

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4th AUGUST 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 (part of the meeting)
Cllr. Laura Bonnett
Cllr. Stephen Morphey
Cllr. Tom Lagden
Cllr. Paul Collins

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Graham Bickers – written and accepted
County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

District Cllr. Russ Rainger
District Cllr. Tom Daly
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
Three members of the public

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

a) A resident spoke to the Council about flooding on Main Road outside Wild About Birds. He said this problem was reported to SCC Highways in 2019 who inspected the drains and found that tree roots had penetrated the pipework but no remedial action would be taken due to lack of funds and they would continue to monitor the situation. The resident was not satisfied with this response and after involving BBC Radio Suffolk, Highways cleared the drains and replaced 7 metres of pipework. This worked well until the recent wet weather which resulted in over 2 feet of standing water. The resident again reported this to Highways who have agreed to send out an Assessment Officer to inspect the drains. The resident informed Highways that this will be the main route to the construction site during the early years if Sizewell C goes ahead. He said many homes and businesses were affected and the flooding is further eroding the bank which may cause the trees to fall. The resident also reported that vehicles regularly speed along this stretch at 40/50 mph. The Clerk agreed to contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team to request that the speed camera van is sited in the layby.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

b) A member of the public spoke to the Council about a group of volunteers' concerns about the thinning operations at Theberton Woods. Forestry England are seeking to improve vehicle access by removing trees but their methods will have a detrimental effect on purple emperor butterfly populations and other wildlife and fungi. Forestry England agreed with Butterfly Conservation that the trees would be cut and the branches would be lowered gently to allow volunteers to search and rescue butterflies. However, Forestry England denied access to the volunteers, ostensibly due to coronavirus restrictions, and branches were heard crashing down. The member of the public complained to Forestry England about this and also about the removal of 20% of the trees as government guidelines say only 5% should be felled in a 5 year period. Forestry England have now agreed to take a phased approach which will allow wildlife to be less significantly affected. The member of the public also complained that Forestry England are not making their plans publicly available and these should be published to allow for public scrutiny. The Council agreed to invite Forestry England to attend the Council's next meeting and to inform them that it supports a phased approach to thinning, to ask for their management plans to be made publicly available, to ask them to genuinely engage with conservationists and to manage the woodland sensitively.

ACTION: Member of the public to send correspondence to Cllr. Tom Daly.

c) District Cllr. Tom Daly said he was working to elevate the effects of the energy projects, in public and in the District Council. He is working for a coordinated approach for all the energy projects so that there is not such a detrimental effect on the environment. He helped raise publicity with Stop Sizewell C at the Latitude Festival and he has submitted a question to Ask Any Question on BBC Radio 4 about whether new nuclear is the energy of the past and whether it is displacing the real new energy.

d) District Cllr. Russ Rainger said it was early days for his role with the District Council but he was finding his feet and attending full Council meetings. He has been appointed to the Planning Committee and the Aldeburgh and Leiston Community Partnership Forum. He asked the Council to let him know what it needed and he will try to provide support. Cllr. Stephen Brett replied that attendance at the Parish Council's monthly meetings would be welcome and support with Sizewell C. Cllr. Russ Rainger said that District Cllr. Tony Cooper advised the Council to contact Lisa Chandler about any issues arising (and the Section 106 agreement) with Sizewell C. Cllr. Stephen Morphey asked for support with the Council's Dark Skies initiative which the District Council seem reluctant to support and explained the problems with East Suffolk Norse refusing to empty the litter bins in Eastbridge.

ACTION: Cllr. Russ Rainger to contact District Cllr. James Mallinder. Cllr. Stephen Morphey to forward emails about litter bins to Cllr. Russ Rainger.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Tom Lagden, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 7th July 2021 be approved. All in favour.

5. Energy Projects

a) Cllr. Paul Collins referred to his previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I. Cllr. Collins agreed to draft a response to the latest EDF consultation about a desalination plant to provide potable water to the construction site. Cllr. Collins said that he will register to speak at three more Issue Specific Hearings to be held next month. Cllr. Collins reported that the examination has closed for Scottish Power Renewables offshore windfarms and that National Grid Ventures will hold an exhibition in Theberton next month about the Nautilus Interconnector.

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

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported on the latest meeting he and Cllr. Paul Collins attended with EDF. EDF has outlined plans for a proposed temporary pedestrian crossing in Theberton village during the early years of construction. Cllr. Paul Collins said that mitigation for the B1122 is outstanding as nothing is proposed in the current DCO documentation. EDF's initial plans, circulated before the meeting, show the crossing near to The Lion Inn which the Council agreed was not a suitable location. Following a discussion, the Council agreed it needed more time to consider the proposal, that safety advice from Highways would need to be obtained, and a public meeting scheduled to hear the residents' views.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to invite EDF to attend the next meeting to brief the Council. Clerk to invite residents to attend the meeting.

6. Parish Matters

a) Theberton Hall Farm – the Council noted complaints from residents about excessive noise from fans. Cllr. Nat Bacon explained that it was necessary at this time of year (mid-July to end of September) for fresh air to reduce humidity especially during hot, still nights. Cllr. Bacon agreed to look at solutions and said he has requested a quote for cowls for the fans but a solution may take weeks due to long lead times. Cllr. Bacon asked that residents contact him directly as he can take steps if he is aware there is a problem.

ACTION: Cllr. Nat Bacon to progress.

b) Pretty Road – the Council noted the abandoned vehicle and agreed to report this to the District Council who are responsible for its removal.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

7. Progress Reports

a) Speed Indicator Device – the Council noted the latest data report, attached as Appendix III. Cllr. Paul Collins said it may be necessary to install solar panels to recharge the battery which will obviate the need for volunteers to change the battery and will increase health and safety when operating the device. Cllr. Laura Bonnett reported that the 30 mph signs at Theberton were blank due to fading.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to ask Cllr. Graham Bickers if he is willing to research costs for solar panels. Cllr. Laura Bonnett to report blank signs to Highways via the online reporting tool.

b) Litter Bins – Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that East Suffolk Norse has refused to empty the litter bins at Eastbridge playing field and the Burial Ground. The Council discussed the problem with District Cllr. Russ Rainger who agreed to look into the matter. The Clerk agreed to check the budget for funds for a new litter bin for the Burial Ground.

ACTION: Clerk to check budget.

c) Petanque Piste – Cllr. Nat Bacon agreed to loan his machinery to dig the petanque piste. Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed to order materials.

d) No Dog Signage – Cllr. Hilary Ward reported on the options for no dog signage at both playing fields. It was agreed to purchase four aluminium composite signs at £22.40 each. Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Nat Bacon agreed to supply the timber posts and fit. Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the Council authorised expenditure totalling £89.60. Seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett. All in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to progress.

e) Basketball Back Board – Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that she obtained two quotes to replace the basketball back board. Action Play and Leisure quoted £428.80 to supply and £650 to fit. Sovereign Play Systems quoted £464.17 to supply only. It was agreed that there were insufficient funds in this year's budget for this expenditure. Cllr. Tom Lagden suggested that the Community Council may be willing to contribute to the cost.

ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to contact the Community Council.

f) Dog Waste Bins – Cllr. Laura Bonnett reported on the costs and the procedure for installing a dog waste bin on Church Road, Theberton. It was agreed to instruct East Suffolk Norse to procure, install and empty a Glasdon Fido 25 in green and for this site to be a trial for further dog bins in the parish. The cost of the bin is £160 and the cost of emptying is £52 per annum. A street furniture licence from Highways will cost £150. The bin will be attached to the existing horse riding warning sign in the layby. Permission to site the bin in this location has been agreed with the landowner. Cllr. Bonnett proposed that the Council authorises expenditure totalling £362.00. Seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett. All in favour.

ACTION: Cllr. Laura Bonnett to progress.

g) Community Right to Bid – Cllr. Laura Bonnett reported that to register land as an Asset of Community Value it is necessary to prove there has been community use. This would be possible for the footpath but tenuous for the remaining land and the Council would be setting a precedent if it registered a footpath as an ACV.

h) Quiet Lanes – the Clerk reported that three nominated routes, Saxmundham Road, Abbey Lane and Bucklewood Lane, have been desktop audited by SCC Highways and they are deemed to exceed the traffic speed limits of 35 mph. The Quiet Lanes team have asked the Council to withdraw these routes to save additional cost and time undertaking formal surveys. The Council agreed to withdraw the routes.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Quiet Lanes Team.

i) Jubilee Hall Management Committee – Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that the Hall Management Committee and the Community Council held their AGM and elected new members. On behalf of the Community Council, Cllr. Ward sought permission to place a memorial bench, dedicated to a resident, on the playing field at Theberton. It was agreed to grant permission and to accept the Community Council's suggestion to place the bench along the hedge by the aerial runway.

8. Finance

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

b) Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed that the following payments are approved. Seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morpheu. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£249.82	LGA 1972 s.112
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith (BT)	£29.95	LGA 1972 s.19

9. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 2nd July 2021 and 30th July 2021.

10. Questions to the Chair/Items for Next Agenda

- a) Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.
- b) Anonymous Donation of £10,000.

11. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 8th September 2021 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

This month has been all about the eight Issue Specific Hearings and submission of our Oral submissions along with any additional information to support the responses at the hearings.

Compulsory Purchase Acquisition Hearings are scheduled for 18th – 20th August.

Stop Sizewell C have requested to attend a hearing that discusses the ability of EDF NNB to finance the project given that they have recently updated their expected Financial Investment Decision date to late 2022/ early 2023.

It is well documented through EDF's statements that they cannot afford to build Sizewell C on their books.

We have asked the Examining Authority to request that NNB update their project implementation plan, given that it expected an FID to be complete by mid-2022.

Also, the current statements from government seem to be for removing CGN from this project and any potential to be the lead developer at Bradwell. This also raises potential questions about CGN's willingness to remain a part of the Hinkley Point C project, where they have a 33% stake.

Statements by Northumbrian Water (owners of Essex and Suffolk Water) have cast considerable doubt upon their ability to provide sufficient potable water to the construction site for both the campus and concrete production. They have said that the earliest date they can see being viable is in 2026 as there is a requirement for an additional supply to be provided from Waveney WMA as the local area is already at capacity and they expect the Environment Agency to reduce the existing abstraction limits here. Any supply from Waveney requires a new 20km pipeline and additional pumping facilities which will be difficult to be completed against NNB's current requirements and implementation plan. They also state that NNB have not as yet finalised the potable water requirements for plans to be completed.

This is another reason for the implementation plan to be reviewed as much of the concrete water requirements occur early in the build as the cut-off wall and reactor platforms are poured.

New Issue Specific Hearings have now been scheduled for 25th to 27th August. They will cover Air Quality/Noise/Vibration, Policy & Need and Biodiversity/Habitats Regulation Assessments. Stop Sizewell C will actively take part in Policy & Need hopefully along with one of our experts.

Meanwhile we have been keeping up our work with FT, Times and others and contributing to a number of the recent articles around financing, RAB and CGN. Alison appeared on ITV Anglia about RAB and SZC finance in general.

We are holding monthly SZC site walks from the Eel's Foot along with an additional one for the Walberswick Dog Walking Group last Tuesday when we had over twenty attendees. Details are on the website.

The new poster campaign is going well and we are on our third reprint of correx boards and have bumper stickers and face masks which are going down well.

We attended Latitude again this year with a display tent in a prominent position near one of the main walkways close to the comedy tent and main stage.

EDF are playing smoke and mirrors with claims about CO2 payback period again in their latest community newsletter saying it will only take 5 months. This is a claim used at Hinkley Point where the comparator was with gas and coal. This time they are going back to comparison with gas generators, when the 6.5 year assessment looks at the overall Co2 impact of the grid at 2035. The reality is with several early retirements of AGR stations on the cards, SZC would only be replacing existing nuclear supply and have no impact elsewhere. Reverting to gas fired power station comparisons is inappropriate.

The updated examination timetable currently is given below.

Publication of ExA Written Questions (ExQ2)	3 August
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Deadline 6 – Requests to attend August CAH, OFH and ISHs Comments on submission from D5	6 August
Compulsory Acquisition Hearings	17 – 20 August
Open Floor and Issue Specific Hearings Open Floor Hearing (new IPs) Air Quality, Noise and Vibration Policy and Need Biodiversity and HRA	24 August 25 August 26 August 27 August
Deadline 7	3 September
Publication or RIES (Report on Implications for European Sites) Third Written Questions (ExQ3)	9 September
Dates Reserved for ASI, OFH, ISH and CAHs	13 – 17 September
Further request for information from ExA (ExQ4)	20 September
Deadline 8 – ISH etc hearing submissions, responses to ExQ3 and many updates	24 September
Deadline 9 – Comments on RIES and ExQ4 (in any)	30 September
Deadline 10 – Comments on Responses to ExQ3, ExQ4 and final SoCGs etc	6 October
Examination must end	14 October

2 T&E Parish Council

The big news is the new consultation on a containerised desalination plant on the main site to bridge the gap between Northumbrian Water being able to supply the site with sufficient potable supply via a new 20km main from Waveney WMA. Issues will include the requirement for an environmental impact assessment and the claim that tankering in water in the initial period before the plant is operating will require no increase in HGV movements.

There is already a request from the ExA for more details on HGV types and impacts during the early years and this water supply tankering will be taking place in this period.

Not had a chance to look at the consultation which runs until 27th August yet.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

Now completed and ExA will be making final assessment for recommendation to the Secretary of State by mid-October and SoS decision mid-January.

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

The Parish Hall has been booked by National Grid for a public information/consultation session in September(?). This will presumably be for Nautilus and/or Eurolink interconnectors projects.

Appendix II – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 8th July 2021

Barclays Current Account	£2,600.66
Barclays Savings Account	£14,017.71
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	£16,618.37

Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£2,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£650.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£997.34
Petanque Piste Grant	£980.00
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	£4,627.34

Bank Balance less Reserves **£11,991.03**

Income – July 2021

Anonymous Donation	£10,000.00
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Payments – August 2021

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£249.82
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£29.95
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	£297.76

Net Balance **£21,693.27**

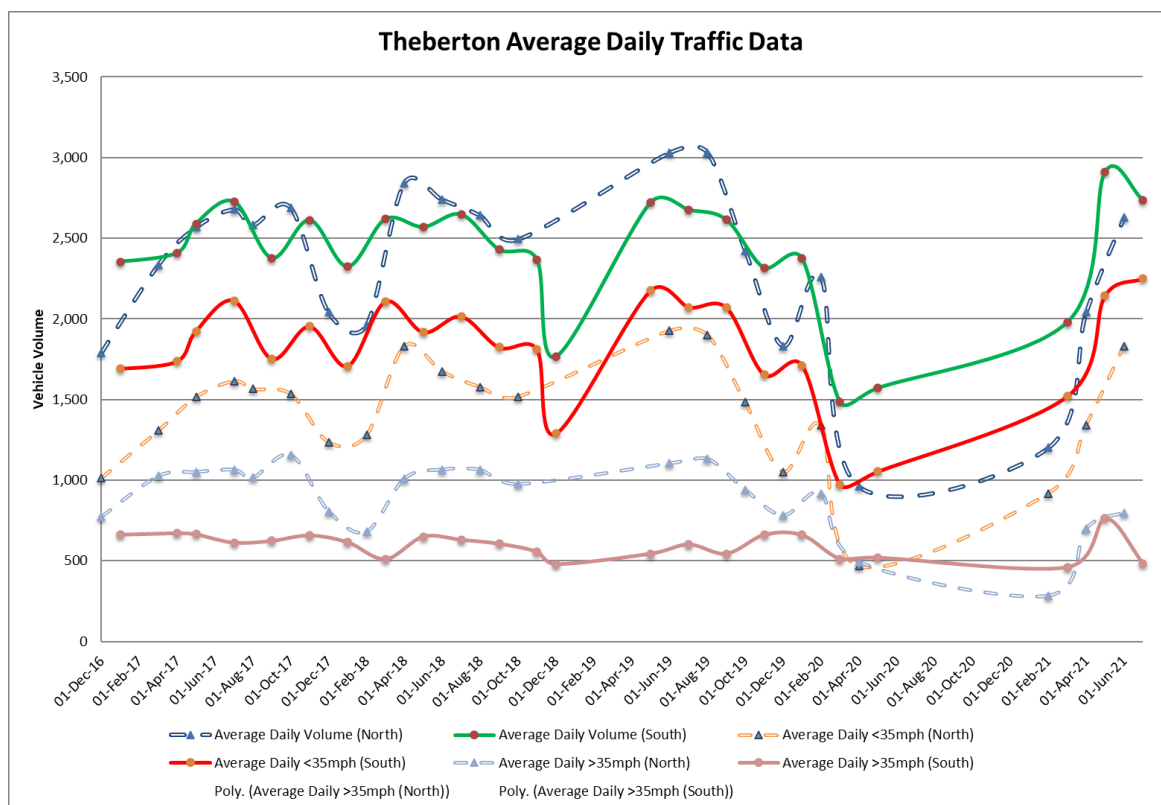
Appendix III – Speed Indicator Device

Theberton Speed Indicator Device Report 4 August 2021

The speed indicator device has been operational for forty-eight ~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 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, as we come out of lockdown 3 and it looks like traffic is now increasing again. Traffic volumes in this last period are back to normal and possibly showing that the Sizewell outage is running but those exceeding 35mph has now reduced from 41% to **39%** from north and from 28% to **25%** from south.

The **85th percentile speed*** is back at close to 40mph with **40.6mph** from north and **38.4mph** from south when they enter the village.



SID Start Date	18-Dec-19	15-Jan-20	15-Feb-20	16-Mar-20	14-Apr-20	15-May-20	02-Feb-21	05-Mar-21	06-Apr-21	06-May-21	05-Jun-21	07-Jul-21
Average Daily Volume (North)	1,833		2,260		961		1,202		2,042		2,630	
Average Daily Volume (South)		2,374		1,487		1,574		1,981		2,912		2,736
Total Vehicles (North)	29,324		36,162		17,304		14,428		20,421		34,187	
Total Vehicles (South)		37,990		22,310		26,761		25,749		34,947		43,773
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	16,817		21,461		8,421		11,030		13,415		23,825	
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		27,414		14,622		17,922		19,770		25,767		36,025
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	12,507		14,701		8,883		3,398		7,006		10,362	
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		10,576		7,688		8,839		5,979		9,180		7,748
Average Daily <35mph (North)	1,051		1,341		468		919		1,341		1,833	
Average Daily <35mph (South)		1,713		975		1,054		1,521		2,147		2,252
Average Daily >35mph (North)	782		919		493		283		701		797	
Average Daily >35mph (South)		661		512		520		460		765		484
85th percentile speed North (mph)	41.4		41.2		44.0		37.6		39.2		38.8	
85th percentile speed South (mph)		39.2		40.9		40.2		37.7		37.8		37.8
% <35mph (North)	57.3%		59.3%		48.7%		76.4%		65.7%		69.7%	
% <35mph (South)		72.2%		65.5%		67.0%		76.8%		73.7%		82.3%
% >35mph (North)	42.7%		40.7%		51.3%		23.6%		34.3%		30.3%	
% >35mph (South)		27.8%		34.5%		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.