

**MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7:00 PM AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair
Cllr. Hilary Ward – Vice-Chair
Cllr. Stephen Morphey
Cllr. Paul Collins
Cllr. Laura Bonnett
Cllr. Nat Bacon

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Adam Hurrell – written and accepted
Cllr. Tom Lagden – written and accepted
District Cllr. Tom Daly
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

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

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

None.

3. Public Forum

a) County Cllr. Smith reported that the County Council's budget setting for next financial year is on course and the final decision will be taken in two weeks. Cllr. Smith said the proposed 2.99% increase is likely to be approved and this is the maximum the County Council can increase its precept without calling a referendum. 75% of the County's total budget is spent caring for the elderly, disabled and vulnerable and on safeguarding children. The County Council do not intend to cut any services this year as central government has been more generous than expected which has helped to balance the budget with only £1.5 million drawn from reserves. However Highways still has a relatively small budget of £15 million.

Cllr. Smith informed the Council that £3 billion of funding under the government's national 'Bus Back Better' strategy has been cut to £1.2 billion. The County Council has applied for funding of £1.7 million but the fund has been hugely oversubscribed. Cllr. Smith said some may be given the full grant, some part of the grant, and some none, so they may need to reprioritise. He hopes to hear if Suffolk's funding bid has been successful by the end of the month.

b) District Cllr. Russ Rainger summarised the Ward Members' previously circulated report. People are being encouraged to report any parking issues via the District Council's website to enable parking enforcement to target problem areas. Cllr. Rainger asked the Council to respond to the Community Transport Survey for Aldeburgh, Leiston and surrounding villages. Cllr. Rainger informed the Council that the Customer Services team will be available for face-to-face community engagement at Leiston Library on Fridays. Cllr. Rainger concluded his report by informing the Council that the government department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced that they are looking for more coordination with energy projects. The County and District Councils support this stance. Previously, energy providers had to opt-in to engage with others but the emphasis is now on carrying out due diligence beforehand and working with neighbouring projects.

Cllr. Stephen Brett asked Cllr. Rainger for his opinion on the planning application for permission for geotechnical trials for the enabling works of the proposed Sizewell C project. Cllr. Rainger replied that the project keeps proceeding at risk, including planning consent, finance, water availability, etc. There are a number of unknowns which EDF keep chipping away at.

c) Cllr. Hilary Ward read out a letter on behalf of a member of the public, remaining impartial to any content. The Council noted the letter.

4. Minutes

Cllr. Paul Collins proposed that the Council approves the minutes of the meeting on 12th January 2022. Seconded by Cllr. Laura Bonnett. All in favour.

5. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

a) Energy Projects – Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I. With regard to the Property Price Support Scheme, there is no update from EDF and market valuations of properties in the parish are underway. The Council agreed to attend a virtual meeting with National Grid Electricity Transmission to discuss the Sea Link project. Cllr. Paul Collins tabled a draft letter to EDF setting out the mitigation necessary for the B1122 in the early years' construction phase of Sizewell C and to seek clarification on a number of issues.

ACTION: Clerk to respond to NGET. Clerk to circulate Cllr. Paul Collins letter for comments/approval.

b) Theberton Village Sign – the Council noted the damage caused to the verge by vehicles disregarding the SCC Highways closure of the B1122. A resident subsequently repaired the verge. Cllr. Nat Bacon agreed to level the surface around the village sign with topsoil and to tidy up the growth. The Council will then consider a planting scheme to improve the appearance of the area.

ACTION: Cllr. Nat Bacon to level ground and cut back growth. Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

c) Jubilee Heritage Trail – Cllr. Laura Bonnett updated the Council on behalf of Cllr. Tom Lagden. An initial meeting of the working party was held and a second meeting has been arranged. An exhibition is planned during the celebration for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to showcase the ideas and to gather residents' views. Cllr. Laura Bonnett circulated a mock-up of one of the heritage information boards which received the Council's approval. Residents with local accents are being sought to record their memories of the parish which will be accessed via a QR code on the information boards.

d) Eastbridge Common – Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that the wildflower meadow has been cut and cleared. The nettles still require spraying. The Council noted that there are a number of large potholes in the track and agreed to write to the residents to remind them of their responsibility to maintain the track. A further letter will be written to one resident to remind him that parking is not permitted on the track and vehicles must be parked within his own property curtilage.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to contact contract gardener to spray nettles. Clerk to draft letters to residents.

e) Eastbridge Burial Ground Shed – Cllr. Stephen Morphey agreed to take the refurbishment project forward and to ask Cllr. Adam Hurrell to assist.

f) Community Council/Jubilee Hall Management Committee – Cllr. Hilary Ward provided the Council with an update from both committees. The Council noted the call for new members for both committees.

g) Speed Indicator Device – the latest report is attached as Appendix II.

h) Police Crime Report – the Clerk said two violence/sexual offences were reported in Doughty-Wylie Crescent in December 2021.

i) Quiet Lanes – the Council agreed the positions of the signage poles on Pretty Road, Moat Road, Onner's Lane, Potters Street, Church Road, Hawthorn Road and Cemetery Road.

ACTION: Clerk to inform SCC Highways.

6. Parish Matters

a) The Clerk reported that SCC Highways refused permission for a grit bin to be sited in the layby at Doughty-Wylie Crescent as the land is privately owned and adjacent to the B1122 which is a primary gritting route. The Council agreed to write to Flagship Homes and ask them to provide a solution and also for permission to site a bench next to the bus stop.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Flagship Homes.

b) The Council decided not to designate stretches of verges for delayed cutting for reasons of safety and visibility. As an alternative, it was agreed to consider setting aside areas in both playing fields for wildflower meadows at a later date.

c) The quotation to replace the gold inlay on the village signs was not yet available.

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

d) The Council accepted a quotation for £464.17 from Sovereign to supply a new basketball backboard for Theberton playing field.

ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to order. Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Nat Bacon to fit.

e) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that a resident has offered to cut the hedges at the Burial Ground and the Playing Field free of charge. The outside of the hedges will be cut this year and the inside next year. The Council recorded a vote of thanks to the resident.

f) Cllr. Laura Bonnett offered to collect the free Treebilee oak tree from the District Council's offices.

7. Consultations

The Council considered the ESC Community Governance Review and decided not to respond.

8. Finance

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

b) The Clerk informed the Council that two further fraudulent Direct Debits had been taken from the Premium Account. The Clerk reported these to Barclays who will investigate.

c) The Council noted the bank reconciliation for Quarter 3 2021-2022.

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

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£257.00	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£21.16	LGA 1972 s.111
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith (BT)	£28.99	LGA 1972 s.19

10. Administration

a) The Council conducted the annual review of the Model Standing Orders.

b) The Council conducted the annual review of the Model Financial Regulations.

11. Correspondence

The Council noted the correspondence received between 7th January 2022 and 3rd February 2022.

12. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

The “Come Along Together” event at Snape Maltings, originally scheduled for early February, it has now been moved back to Sunday 24th April. Further details will be available shortly.

At short notice, we were made aware of the visit of Secretary of State, Kwasi Kwarteng to the Sizewell site as part of the announcement of £100m loan funding for EDF to assist in bringing the project to a Financial Investment Decision. There are many caveats in the announcement concerning planning permission and value for money assessments, but we were dismayed by the apparent enthusiasm of the SoS and have questioned his ability to take an impartial stand in the eventual planning decision given his “quasi-judicial role” in the process, a question about which we will be taking legal advice on.

We did manage to get approximately 80-100 people to demonstrate at the Sizewell site entrance but unfortunately missed the SoS’s earlier entrance to the site but not his exit. Alison was interviewed by Simon Jack for BBC National News and Charles Macdowell by Look East. ITV news and Suffolk Radio were also present

The visit of Declan Burke from BEIS (Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) went ahead on Friday 4th February despite a slight hiccup with one of the BEIS attendee’s trains being delayed.

However, Declan was given a tour of various sites associated with the SZC project with a drive over the Orwell bridge, through Wickham Market and past the southern park & ride, a stop at the two villages bypass start, outside Stratford St. Andrew, at the Sizewell Link Road/A12 roundabout, past the new Yoxford roundabout and up to the Darsham park & ride, along the B1122 to Moat Road and the end of the SLR, down Eastbridge Road past the site entrance roundabout and campus and on to RSPB Win Hill where Adam Rowlands gave him a briefing about the extent of the site across the Minsmere Levels and potential impacts.

We then travelled to Snape, going via Friston and the SPR substation site and pointing out one of the potential Nautilus Interconnector substation sites close to the Snape crossroads, for the meeting with the 40 Town and Parish Councils and a number of NGOs including the AONB, Anglian Energy Planning Alliance, RSPB, TASC, Stop Sizewell C and Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth.

Following a short lunch of soup and sandwiches, the 80 or so attendees went into the Britten Studio for the meeting.

Tim Beach (Snape) chaired the session and after a brief introduction Declan explained his role within BEIS, as the Director of New Nuclear Development for BEIS. He has previously worked on the Wylfa proposal, and his role is looking at large new nuclear but also SMRs, AMRs and Fusion technologies. His group within BEIS will not deal with the report from the PINS Examining Authority to the Secretary of State, as that will be handled by a separate group who specifically deal with Planning issues.

Following Declan’s introduction four sessions were each introduced with a short review by a councillor and followed by a series of pre-submitted questions and open Q&A. The four sessions were as follows.

- Community Impact and Consultation (Marianne Fellowes – Aldeburgh)
- Transport (Richard Cooper – Marlesford)
- Environment and Water (Paul Collins – Theberton & Eastbridge)
- Cumulative Impact (Michael Mahoney – Friston)

The meeting finished at 3:00 and Tim Beach returned the BEIS team to Ipswich for their train back to London.

2 T&E Parish Council

No further progress on the Property Price Support Scheme, from an EDF perspective. However, Tim Day, of Suffolk Coastal estate agency, has now begun the current market valuations.

The Post Examination/Deadline 10 Consultation and Examination Summary document was sent to PINS on 30th January. No acknowledgement was received so I have chased PINS up to confirm the documents were received.

Cllrs Brett, Ward and I met with EDF's transportation consultants, WSP, and Steve Merry of SCC on Thursday 27th January to review B1122 plans for the Early Years of the SZC project.

Proposals and plans for the Pretty Road, Church Lane, Moat Road and Potter Street junctions with the B1122 were discussed. These include widening B1122 opposite Pretty Road, changing the radius of the Church Lane junction and pushing the Junction further into the B1122 to improve visibility, significant issues with visibility at the Moat Road junction towards Leiston and the effective closure to traffic exiting from Potters Street.

Changes to priorities on Potters Street/Onners Lane/Bakers Hill junction at Flash Corner would also encourage drivers from Eastbridge direction to exit using Onners Lane.

There seems to be agreement that the whole of the B1122 from the A12 junction at Yoxford to Leiston would be 30 mph with a 20mph section through Theberton starting and finishing at the first/last houses on B1122.

It has been confirmed that some permanent lighting would be required for any type of pedestrian crossing, but further information is still awaited.

Steve Merry is requesting for additional project schedule information from EDF to find out when both Pretty Road and Moat Road are likely to be closed as part of the Sizewell Link Road construction. I have also asked that he find out whether the Pretty Road bridge would be constructed along the existing alignment, with an adjacent diversion to keep the access open during the build, or whether the bridge will be built off-alignment, with the existing Pretty Road available for use, whilst construction takes place. If Pretty Road remains open, one way or the other, it is likely to impact EDF's intentions to use the SLR during construction as a haul road. We await a response from EDF on these matters.

EDF will provide an update from WSP in due course.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

No further news.

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

No further news.

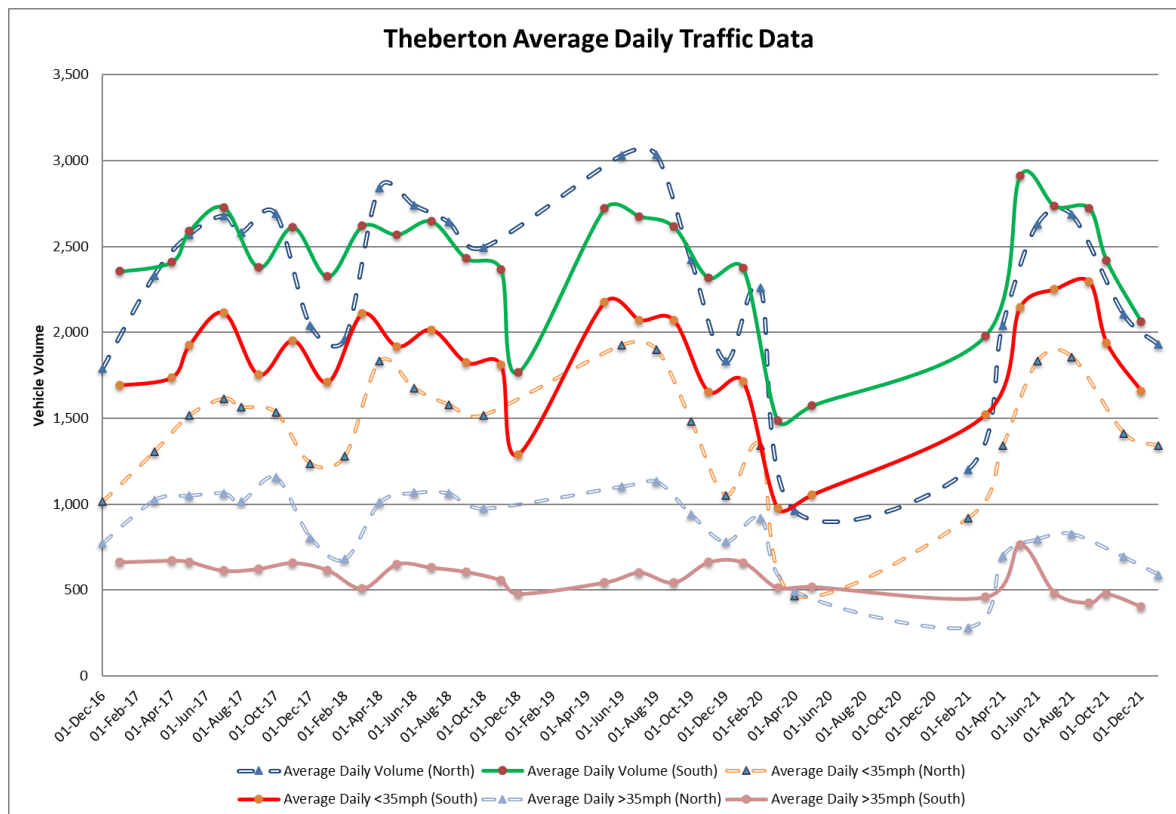
Appendix II – Speed Indicator Device

The speed indicator device has been operational for fifty-four ~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 hence the gap between May 2020 and March 2021 when the repaired SID returned to active monitoring.

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 **24.5%** from south.

The **85th percentile speed*** is back at close to 40mph with **40.4mph** from north and **38.1mph** 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	02-Feb-21	05-Mar-21	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
Average Daily Volume (North)	1,202		2,042		2,630		2,685			2,105		1,930
Average Daily Volume (South)		1,981		2,912		2,736		2,723	2,418		2,064	
Total Vehicles (North)	14,428		20,421		34,187		37,596			29,469		30,875
Total Vehicles (South)		25,749		34,947		43,773		43,574	29,021		30,965	
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	11,030		13,415		23,825		25,999			19,774		21,425
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		19,770		25,767		36,025		36,734	23,281		24,905	
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	3,398		7,006		10,362		11,597			9,695		9,450
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		5,979		9,180		7,748		6,840	5,740		6,060	
Average Daily <35mph (North)	919		1,341		1,833		1,857			1,412		1,339
Average Daily <35mph (South)		1,521		2,147		2,252		2,296	1,940		1,660	
Average Daily >35mph (North)	283		701		797		828			693		591
Average Daily >35mph (South)		460		765		484		427	478		404	
85th percentile speed North (mph)	37.6		39.2		38.8		38.7			39.0		38.7
85th percentile speed South (mph)		37.7		37.8		37.8		35.3	36.8		36.7	
% <35mph (North)	76.4%		65.7%		69.7%		69.2%			67.1%		69.4%
% <35mph (South)		76.8%		73.7%		82.3%		84.3%	80.2%		80.4%	
% >35mph (North)	23.6%		34.3%		30.3%		30.8%			32.9%		30.6%
% >35mph (South)		23.2%		26.3%		17.7%		15.7%	19.8%		19.6%	

Appendix III – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 13th January 2022

Barclays Current Account	£1,244.19
Barclays Savings Account	£22,000.60
	<u>£23,244.79</u>

Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£2,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£650.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£1,770.82
Jubilee Hall Broadband Grant	£507.81
Jubilee Hall Broadband Fund	£150.00
Platinum Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
	<u>£15,078.63</u>

Bank Balance less Reserves **£8,166.16**

Income – February 2022

DS Memorials – Headstone for Sitch	£75.00
------------------------------------	---------------

Payments – January/February 2022

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£257.00
Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Expenses	£20.66
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£28.99
Leiston Library – Donation	£50.00
East Suffolk Norse – Litter Bin	£409.54
	<u>£784.18</u>

Net Balance **£7,456.98**