

**MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7th JULY 2021 AT 6:00 PM AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett - Chair
Cllr. Stephen Morphey
Cllr. Graham Bickers
Cllr. Tom Lagden
Cllr. Paul Collins

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Nat Bacon – written and accepted
Cllr. Hilary Ward – written and accepted
Cllr. Adam Hurrell – written and accepted
Cllr. Laura Bonnett – written and accepted

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Tony Cooper (part of the meeting)
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
No members of the public

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that he was certain, in the course of time, that a 30 mph speed limit will be possible in Eastbridge. There are a number of measures to achieve this, beginning with a speed survey, and he recommended that the Council gets this underway. The data from the speed survey is necessary to inform the decision whether to proceed, which ultimately rests with Cllr. Smith. Due to the lengthy legal process, the project is likely to take two years to implement. Cllr. Smith said he will ask the relevant Highways Engineer to contact the Chairman.

Cllr. Smith further reported that his efforts to address the delamination problems on the roads in the parish had reached a dead end. The roads may be unsightly but they are not dangerous therefore Highways will not take any remedial action.

In response to a question from Cllr. Stephen Brett, Cllr. Smith confirmed that footpaths should be cut twice a year and this cannot be phased out.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Bickers, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 9th June 2021 be approved. All in favour.

5. Sizewell C

a) The Council noted Cllr. Paul Collins previously circulated report. Cllr. Collins updated the Council about the latest Issue Specific Hearings. With regard to the Further Proposed Changes consultation, Cllr. Collins agreed to respond that the Council supports the Pretty Road bridge but he will point out that it does not approve of the entire project. Cllr. Stephen Brett said that the response should also state that if construction begins at the main site before the roads are built then there should be mitigation measures implemented in Theberton beforehand. Cllr. Collins said that the draft s.106 only has a small amount of information about the B1122 and this will be discussed further at the Issue Specific Hearings on Transport and Traffic.

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett asked Cllr. Richard Smith and Cllr. Tony Cooper who the Council should contact in the County and District Councils about problems which will inevitably arise during the construction phase, and now with regard to the s.106 agreement. Cllr. Smith replied that he will speak to his Head of Planning and Cllr. Tony Cooper said he would find out and report back.

c) Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that he was making strong progress in Somerset with regards to property blight due to Hinkley Point C. He said there was definite evidence that EDF had purchased properties over one mile away from the construction site. The next step is to consider writing to residents in Eastbridge to ask if they are willing to have their properties valued to establish baseline values.

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

6. Finance

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett informed the Council that a donation of £10,000 has been received from an anonymous resident. He asked the Council to generate ideas for spending it on projects beneficial to the parish and said match funding may be available.

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

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

c) The Council agreed to renew the insurance policy with Community Action Suffolk.

d) The Council noted the report from the Internal Auditor.

e) The Council reviewed the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 1 2021-2022.

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£252.42	LGA 1972 s.112
Insurance Policy Renewal	Business Services at CAS Ltd	£477.21	LGA 1972 s.111
Internal Audit Fee	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£292.80	LGA 1972 s.111

7. Public Forum - Quiet Lanes Public Consultation

The Clerk reported that one written representation had been received from a resident supporting the implementation of further Quiet Lanes in the parish. Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed that the Council formally approves the implementation of the Quiet Lanes Scheme and authorises signage costs for: Eastbridge Road, Saxmundham Road, Buckleswood Lane, George Road, Hawthorn Road, Harrow Lane and Abbey Lane. Seconded by Cllr. Graham Bickers. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the Quiet Lanes team.

8. Highways

The Council noted the latest Speed Indicator Device data report, attached as Appendix III.

9. Playing Fields/Burial Ground – Progress Reports

a) Burial Ground Shed – Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that the materials had been ordered and will be delivered to Cllr. Stephen Brett.

b) Litter Bins – Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that he has written, and provided photographs, to the District Council to explain the problem with the non-emptying of the litter bins in Eastbridge but he has not yet received a reply.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Morphey to copy correspondence to District Cllr. Tony Cooper.

c) Petanque Piste – no update.

d) No Dog Signage – update postponed until next meeting.

e) Basketball Back Board – update postponed until next meeting.

10. Parish Matters - Progress Reports

a) Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that he has received permission from the Eel's Foot for Dash Astro to conduct an assessment for Dark Skies in the parish. The assessment will not be undertaken until September/October as the skies need to be dark enough to measure. Cllr. Morphey said that the Dark Skies designation will need approval from the District Council who were making difficulties with Dash Astro. Cllr. Morphey read out an email from James Mallinder, Cabinet Member for the Environment, who said that the District Council acknowledges the importance of biodiversity and that clear skies are really important for wildlife. He said a large portion of the landscape is AONB therefore it is even more important to treat the environment with respect and limit human disturbance and urbanisation of the countryside however, at the moment, the District Council is reviewing its policy and therefore at this stage it is not endorsing community policies, but going forward it hopes to be able to support parishes and their declarations. The Council noted its disappointment with this position but agreed to progress with the assessment in the autumn and to approach the District Council again.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Morphey to copy correspondence to District Cllr. Tony Cooper.

b) Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that the results from the survey of ESC's planning protocol have been submitted to SALC. It was agreed to contact the Town and Parish Councils who responded and ask if they are willing to put their name to the survey.

c) Dog Waste Bins – update postponed until the next meeting.

d) Community Right to Bid – Cllr. Tom Lagden reported that he is progressing with the application to register The Eel's Foot as an Asset of Community Value. He said initial research has shown that it is possible to register parcels of land but there are a number of criteria to meet.

e) The Clerk reported that the broadband in Jubilee Hall has been installed.

f) Police – no crimes were reported in the parish in May 2021.

11. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Council postponed the discussion about a permanent memorial to mark the event and the nomination of a Festival Community Champion until the next meeting.

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

12. Correspondence

a) The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 4th June 2021 to 1st July 2021.

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett referred to an email received from a resident complaining about nettles in the wildflower meadow at Eastbridge Common. Cllr. Brett said the email was impolite and it was not an acceptable way to write to the Clerk. It was agreed to accept that there is a problem with nettles in the wildflower meadow though not to the extent reported by the resident. Cllr. Brett agreed to contact a garden maintenance contractor to ask if the nettles can be cut back and the roots sprayed. Cllr. Brett further agreed to respond to the resident asking him to modify his manner when writing to the Clerk and to raise the lack of maintenance to repair the potholes on the track which is the responsibility of the three residents.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to contact a garden contractor and respond to resident.

13. Questions to the Chair/Items for Next Agenda

a) Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that one resident was opposed to the implementation of a speed limit in Eastbridge.

b) Cllr. Stephen Morphey asked for, and received, authorisation to service the lawnmower. Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that the strimmer had been sent for repair by a village volunteer and an invoice will be submitted shortly.

14. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 4th August 2021 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 7:30 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

This month has been all about preparing for the Issue Specific Hearings being held this week and next week.

We also submitted a variety of comments on EDF's responses to the ExA's questions ExQ1.

We are fortunate in that we have had several very able experts to review a number of aspects of EDF's proposal and ExQ1 responses covering Socio-economic, Transport, Finance, Coastal geomorphology and CO2 Lifecycle Assessments.

Interestingly EDF submitted a new LCA for SZC recently which changed the claims that were made for Hinkley Point but unsubstantiated to the HPC Examination and repeatedly refused to publish despite our asking every which way we could. The CO2 numbers have gone up but not appreciably but still make some rather bold claims about including more conservative Uranium mining and decommissioning contributions.

Further details and modelling of the Hard Coastal Defence and Soft Coastal Defence have now been submitted to the ExA and these are being examined by a number of our coastal expert group. There are still significant questions about the design and EDF's understanding of the ground conditions and the ability of the foreshore to cope with the weight of the HCDF and also about their ground improvement strategy which remains sketchy.

The Accompanied Site Inspections including the one to Hinkley Point have now been completed and seem to have been an attempt by EDF as glossy show exercise by EDF about what they are doing rather than sticking to being an informative and factual exercise which is the requirement of the ExA. At one point on the HPC trip one of the Hinkley staff was told by the inspectors to stop gushing about how good they were being and describe what we were viewing. Unfortunately, the HPC visit was much shorter than it should have been due to a slow and confused start and the inspectors having to leave over an hour earlier than the timetable indicated.

Interestingly, the government has recently stated that it will not allow its Green Bonds for individual savers or institutional investors to be used to fund nuclear projects. There is also a significant push for nuclear to be left out of the EU's green taxonomy for investment with only France and Czech Republic supporting nuclear's inclusion.

The updated examination timetable currently is given below.

Accompanied and Unaccompanied Site inspections	8 - 10 June
EDF Changes Consultation	11 June to 12 July (midday)
Hinkley Point C Site visit	22 June
Issue Specific Hearings Draft DCO and s106/Deed of Obligation Transport Socio-economic and Community Issues Landscape and Visual Impact Coastal geomorphology Biodiversity, Ecology and Marine	6 June 7 & 8 June 9 June 13 July 14 July 15 & 16 July
Deadline 5	23 July
Compulsory Acquisition Hearings More visits/Open Floor Hearings/ Issue Specific hearings	Mid August Mid September
Examination must end	14 October

2 T&E Parish Council

Councillor Bickers has now been put into contact with an estate agent who has offered to do some house valuations within the parish to get a feel for the current level of blight that the area is subject to. We know that some houses are taking longer to sell at prices that perhaps were set without factoring in the threat of the Sizewell development and ending up selling at a reduced price.

We did submit comments to the Local Impact Report at Deadline3 and incorporated several issues that Cllr. Bonnett provided and we will use these in the Issue Specific Hearing on Friday. A copy of the LIR Comments is also attached to this report.

The Parish Council will be represented at the first four Issue Specific Hearings this week. For the two transport hearings I will speak on behalf of T&EPC as well as Stop Sizewell C and B1122 Action Group. I will also speak at the DCO and either myself or Cllr. Brett will speak at the Socio-economic and Community Issues hearing on Friday.

I've looked at the changes consultation that includes the Pretty Road upgraded bridge proposals to allow vehicular crossing instead of the prior pedestrian/equestrian bridge proposal and I can see nothing that raises any concerns for the parish. As a result, I am not sure that a response other than affirming our support for the Pretty Road bridge should the Sizewell C project and Sizewell Link Road does get approved. However, for EDF to have only belatedly come to the conclusion that stopping up all roads from the B1122 towards Saxmundham was perhaps not a good idea and come to this belated response reflects the lack of listening to local residents' views over many years and multiple consultations. I would also point out that, as a Parish, we remain fundamentally opposed to the SZC project on multiple levels.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

No further comments.

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

No further comments.

Appendix II – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 10th June 2021

Barclays Current Account	£3,701.08
Barclays Savings Account	£13,957.52
	£17,658.60

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
	£4,627.34

Bank Balance less Reserves	£13,031.26
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Payments – June 2021

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£252.42
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Business Services at CAS Ltd – Insurance Renewal	£477.21
SALC – Internal Audit Fee	£292.80
	£1,040.42

Net Balance	£11,990.84
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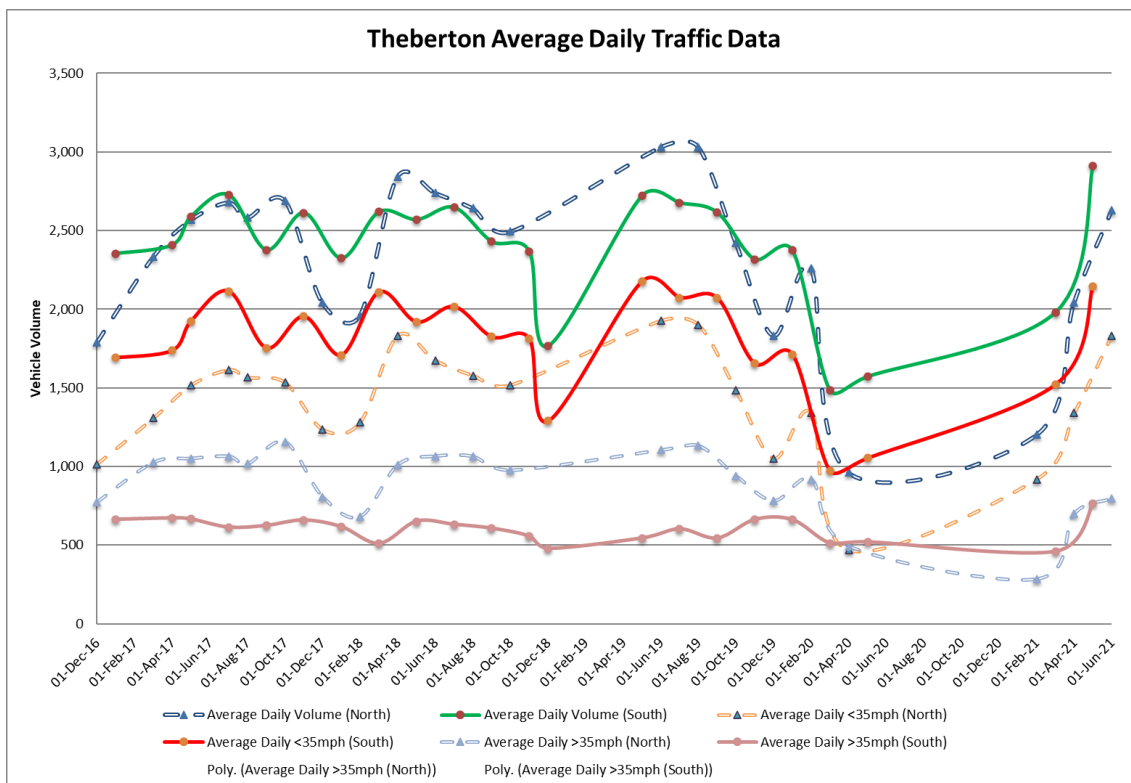
Appendix III – Speed Indicator Device

The speed indicator device has been operational for forty-seven ~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 26% 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.

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.



SID Start Date	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	06-Apr-21	06-May-21	05-Jun-21
Average Daily Volume (North)		1,833		2,260		961		1,202		2,042		2,630
Average Daily Volume (South)	2,317		2,374		1,487		1,574		1,981		2,912	
Total Vehicles (North)		29,324		36,162		17,304		14,428		20,421		34,187
Total Vehicles (South)	34,762		37,990		22,310		26,761		25,749		34,947	
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)		16,817		21,461		8,421		11,030		13,415		23,825
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)	24,821		27,414		14,622		17,922		19,770		25,767	
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)		12,507		14,701		8,883		3,398		7,006		10,362
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)	9,941		10,576		7,688		8,839		5,979		9,180	
Average Daily <35mph (North)		1,051		1,341		468		919		1,341		1,833
Average Daily <35mph (South)	1,654		1,713		975		1,054		1,521		2,147	
Average Daily >35mph (North)		782		919		493		283		701		797
Average Daily >35mph (South)	663		661		512		520		460		765	
85th percentile speed North (mph)		41.4		41.2		44.0		37.6		39.2		38.8
85th percentile speed South (mph)	39.4		39.2		40.9		40.2		37.7		37.8	
% <35mph (North)		57.3%		59.3%		48.7%		76.4%		65.7%		69.7%
% <35mph (South)	71.4%		72.2%		65.5%		67.0%		76.8%		73.7%	
% >35mph (North)		42.7%		40.7%		51.3%		23.6%		34.3%		30.3%
% >35mph (South)	28.6%		27.8%		34.5%		33.0%		23.2%		26.3%	

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