

# MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 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. Graham Bickers  
Cllr. Nat Bacon

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Paul Collins – written and accepted  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

### In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith  
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
4 members of the public

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

None.

## 3. Public Forum

County Cllr. Richard Smith, referring to the recent County Council election, said he would remain as the division's Councillor for four years but following this there is likely to be a change to the boundaries. Villages currently in the Blything division will be included in a new large area represented by a new County Councillor. These proposals by the Boundary Commission are subject to consultation but are likely to take effect in four years.

Cllr. Smith reported that the Leader of the Council asked him to re-join the Cabinet with responsibility for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste. Cllr. Smith said Economic Development was important coming out of COVID and Transport Strategy concerned the future of roads and rail in the county, but not operational matters.

With regard to Sizewell C, Cllr. Smith praised the Council for its superb joint Written Representation with Stop Sizewell C. Cllr. Smith said that he took part in the Open Floor Hearings. As he was only permitted to speak for five minutes, he concentrated his remarks on the D2 route being preferable to the Sizewell Link Road and the bare concrete domes and stacks which will be noticeable landmarks. Cllr. Smith listened to the other contributions and said they were of a very high standard from knowledgeable people. He hoped they had some effect on the Examining Authority. He said Sizewell C was not a done deal yet and there was a good chance that the Examining Authority will recommend refusal to the Secretary of State. It will then be for the Secretary to make his decision and for funding to be found. Cllr. Smith said he was disappointed that EDF have issued another round of public consultation as people are worn out.

Cllr. Smith said he wished to use his Locality Budget 2021/22 to mark in a permanent way the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 and offered the Council a contribution of £500 to mark this event with a small but significant memorial should they choose to do so.

**ACTION: Clerk to add Queen's Platinum Jubilee to next month's agenda.**

Cllr. Stephen Brett asked Cllr. Smith if it was true that the footpaths in the parish are due to be cut twice this year but only once next year and not at all the following year. Cllr. Smith replied that he would find out and report back.

Cllr. Brett informed Cllr. Smith that EDF were supportive of introducing a speed limit in Eastbridge and may be able to provide funding. Cllr. Smith said the Council also has his full support and he would look into how to progress this.

Cllr. Brett informed Cllr. Smith that badgers have excavated a large hole under the Minsmere Sluice footpath. A section is at risk of collapse and is therefore dangerous to walkers. Cllr. Brett said he reported this to the Public Rights of Way department but he has not yet received a response. Cllr. Smith replied that they should reply within 10 days but, if they do not, to contact them again and say that the Council will involve its County Councillor in the matter.

Cllr. Graham Bickers spoke to Cllr. Smith about the poor condition of roads in the parish due to the resurfacing delaminating. His report to the Highways department has not resulted in any repair work. Cllr. Smith replied that Highways are undertaking some priority resurfacing work but if the Council has not been notified of the work then it is likely it will not be done this year.

#### **4. Casual Vacancies**

Cllr. Stephen Brett said there was currently three vacancies for Councillors and four applicants, who were all present at the meeting. The Clerk, having taken advice from SALC, advised the Council on the voting process. Votes were taken and Laura Bonnett, Adam Hurrell and Tom Lagden each received an absolute majority of votes. The Council resolved to co-opt the three successful applicants. The co-opted members signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms, they were witnessed by the Clerk, and they joined the Council with immediate effect. The unsuccessful applicant was encouraged to re-apply when a vacancy arises.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council of the appointments.**

#### **5. Minutes**

- a) It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett, seconded by Cllr. Graham Bickers, and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.
- b) It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett, seconded by Cllr. Nat Bacon, and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.
- c) It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Nat Bacon, and agreed that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

#### **6. Energy Projects**

- a) The Council noted Cllr. Paul Collins' previously circulated report attached as Appendix I.
- b) Cllr. Stephen Brett said that EDF's Minor Changes consultation will include the proposals for a Pretty Road bridge therefore another public meeting will need to be held to hear the residents' views.
- c) Cllr. Stephen Brett said he and Cllr. Nat Bacon attended the Accompanied Site Inspections with the Examining Authority. Cllr. Brett said that due to the B1122 being used in the early years of construction to bring in aggregate it was important to push EDF for footpaths and pedestrian crossings. Cllr. Bacon agreed and said important, detailed mitigation was needed. Cllr. Laura Bonnett said cycle routes were also needed.
- c) Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that he was continuing to research property blight at Hinkley Point C. He said evidence was beginning to be established but since EDF brought in Lidia Bosa, a Property Mitigation Manager, there has been no compensation paid in terms of property blight. Ms Bosa is now also an EDF facilitator for Land and Stakeholder Engagement for Sizewell C. Cllr. Bickers advised that as the Council is a public body it cannot instigate legal action against EDF for property blight as this needs to be undertaken by a lease or landholder. Cllr. Bickers suggested that members of the community could be approached to provide a financial contribution to enable a small group of residents to engage a blighting solicitor to engage with EDF. Cllr. Stephen Brett said that it would be difficult to ask residents to contribute to fight potential blighting particularly if they have no intention to sell. Cllr. Bickers agreed to draft a letter to residents for consideration at the next meeting. Cllr. Nat Bacon agreed to research the process to demonstrate if EDF's proposals for Sizewell C have affected property values. Cllr. Bickers also advised that a dating point needs to be established to begin monitoring current levels of quiescent noise, light, air and dust pollution, day and night, to use as a comparison when construction begins.

#### **7. Highways**

- a) County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that the County Council has purchased 10 portable ANPR cameras for loaning around sites in the county for a period of one week to discourage speeding. Cllr. Stephen Brett suggested applying for a camera for either end of Theberton village where the Speed

Indicator Device is sited.

**ACTION: County Cllr. Richard Smith to ascertain the application process and report back.**

b) The Clerk reported that the owner of the tree with the dead branch overhanging the B1122 has arranged for a tree surgeon to remove it however this will require a temporarily road closure and she asked for the Council's advice how to arrange this. The Council agreed that they had no leverage with Highways to arrange road closures and said that her tree surgeon should be able to advise her.

**ACTION: Clerk to notify resident.**

c) The Council noted three complaints from residents about the timing of the County Council's verge cutting which they would prefer to be undertaken later in the year. Following a discussion, the Council agreed that verge cutting was necessary for highway safety reasons especially to improve the visibility of pedestrians and cyclists for agricultural vehicles. It was agreed that there are large areas of wild flowers in the parish therefore the loss of a one metre strip along the roadside was negligible.

## **8. Planning**

Cllr. Graham Bickers updated the Council about the letter and survey sent to all East Suffolk Town and Parish Councils regarding ESC's Planning Protocol. Cllr. Bickers said that a number of good quality responses have been received, some from large Councils. 31 Councils have responded which is a fifth of the total written to. 20 Councils agreed that ESC are not clear with their decision making. It was agreed that Cllr. Bickers should approach SALC and ask them to present this evidence to ESC.

## **9. Playing Fields/Burial Ground**

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett said he was waiting for a volunteer's availability to create the petanque piste.

b) Cllr. Stephen Morphey reported that he contacted Suffolk Coastal Norse about the litter bins in Eastbridge. He was advised that Norse only empty their own bins therefore the Council will need to purchase two new bins, one for the playing field and one for the burial ground, costing £240 each which includes installation. Norse then charge £1 to empty each bin and this can be daily, weekly or monthly. Cllr. Morphey said he and Cllr. Graham Bickers moved the existing litter bin (which may have a Norse logo) at the playing field to a new position. They plan to photograph it and send this and a map of its location to Norse and ask them to empty it.

c) Cllr. Hilary Ward agreed to source 'no dogs' signs for both playing fields and the Eastbridge burial ground.

d) Cllr. Stephen Morphey and Cllr. Graham Bickers agreed to order materials to repair the Burial Ground shed and store them at Cllr. Stephen Brett's farm.

## **10. Progress Reports**

a) The Council noted the latest Speed Indicator Device report attached as Appendix III.

b) Quiet Lanes – the Clerk reported that the remaining seven roads in the parish – Hawthorn Road, George Road, Saxmundham Road, Abbey Lane, Buckleswood Lane, Eastbridge Road and Harrow Lane – will be included in the next wave of the Quiet Lanes Scheme.

**ACTION: Clerk to prepare a letter to residents to be published in the newsletter and add to next month's public forum to hear residents' views.**

c) Police - the Clerk said two crimes were reported in April 2021. There was one public order offence in Doughty-Wylie Crescent in Theberton and one violence/sexual offence on Baker's Hill in Eastbridge.

d) Jubilee Hall Broadband - the Clerk reported on the problems with installing broadband in Jubilee Hall. The hall's address is not registered with Royal Mail and therefore does not appear on BT's database. The Clerk explained to BT that the adjoining cottage was a separate property but unfortunately BT's

engineer installed the broadband and disconnected the landline service at the adjoining cottage. The Clerk and the Chairman apologised to the cottage owner and the error has now been rectified.

**ACTION: Clerk to register Jubilee Hall's address with Royal Mail and instruct BT again.**

With the agreement of the Council, the Chairman extended the meeting by 15 minutes.

## **11. Annual Accounts/Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**

The Council approved the following documents:

- a) the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2020-2021.
- b) the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the AGAR.
- c) the Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the AGAR.
- d) the bank reconciliation for the financial year 2020-2021.
- e) the period for the exercise of public rights from 14<sup>th</sup> June to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021.

## **12. Finance**

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position attached as Appendix II.
- c) The Council agreed to renew the tractor insurance policy with NFU Mutual.
- d) It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Graham Bickers, and agreed to authorise the payments listed below. All in favour.

<b>Details</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Power</b>
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£248.42	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£56.41	LGA 1972 s.111
Website Hosting	One Suffolk	£60.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Speed Indicator Device Battery	Paul Collins	£44.58	LGA 1972 s.111
Tractor Insurance	NFU Mutual	£45.30	LGA 1972 s.111

## **13. Correspondence**

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.

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

- a) Cllr. Stephen Morphey updated the Council about the Dark Skies Project. It was agreed to ask Dash Astro to survey the night sky in three areas in the parish for star quality.
- b) Cllr. Hilary Ward agreed to look into the cost of replacing the basketball hoop at Theberton playing field.
- c) Following a request from the Clerk, Cllr. Tom Lagden agreed to register The Eel's Foot as an Asset of Community Value. Cllr. Laura Bonnett agreed to research whether land could also be protected from development by registering it as an ACV.

## **15. Next Meeting**

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

## Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

### 1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

There is little to report other than the fact that this month was all about the Open Floor Hearings at which our Chair spoke on our behalf and the deadline 2 submissions. I spoke on behalf of Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group and Alison spoke on behalf of Stop Sizewell C. There were about 140 presentations at the Open Floor Hearings in total, which is an incredibly good turnout. The speakers were, on the whole, forthright and factual although some of the presenters went into such detail on the difficulties of rail transport movements, that they lost me but clearly knew their stuff and another retired rail signalman from Halesworth also had significant questions on the rail proposals.

We were surprised that EDF did not have their barrister fronting the team, unlike the Preliminary Hearings. They relied upon Carly Vince, Tom McGarry and Richard Bull to represent them.

Having said that, not a word was uttered until it came to the lack of a bat license for the felling of Coronation Wood when Ms. Vince assured the ExA that a bat license was indeed given. In fact, from our understanding, it was given after the wood had been felled and this has yet to be clarified, although we are 99.9% sure the license was not in place for the felling.

Having said that the felling was done on behalf of SZB and EDF Generation Company, rather than Sizewell C Company, so they may not have had all the facts regarding the precise sequence of events.

Ms. Vince stated they were listening and would respond to all the Open Floor Hearing presentations in writing at a later deadline.

I have attached the joint Community Impacts Written Representation and a summary version (<1,500 words) that was submitted both by Stop Sizewell C and Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council. Councillors Nat Bacon, Graham Bickers and our Chair all contributed to ensuring our points that were not already within the document, were added.

Other documents that we submitted were the transcript of the Open Floor Hearing presentation (Cllr. Brett), T&EPC response to Examiners Questions (ExQ1) two of which we asked of Parish and Town Councils in general.

I have also attached a list of all the reports that were submitted by Stop Sizewell C in support of this overall representation. All documents that were over 1,500 words in length were also submitted with a summary document of less than 1,500 words. So, as you can see the list is a long one and Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June was a very long day as a result. I know our chair submitted his last document at about 11:45pm which was only slightly later than my last submission.

Now to the future, more deadlines and meetings to come. Accompanied Site Inspections are taking place 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June and Councillor Brett, Alison Downes and Bill Parker (on behalf of MLSG who the retired ex-head and founder of Coastal Protection East) is are involved in those visits. I will be on the Accompanied Site Visit to Hinkley Point C on 22<sup>nd</sup> June representing T&E Parish Council, Stop Sizewell C and Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group. There are at least two councillors from Aldeburgh Town Council attending, not sure how many others.

Lastly, EDF have just announced yet another consultation starting on 11<sup>th</sup> June and running until midday 12<sup>th</sup> July. One of the items that will be in this consultation will be the change to the Pretty Road bridge. Documents will be available from EDF on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

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	Early/mid 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**

Cllr. Brett presented at the Open Floor Hearing on behalf of T&EPC.

A fourth meeting between EDF and T&EPC will be held later in June at a date to be determined. Once the meetings are completed, we propose to submit a summary report for inclusion in Parish records.

We did receive the Local Impact Report draft from East Suffolk Council and were invited to review and make suggestions. Unfortunately, we were too late to get our small amendments made to be included in the ESC submission, but we can make our comments by Deadline 3 (24<sup>th</sup> June).

## **3 Scottish Power DCO Examination**

No further comments.

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

National Grid are now suggesting that a non-statutory consultation for the Nautilus interconnector will start in the summer as part of the NSIP process. The timeline in the document that accompanied the notification has the construction starting in 2025 and operation beginning 2028, subject to DCO approval.

## Appendix II – Financial Position

### Bank Balances as at 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Barclays Current Account	£4,131.77
Barclays Savings Account	£14,017.52
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	<b>£18,149.29</b>

### 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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	<b>£4,627.34</b>

**Bank Balance less Reserves** **£13,521.95**

### Payments – May 2021

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£248.42
Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Expenses	£56.41
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Paul Collins – Speed Indicator Device Battery	£44.58
Community Action Suffolk – Website Hosting	£60.00
NFU Mutual – Tractor Insurance	£45.30
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	<b>£472.70</b>

**Net Balance** **£13,049.25**

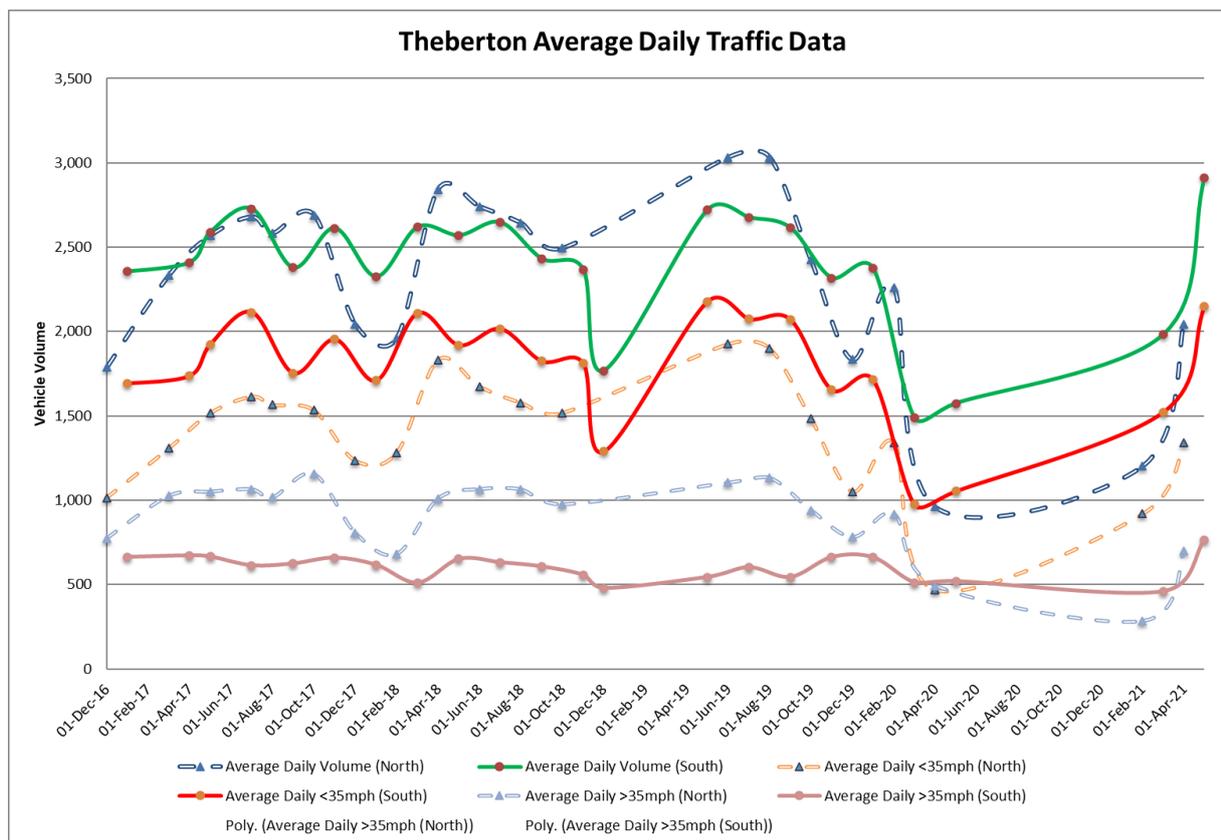
## Appendix III – Speed Indicator Device

The speed indicator device has been operational for forty-six ~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, 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 34% from north and from 28% to 26% from south.

The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed\* is back at close to 40mph with 40.7mph 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	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	06-Apr-21	06-May-21
Average Daily Volume (North)	2,424		1,833		2,260		961		1,202		2,042	
Average Daily Volume (South)		2,317		2,374		1,487		1,574		1,981		2,912
Total Vehicles (North)	43,631		29,324		36,162		17,304		14,428		20,421	
Total Vehicles (South)		34,762		37,990		22,310		26,761		25,749		34,947
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	26,699		16,817		21,461		8,421		11,030		13,415	
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		24,821		27,414		14,622		17,922		19,770		25,767
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	16,932		12,507		14,701		8,883		3,398		7,006	
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		9,941		10,576		7,688		8,839		5,979		9,180
Average Daily <35mph (North)	1,483		1,051		1,341		468		919		1,341	
Average Daily <35mph (South)		1,654		1,713		975		1,054		1,521		2,147
Average Daily >35mph (North)	941		782		919		493		283		701	
Average Daily >35mph (South)		663		661		512		520		460		765
<b>85th percentile speed North (mph)</b>	<b>40.7</b>		<b>41.4</b>		<b>41.2</b>		<b>44.0</b>		<b>37.6</b>		<b>39.2</b>	
<b>85th percentile speed South (mph)</b>		<b>39.4</b>		<b>39.2</b>		<b>40.9</b>		<b>40.2</b>		<b>37.7</b>		<b>37.8</b>
% <35mph (North)	61.2%		57.3%		59.3%		48.7%		76.4%		65.7%	
% <35mph (South)		71.4%		72.2%		65.5%		67.0%		76.8%		73.7%
% >35mph (North)	38.8%		42.7%		40.7%		51.3%		23.6%		34.3%	
% >35mph (South)		28.6%		27.8%		34.5%		33.0%		23.2%		26.3%

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