in favour. It was agreed to consider purchasing two rear grass tyres in the future.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to progress.**

c) The Council agreed to top up the grant by £24 for Jubilee Hall broadband due to an increase in BT costs.

**ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Hall Management Committee to arrange installation.**

## 10. Progress Reports

a) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised the latest data from the Speed Indicator Device. He has changed the report to show average daily volumes. Last month’s data showed traffic has slowed and reduced probably due to lockdown. Cllr. Collins said the second battery is also not lasting therefore he may have to purchase a new one at a cost of around £40.

b) The Clerk informed the Council that one crime of anti-social behaviour was reported in the Theberton in February 2021.

## 11. Finance

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

b) The Council noted the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for the year end 2020/2021.

c) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020/2021.

d) It was proposed by Cllr. Nat Bacon, 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	£194.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk’s Expenses	Sharon Smith	£4.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Leiston Press	Annual Newsletter Printing Costs	£240.00	LGA 1972 s.142
Annual Subscription	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£145.79	LGA 1972 s.111
Information Commissioner’s Office	Data Protection Registration	£35.00	LGA 1972 s.111

## **12. Correspondence**

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## **13. Questions to the Chair/Items for Next Agenda**

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett asked Cllr. Nat Bacon for an update on his survey sent to all residents regarding the Sizewell Link Road. Cllr. Bacon reported that 60 responses had been received from Theberton and Eastbridge residents and 49 were in favour of the removal of the road following the construction period and 11 were in favour of the road remaining.

b) Cllr. Nat Bacon informed the Council that the grass at Theberton playing field needs harrowing due to moss.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to speak to the volunteer grass cutter.**

## **14. Next Meetings**

The Council confirmed the date and time of the virtual Annual Parish Meeting and the virtual Annual Meeting of the Council which are scheduled for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm respectively.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

## Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

### 1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

Alison attended the two-day Preliminary Meeting and I attended as a participant for Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group. We attempted to persuade the ExA that the actual 6 month examination period, due to start on 15th April be postponed until after the ExA had decided whether the changes to the DCO submitted by EDF should be accepted and how it should be examined compared to the original DCO Application submission.

We also pointed out the impediments to all the statutory authorities due to work on the SPR DCO, election purdah rules and the fact that legislation to enable Parish Councils to meet virtually would expire shortly.

There has been some general dismay over the description by EDF's QC of two classes of Interested Parties as being important and less important and also an amount of lecturing by the QC of what should and should not be considered as a Principal Issue.

Since the meeting the SPR DCO has been extended by 3 months by the Secretary of State to enable the ExA to bring the combined DCO application and its consideration of the significant cumulative impacts to a close. That DCO examination now will finish on 6th July resulting in an extended overlap between SPR and SZC of 1 week short of 3 months, or half of the SZC DCO Application Examination exerting even more stress and impacts on all the statutory authorities and all levels of council involvement from County to Parish.

These arguments for delaying the start of the examination will be used on Wednesday 14th April to try once more to delay the examination until it is clear what exactly is being examined. Unless the ExA is willing to insert a further Preliminary Meeting or has requested that the Secretary of State delay the start of the examination, then the examinations start on Thursday 15th April as given below.

The outline examination timetable currently is given below.

Deadline for responding to timetable (Rule 6) and request to speak at Prelim Mtgs	10 March
Preliminary Meeting(s)	23 March & 14 April
Publication of full Examination Timetable	21 April
Open Floor Hearings	19 - 21 May (deadline for speaking 12 May)
Deadline for Written Representations	26 May
Site inspections	8 - 10 June
Issue Specific Hearings Compulsory Acquisition Hearings More visits/Open Floor Hearings/ Issue Specific hearings	Early/mid July Mid August Mid September
Examination must end	14 October

### 2 T&E Parish Council

Cllr. Brett attended the two day SZC Preliminary meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and the objectives were as stated above in section 1.

The second meeting between EDF and T&EPC was held on 26th March and the next meeting is yet to be arranged but is unlikely to be until May. Once the meetings are completed, we propose to submit a summary report for inclusion in Parish records.

Our second submission to the SZC Preliminary Meeting is attached separately to this report.

### **3 Scottish Power DCO Examination**

I attended the Issue Specific Hearing 13 on Traffic and Transport on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March and reinforced our view that the proposal to drop kerbs for a B1122 crossing to the north of the church was in an unsafe position. The ExA seemed to recognise this point and we shall have to wait and see what SPR proposes to change if anything.

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

No further information or progress on these proposals.

## Appendix II – Financial Position

### Bank Balances as at 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Barclays Current Account	£5,773.48
Barclays Savings Account	£4,017.42
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	<b>£9,790.90</b>

### General and Earmarked Reserves

EDF Energy Grant - Work Party Tools	£132.58
Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£2,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£1,000.00
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	<b>£3,132.58</b>

**Bank Balance less Reserves** **£6,658.32**

### Income – March 2021

East Suffolk Council – Jubilee Hall Broadband Grant	£681.75
The Lion Inn – Newsletter Printing Contribution	£47.00
Community Council – Post Installation Inspection Grant	£250.00
Barclays Bank - Interest	£0.10
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	<b>£978.85</b>

### Payments – March 2021/April 2021

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£194.50
Sharon Smith – Clerk's Expenses	£4.80
Leiston Press – Annual Newsletter Printing	£240.00
SALC – Annual Subscription Fee	£145.79
Sovereign – Play Equipment Maintenance Package	£17.99
ICO – Data Protection Registration Fee	£35.00
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	<b>£638.08</b>

**Net Balance** **£6,999.09**

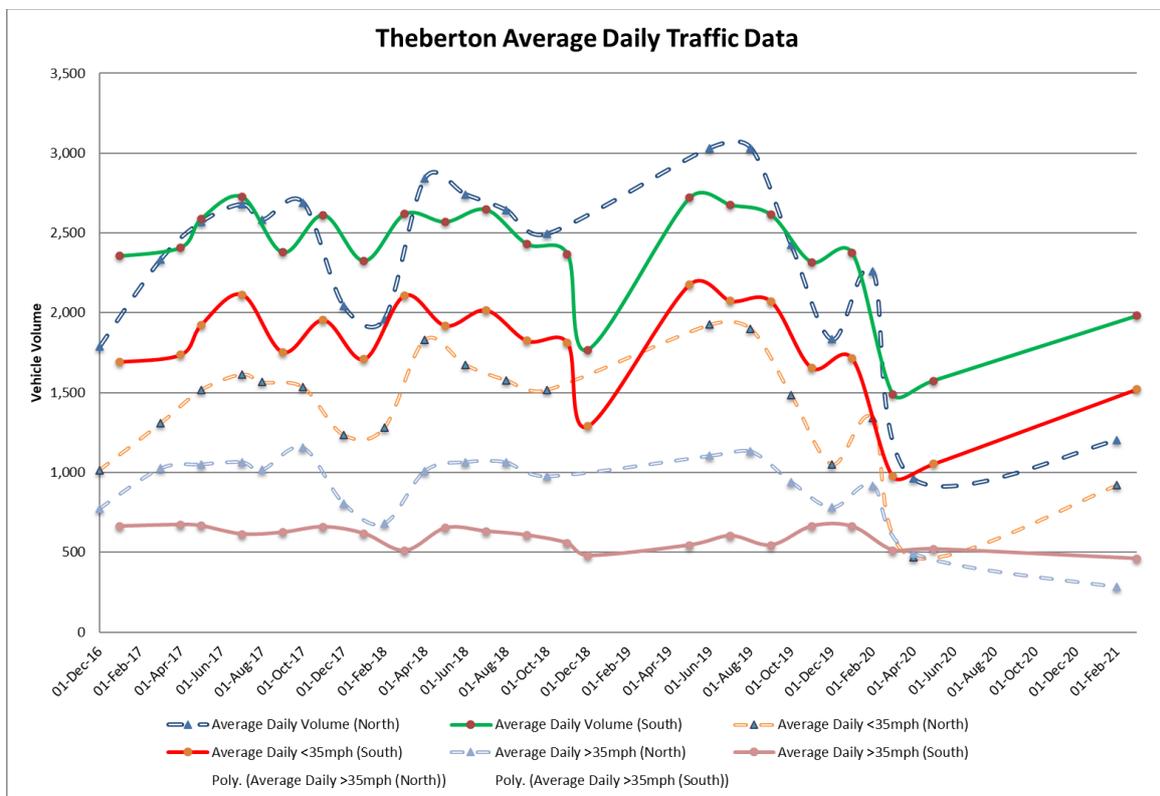
### Appendix III – Speed Indicator Device

The speed indicator device has been operational for forty-four ~20-day periods since 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016. It is placed at one end of the village or other at ~30 day intervals. Last June the radar data logger failed and so has been absent in the village until recently when the unit was repaired.

As it happened, we were still in lockdown when the SID failed and now we start again and we are in lockdown 3 and it looks like traffic is still be showing lower volumes. Traffic volumes are between 30% and 50% lower than pre-lockdown 1 but those exceeding 35mph has now reduced from 41% to 24% from north and from 28% to 23% from south.

The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed\* is has reduced From 41.3 to 37.6mph from north and 39.1 to 37.7mph from south when they enter the village. The removal of trees on the roadside out towards Middleton in the north may have made the SID more visible perhaps accounting for the speed reduction. It will take a few more months of monitoring to see if this is a permanent change or not.

The graph has been changed to display average volumes only rather than total volumes in the period as the batteries have reduced longevity since the SID was out of action and comparisons of the total volumes became meaningless and were distorting the graph analysis.



SID Start Date	19-Aug-19	18-Sep-19	18-Oct-19	17-Nov-19	18-Dec-19	15-Jan-20	15-Feb-20	16-Mar-20	14-Apr-20	15-May-20	02-Feb-21	05-Mar-21
Average Daily Volume (North)	3,033		2,424		1,833		2,260		961		1,202	1,981
Average Daily Volume (South)		2,615		2,317		2,374		1,487		1,574		
Total Vehicles (North)	42,466		43,631		29,324		36,162		17,304		14,428	25,749
Total Vehicles (South)		49,682		34,762		37,990		22,310		26,761		
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	26,606		26,699		16,817		21,461		8,421		11,030	
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		39,341		24,821		27,414		14,622		17,922		19,770
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	15,860		16,932		12,507		14,701		8,883		3,398	
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		10,341		9,941		10,576		7,688		8,839		5,979
Average Daily <35mph (North)	1,900		1,483		1,051		1,341		468		919	
Average Daily <35mph (South)		2,071		1,654		1,713		975		1,054		1,521
Average Daily >35mph (North)	1,133		941		782		919		493		283	
Average Daily >35mph (South)		544		663		661		512		520		460
85th percentile speed North (mph)	40.1		40.7		41.4		41.2		44.0		37.6	
85th percentile speed South (mph)		37.3		39.4		39.2		40.9		40.2		37.7
% <35mph (North)	62.7%		61.2%		57.3%		59.3%		48.7%		76.4%	
% <35mph (South)		79.2%		71.4%		72.2%		65.5%		67.0%		76.8%
% >35mph (North)	37.3%		38.8%		42.7%		40.7%		51.3%		23.6%	
% >35mph (South)		20.8%		28.6%		27.8%		34.5%		33.0%		23.2%

\*The 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile is indicative of the speed that the majority of road users are travelling at.