

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th APRIL 2022 AT 7:00 PM AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair
Cllr. Paul Collins
Cllr. Laura Bonnett
Cllr. Nat Bacon

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
County Cllr. Richard Smith
One member of the public

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Stephen Morphey – written and accepted
Cllr. Tom Lagden – written and accepted
Cllr. Hilary Ward – written and accepted
Cllr. Adam Hurrell
District Cllr. Tony Cooper
District Cllr. Russ Rainger
District Cllr. Tom Daly

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

None.

3. Casual Vacancy

Cllr. Stephen Brett introduced Robert Flindall who applied to fill the Council's casual vacancy. Cllr. Brett proposed that the Council co-opts Mr Flindall. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour. Mr Flindall signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, witnessed by the Clerk, and joined the Council with immediate effect.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council of the appointment.

4. Public Forum

County Cllr. Richard Smith said the government's recent actions and words with regard to Sizewell C were extraordinary as they appear to demonstrate predetermination which may provide grounds for a judicial review.

Cllr. Smith reported that the County Council's bid for £77m from the government's Bus Better Back scheme was unsuccessful. Only 31 out of the 79 applicants were successful and most of the funding was given to North East England as part of the levelling-up scheme, however Norfolk received £50m from the £3bn pot. Cllr. Smith said he was bitterly disappointed but there may be smaller pots of funding available. He has contacted his counterpart in Norfolk to find out why their application was successful and whether any lessons can be learned. Cllr. Smith said he was also disappointed to learn about Suffolk's unsuccessful bid from the editor of the East Anglian Daily Times as the Department of Transport had issued a press release earlier than informing the applicants.

5. Minutes

Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed that the Council approves the minutes of the meeting on 9th March 2022. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

6. Matters Arising

- a) With reference to item 13b, the Clerk said the donation to the Ukraine appeal could not be made as there is no law allowing the Council to make donations where there is no direct benefit to the parish.
- b) With reference to item 13c, Cllr, Stephen Morphey arranged for the lawn mower to be serviced for £150.
- c) With reference to item 9a, Cllr. Stephen Brett said he would chase up the quote to replace the gold inlay in both village signs.

d) With reference to item 6d from the meeting held on 9th February 2022, Cllr. Hilary Ward reported by email that the basketball backboard is expected to be delivered this week.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Nat Bacon to fit.

7. Energy Projects

a) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I.

b) The Council agreed to endorse a letter written by the Anglian Energy Project Alliance to the Secretary of State for BEIS complaining about the prejudicial and inconsistent comments made by him with regard to issues of community consent for Sizewell C.

c) The Clerk reported that she had tried to arrange for a briefing from National Grid Electricity Transmission about the Sea Link Project. National Grid said they were coming to the end of their pre-briefings and suggested that the Council may wish to arrange for a briefing when they commence their non-statutory consultation.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to find out if the pre-briefing is worthwhile.

8. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

a) Platinum Heritage Trail – Cllr. Laura Bonnett said that the working group met recently but she has nothing further to report. The group are arranging a display for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee exhibition.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Cllr. Tom Lagden to circulate a report if he is unable to attend Council meetings,

b) Footpaths - following a discussion about ways to spend the anonymous donation of £10,000, Cllr. Robert Flindall suggested that improvements could be made to the parish's footpaths, particularly the footpath from Eastbridge to the Minsmere sluice which has partially collapsed due to a badger sett. Cllr. Stephen Brett said he reported this to the County Council's Public Rights of Way department who replied that they would investigate the situation and recommend a way forward, however the issue remains unresolved. Cllr. Brett also said that footpaths are the responsibility of the PRoW department and the anonymous donation would not go far given the high cost of groundworks. Also, the footpath to the Minsmere sluice falls mainly into Leiston parish. County Cllr. Richard Smith asked for copies of the emails sent to the PRoW department to enable him to follow the matter up.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to send emails to County Cllr. Richard Smith.

c) Eastbridge Common – the Council noted that the three frontagers have agreed amongst themselves to share the cost of repairs to the access track which they expect to carry out within the next few weeks. The Council also noted that an area of nettles has been sprayed by the contractor.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Paul Collins to inspect remaining nettles.

d) Community Council/Jubilee Hall Management Committee – the Clerk summarised Cllr. Hilary Ward's report. Three new members have been appointed to the Community Council. A new Union Jack flag has been purchased for the flagpole. Further details were provided about the plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Summer Fun Day.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate Cllr. Hilary Ward's report. Cllr. Stephen Brett to contact EDF about the Doughty-Wylie exhibition boards.

e) Speed Indicator Device – the latest report is attached as Appendix II. Cllr. Paul Collins reported that the new battery only lasts 16 days which is half the expected duration.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to try another battery cycle and report back.

f) Quiet Lanes – the Clerk said she is waiting for the County Council to send a Community Self-Help Agreement for Quiet Lanes' Community Volunteers which the Council will need to agree and sign before it is permitted to install the signage. The signs will be available for collection from a Highways depot soon.

g) Police – the Clerk said two violence/sexual offences were reported on Onners Lane in January 2022.

9. Parish Matters

- a) Cllr. Nat Bacon reported that topsoil has been added to the area around the Theberton village sign, and the ivy has been cut back. The next steps are to strim the area and sow grass seed.
- b) Following a discussion, the Council agreed to refurbish the kissing gate in Theberton. Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Nat Bacon agreed to inspect the gate and decide upon a course of action which may involve removing, sandblasting, painting and reinstalling the gate. Cllr. Laura Bonnett said a large quantity of litter was lifted from the area during the last community litter pick and she suggested that a bin should be installed which also takes dog waste.

10. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position, attached as Appendix II.
- b) Cllr. Laura Bonnett proposed that the following payments are approved. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£257.00	LGA 1972 s.112
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith	£31.94	LGA 1972 s.19
Land Registry Title Deeds	Sharon Smith	£29.94	LGA 1972 s.111
Lawnmower Service and Repair	Stephen Morphey	£150.00	OSA 1906 s.10
Basketball Back Board	Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd	£557.00	OSA 1906 s.10
Annual Newsletter Printing	Leiston Press Ltd	£240.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Website SSL Certificate	Community Action Suffolk	£36.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Data Protection Registration	Information Commissioner's Office	£35.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Treebilee Collection Mileage	Laura Bonnett	£19.35	OSA 1906 s.10
Eastbridge Common Nettles	RSC Landscapes Ltd	£78.00	OSA 1906 s.10

11. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received between 4th March 2022 and 12th April 2022.

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

- a) The Clerk informed the Council that a resident has offered to donate a free bench in good, used condition for the playing field at Theberton. The Council graciously accepted this offer. The Clerk suggested that as the ESC Community Partnership are providing Talking Benches for both playing fields that this bench could be sited at the bus stop at Doughty-Wylie Crescent, subject to approval from Flagship.
ACTION: Clerk to accept offer from resident.

- b) Thanks were given to Cllr Laura Bonnett and a team of volunteer helpers for planting the Treebilee oak tree at the playfield at Theberton.

- c) Cllr. Paul Collins reported that the litter bin at the burial ground is not being emptied.
ACTION: Clerk to report to ESC.

13. Next Meeting

The Council agreed the date and time of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council which are scheduled for Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7:00 pm and 7:30 pm respectively at the Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

The “Come Along Together” event at Snape Maltings, is on Sunday 24th April. Further details available on the Snape Maltings website. Tickets will be available via the Snape Maltings website. Tickets are on “as can be afforded” basis.

Efforts by the Anglia Energy Planning Alliance to see if JLAG will host a meeting for all affected Parish and Town Councils were turned down by ESC and SCC. This was a disappointment as both of the councils will have a significant involvement in many of the consultation and granting bodies that are part of the Deed of Obligation. Their response was to tell us to read the Deed of Obligation, which misses the point of the request.

The BEIS Secretary of State has issued two sets of questions to EDF and various statutory authorities and NGOs such as RSPB about the DCO Application. The first set of responses have been published on the PINS website and the second set of answers were due on Thursday 14th April but as of writing had not made it to the PINS website. We intend to respond to the responses this week.

One of the most interesting questions to EDF was to explain how the DCO could be changed to ensure that the Two Villages bypass and Sizewell Link Road would be completed before work started on the main site. EDF’s response has objected to the suggestion but it is also clear that EDF have never assessed such a plan, which goes against the intention of planning law, where alternatives must be assessed to support any final proposal. Of course we are fully aware that they need to have the main site operating to accept about 140,000 tonnes of material from these developments that will be used as backfill for the development.

There were many other requests for additional information and there may be an issue with the DCO application more generally as it would appear that the Habitat assessments did not envisage a 20 year life extension for SZB which will have significant cumulative impacts that, again, have not been assessed.

The government’s announcement of the Energy Strategy was accompanied by a commitment to invest in the SZC development, should it get planning approval. They stated aim is to build up to 8 new nuclear power stations. It is not clear if this means 8 reactors or 8 dual larger reactors as per HPC or some other combination including Small Modular Reactors. The strategy has had a fairly hard ride in the press given that it doesn’t commit sufficiently to energy saving improvements and the additional reactors will not impact the existing energy crisis at all.

There are also questions about the labelling of these new nuclear stations as bringing energy generation and requirements within the UK’s control. The fact is that we import all uranium fuel and >50% of world supply is within the influence of the Russian state.

EDF are also still in a technology cooperation with Rosatom, the Russian state nuclear company, through an agreement signed in 2021. The United States also relies heavily on Russian influenced uranium products for their operating reactors but a bill is now in front of the Senate to place an embargo on Russian uranium fuel.

The fact of the matter is that if all the countries currently operating nuclear reactors followed a similar uptick in nuclear power generation as this strategy proposes, there would be a significant impact on both the availability and price of uranium. Even if HPC’s guaranteed power costs seem reasonable at the moment, any uptick in price or scarcity for uranium yellowcake or enriched uranium would lead to high energy prices and uncertainty of supply, removing any level of control that the UK government is claiming for this nuclear strategy.

A BEIS Nuclear NGO Forum meeting with Greg Hands, BEIS Minister with responsibility for nuclear power, has been postponed to 3rd May.

2 T&E Parish Council

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

A response has been received from Richard Bull regarding the various questions on the transport related Deed of Obligation working groups etc and was circulated in the correspondence. The responses are much as expected with confirmation that we would be involved in the re-development of the existing B1122 following completion of the Sizewell Link Road. An outstanding issue of passing places on Onners Lane was noted but no solutions offered. It isn't envisage that both Moat Road and Pretty Road would be closed at the same time during the SLR construction but the final decision would be made with the appointed contractors.

Our application Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to call-in the East Suffolk Decision on DC/21/5408/EIA Scoping Report Opinion, has been successful. DLUHC have now rejected our request that an EIA be created for this planning application, so it will now go for final examination and approval at East Suffolk Council planning.

The Deed of Obligation meeting with EDF is set for Thursday 12th May.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

The SPR decision has been approved.

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

The first Sizewell to Kent ESO interconnector for National Grid, "Sea Link", has now requested to meet with the council to brief us on their proposals. Date to be arranged.

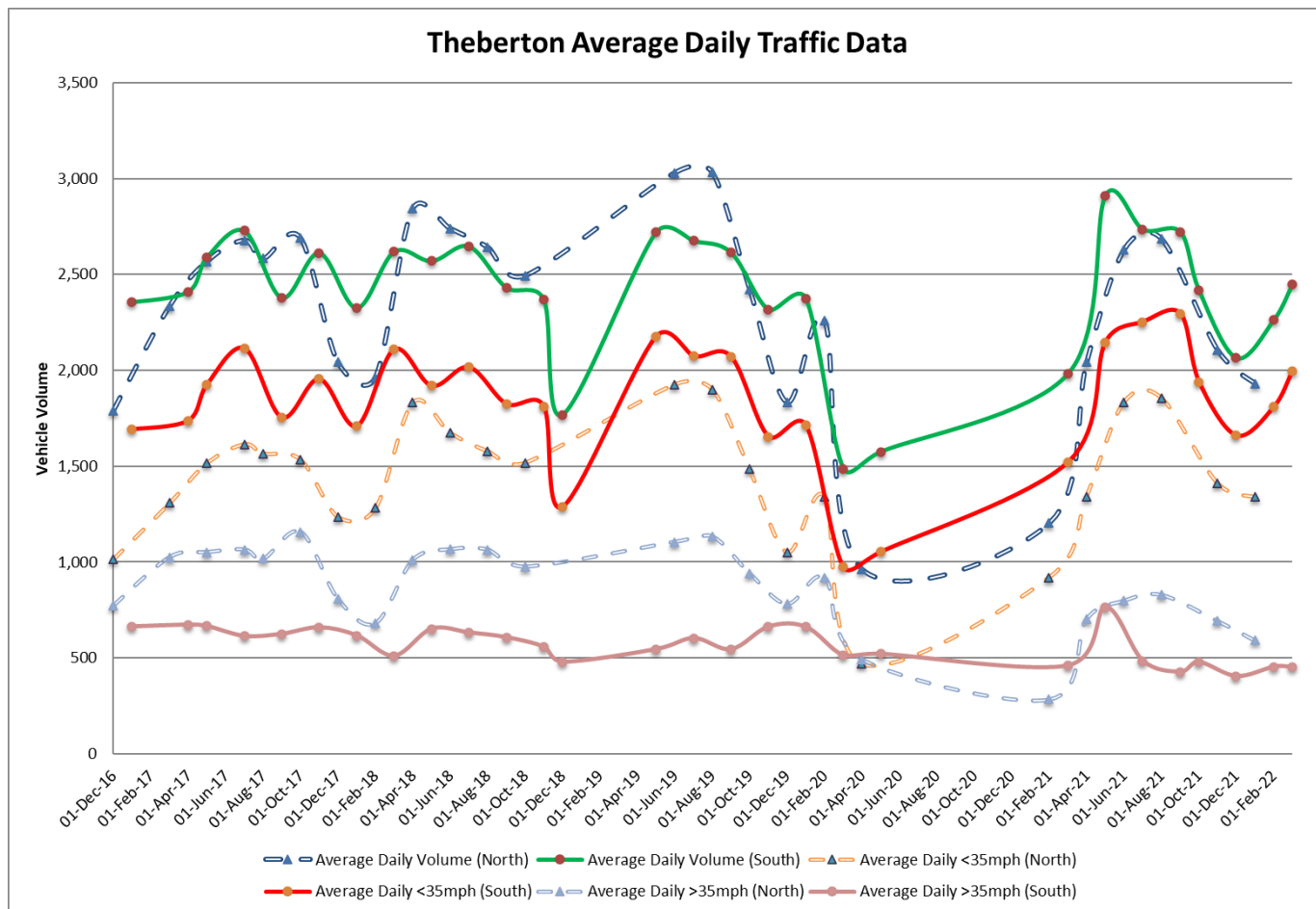
Appendix II – Speed Indicator Device

Theberton Speed Indicator Device Report 20 April 2022

The speed indicator device has been operational for fifty-six ~20-day periods since 20th December 2016. It is placed at one end of the village or other at ~30-day intervals.

Traffic volumes in the period since March 2021 are back to normal and the long-term averages for those exceeding 35mph is now **37.8%** from north and **24.1%** from south.

The **85th percentile speed*** is back at close to 40mph with **40.4mph** from north and **38.0mph** from south when they enter the village.



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

SID Start Date	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	09-Jan-22	10-Feb-22	26-Mar-22
Average Daily Volume (North)	2,042		2,630		2,685			2,105		1,930		
Average Daily Volume (South)		2,912		2,736		2,723	2,418		2,064		2,263	2,449
Total Vehicles (North)	20,421		34,187		37,596			29,469		30,875		
Total Vehicles (South)		34,947		43,773		43,574	29,021		30,965		29,421	36,733
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	13,415		23,825		25,999			19,774		21,425		
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		25,767		36,025		36,734	23,281		24,905		23,530	29,951
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	7,006		10,362		11,597			9,695		9,450		
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		9,180		7,748		6,840	5,740		6,060		5,891	6,782
Average Daily <35mph (North)	1,341		1,833		1,857			1,412		1,339		
Average Daily <35mph (South)		2,147		2,252		2,296	1,940		1,660		1,810	1,997
Average Daily >35mph (North)	701		797		828			693		591		
Average Daily >35mph (South)		765		484		427	478		404		453	452
85th percentile speed North (mph)	39.2		38.8		38.7			39.0		38.7		
85th percentile speed South (mph)		37.8		37.8		35.3	36.8		36.7		37.0	36.4
% <35mph (North)	65.7%		69.7%		69.2%			67.1%		69.4%		
% <35mph (South)		73.7%		82.3%		84.3%	80.2%		80.4%		80.0%	81.5%
% >35mph (North)	34.3%		30.3%		30.8%			32.9%		30.6%		
% >35mph (South)		26.3%		17.7%		15.7%	19.8%		19.6%		20.0%	18.5%

Appendix III – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 10th March 2022

Barclays Current Account	£985.99
Barclays Savings Account	£21,886.80
	<u>£22,872.79</u>

Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£2,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£650.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£1,259.54
Jubilee Hall Broadband Grant	£449.83
Jubilee Hall Broadband Fund	£150.00
Platinum Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
	<u>£14,509.37</u>

Bank Balance less Reserves **£8,363.42**

Payments – April 2022

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£257.00
Sharon Smith – Land Registry Title Deeds	£29.94
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£31.94
Stephen Brett – Strimmer Fuel	£20.00
CAS – Website Hosting	£60.00
ICO – Data Protection Fee	£35.00
Stephen Morphey – Lawnmower Service	£150.00
CAS – Website SSL Certificate	£36.00
Sovereign Design Play Systems – Basketball Backboard	£557.00
Leiston Press – Annual Newsletter Printing	£240.00
SALC – Payroll Services	£54.00
	<u>£1,488.87</u>

Net Balance **£6,874.55**