

**MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7:00 PM**

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Hilary Ward - Vice Chair
Cllr. Stephen Morphey
Cllr. Philip Baskett
Cllr. Graham Bickers
Cllr. Beth Goose
Cllr. Nat Bacon
Cllr. Paul Collins

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Stephen Brett – written and accepted
Cllr. Julian Wallis
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
1 member of the public

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Public Forum

a) With regard to Sizewell C, Cllr. Richard Smith said the County Council will consider its response at a meeting to be held later in September. Cllr. Smith expects that the County Council will maintain its stance that, in principle, it is in favour but there remains many unanswered questions. Cllr. Smith said he is personally against Sizewell C for many reasons including the severe and long lasting effect on the environment and the effect on the roads; particularly whether the A12 can cope with EDF Energy's predicted traffic levels.

Cllr. Smith summarised the information he received from a recent briefing from the Director of Public Health about the coronavirus pandemic. Cllr. Smith said £74 million has been spent to date on COVID-19 and it is expected that only £34 million will be reimbursed from central government. This expenditure is unbudgeted but there are adequate reserves.

Cllr. Graham Bickers reported to Cllr. Smith that the standard of repair to parish roads a year ago was poor as there are large patches showing already in the road surfaces. The patches are due to delamination as the road surface was not cleaned properly prior to the new surface being laid down. Cllr. Smith asked Cllr. Bickers to report the matter online with photographs and to let him know the outcome.

ACTION: Cllr. Bickers to progress.

b) District Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf thanked Cllr. Richard Smith for his prudent budgeting when he had responsibility for Finance ensuring there were rainy day reserves. Cllr. Haworth-Culf referred to the latest government guidance on the coronavirus pandemic and the need to encourage and reinforce this in the parishes.

c) With reference to Sizewell C, District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond reported on the District Council's recent special meeting to consider its response. The Councillors were only allowed 5 minutes to speak which was a difficult amount of time to communicate their message. Cllr. Bond said that the data in the DCO application needs to be questioned extensively and she feels there are few benefits for the Ward and the mitigation measures are meaningless. Cllr. Smith replied that he agrees with Cllr. Bond as they do not want mitigation as they don't want the damage in the first

place. Cllr. Paul Collins said that District Cllr. Craig Rivett promised to respond in writing to many of the questions raised at the meeting which were unanswered. Cllr. T-J Haworth-Culf said she would follow this up.

Cllr. Graham Bickers thanked Cllr. Jocelyn Bond for her supportive comments about a recent planning application. Cllr. Bickers informed Cllr. Bond that the planning department are no longer sending letters to neighbours informing them of planning applications. Cllr. Bickers said this appears to be government policy due to the coronavirus pandemic as Officers previously hand delivered letters to properties. Cllr. Bickers asked why these cannot now be sent by post. Cllr. Bond said she would ask the question. In response to a final question from Cllr. Bickers, Cllr. Bond said she had no update about the lack of availability of an Enforcement Officer to report matters of concern but she was continuing to follow this up.

4. Minutes

a) It was proposed by Cllr. Beth Goose, seconded by Cllr. Graham Bickers, and agreed that the minutes of the virtual meeting of 12th August 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

b) It was proposed by Cllr. Beth Goose, seconded by Cllr. Graham Bickers, and agreed that the minutes of the virtual extraordinary meeting of 1st September 2020 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

5. Matters Arising

a) Cllr. Hilary Ward said that she wrote to the Community Council regarding the provision of further play equipment for Theberton playing field. The Clerk received a reply from the Vice-Chairperson, firstly expressing the Community Council's thanks and gratitude to the Parish Council for securing funding and having new play equipment installed and, secondly proposing to add further equipment for older children funded by the Community Council.

ACTION: Clerk to invite the Community Council to attend the next meeting.

b) Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that the gate in Theberton playing field will be installed by the end of this month.

c) Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that she had nominated two volunteers from the parish, who were helping those in need during the coronavirus pandemic, to the District Council for celebration.

d) Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that he had obtained a further quote to replace the Speed Indicator Device data collection system for £350. Cllr. Paul Collins replied that Westcotec said that the whole system may have failed entirely and that they would repair the whole unit.

ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers and Cllr. Paul Collins to discuss and arrange suitable repairs. Clerk to check whether repair costs are covered by the Council's insurance policy.

6. Energy Projects

The Council noted Cllr. Paul Collins previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I.

The Chair invited the member of the public to speak. The member of the public referred to the Council's intention to submit a joint Relevant Representation with Stop Sizewell C. He asked the Council to consider submitting a separate Relevant Representation to address the following matters. He suggested that the overriding priority of the Council must be to seek to mitigate the most severe effects of EDF's plans and to secure generous compensation where this is not possible. He said the DCO application and the draft response of the District Council contain almost no recognition of how acutely the quality of life in the parish is going to be diminished by the cumulative impacts of the development – noise, dust, air quality, road traffic, anti-social behaviour, etc. The location and particular personal circumstances of some residents will effectively result in

them being driven away from the parish, despite being unable to sell their property or at a very much reduced valuation. EDF's obligation to mitigate against the effects of the development must be kept constantly under review and specifically provided for in the terms of the DCO once it is confirmed by the Secretary of State. The member of the public asked the Council to press for relatively small amendments to EDF's plans which might help to make life more bearable. These include a bridge over the link road at Pretty Road to allow for easier access to amenities in Leiston and Saxmundham and to relieve congestion on the B1122, and a pedestrian crossing on the B1122 to improve road safety. He asked the Council to press the County Council, as Highways authority, to argue strongly for both in its own representations. The member of the public also asked the Council to look closely at the plans for the Borrow Pits and Stock Piles as it is not clear what EDF intends.

Cllr. Paul Collins replied that a separate Relevant Representation would need to be significantly different to the joint submission with Stop Sizewell C. He suggested that it could also refer to the repeated representations made to EDF over the eight years of consultation for adequate mitigation measures and how they have not met these requests.

Cllr. Graham Bickers referred to the recent traffic congestion in the parish due to a broken water main on the B1122. He said there must be a requirement for not only HGVs to be registered with EDF but also LGVs, buses and cars to ensure they only travel on designated routes. He said there are many more single track roads in the parish compared with the Hinkley Point C development. Cllr. Bickers also referred to blighting and its effect on properties and people who will live in close proximity to the development. Cllr. Bickers said that over the past eight years there has been an increasing negative effect on property sales in the parish due to the uncertainty caused by the proposed development. Cllr. Bickers feels that an urgent fund should be put in place by the government and/or EDF to assist local residents, who wish to relocate, to sell their properties at blight-free values.

Cllr. Paul Collins said during a discussion with Cllr. Stephen Brett they had identified further desirable mitigation measures such as speed limits in Eastbridge, soundproofing for houses alongside the B1122 and the monitoring of vibration to listed buildings including St. Peter's church.

Cllr. Nat Bacon questioned whether the Planning Inspectorate would concern itself with mitigation measures and blight. Cllr. Paul Collins replied that although the Inspectorate will examine the facts presented by EDF and the timing of the project, the Council will be permitted to ask for mitigation and for the development to be done in a different order. Cllr. Collins said the Council also needs to make its views about mitigation measures known to the Local Authorities.

ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to draft a further Relevant Representation and circulate for comments. Clerk to schedule an Extraordinary meeting at the end of September to approve both responses.

7. Theberton Playing Field

a) The Council postponed consideration of funding and building a petanque pitch.

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

b) Cllr. Hilary Ward proposed expenditure of £30 to Play Safety Ltd to create a tailored weekly checklist for Theberton playing field. The checklist can also be copied and tailored for Eastbridge playing field. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

c) The Council agreed to find a volunteer to strim around the play equipment as and when this is required on the two or three occasions during the year.

8. Parish Matters

a) The Council postponed consideration of the Roadside Verge Campaign.

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

b) Cllr. Graham Bickers, referring to his previously circulated report, proposed that the Council has no objections to planning application DC/20/3293/LBC – general refurbishment and internal alterations – Westhouse Farm, White House Road, Theberton. Seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to inform the planning department.

9. Finance

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

b) The Council noted the half-yearly budgeted versus actual income and expenditure report.

c) It was proposed by Cllr. Beth Goose, seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins, and agreed to authorise the payments listed below. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£194.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Zoom Meetings – Monthly Subscription	Sharon Smith	£3.60	LGA 1972 s.111
Parish Online Subscription	GeoXphere Ltd	£60.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Newsletter Printing	Leiston Press	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.142

10. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 7th August 2020 and 3rd September 2020.

11. Questions to the Chair

Cllr. Hilary Ward asked for, and received, support to write an open letter for publication in the village newsletter to record the Council's grateful thanks to the volunteers who have helped residents during the coronavirus pandemic.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 20:20 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

Our last meeting on 24th August we discussed two versions of the Relevant Representation, one at ~1500 words the other a shorter ~500 word version. Copies have been shared with other Parish and Town Councils through our work with the Anglia Energy Planning Alliance following Zoom meetings with attending councils.

We continue to place articles in national press and get targeted exposure in both ITV and BBC local news programs. A couple of articles in the Telegraph were un-solicited but helpful and show that some national momentum is gathering on several aspects of the SZC proposal.

Work is beginning through a collaborator to have some guidance for a response to at least one of the three Environment Agency permits required for Sizewell C.

Two reports by external experts have been published, one covering CO2 and the other a critique of EDF's economic case. Both have been provided to SCC and ESC after being reported in national newspapers. Points from the economics report were used in the ITV Anglia interview with Julia Pyke of EDF. Work is on-going refining the report on coastal effects and we have taken the original version down from our website for now.

Two face-to-face ticketed sessions at Theberton Church were held on 5th September with over 30 socially distanced attendees at each. Risk assessments were done for these meetings and attendees and helpers all complied with social distancing, face mask and sanitiser rules. Both ITV and BBC sent camera teams and interviews with both Alison and Bill Turnbull (who hosted the sessions) were made and reported in the evening news. A virtual session was also held on Monday 7th September at which there were about 50 attendees.

An outside face-face meeting with TEAGS donors was held in the garden at Theberton House on Friday 4th September to thank them for their continued support and give a brief update prior to the public events held the following day. Alison also let them know that she has extended her commitment to working for TEAGS through the DCO examination period.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 28th September by which time our own RR will be ready for approval.

2 T&E Parish Council

There has been a suggestion that we submit a separate Relevant Representation to the Planning Inspectorate which will allow us as a Parish to emphasise very specific issues and potential impact mitigation for the villages and residents.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

I have registered to speak at the first Open Floor Hearings 7-9th October. A date will be assigned shortly and notification should come through the Clerk.

I am now available to attend the initial examination hearing concerning the structure, procedures and timetable for the examination;

Dates of meeting: Wednesday 16 September 2020 and Tuesday 6 October 2020 (if required)

Arrangements conference: from 9.20am on both days

Meeting begins: 10.00am (Session 1) on both days

Venue: Virtual event

Notifications should be provided to the Clerk prior to the event.

Appendix II – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 13 August 2020

Barclays Current Account	£7,081.25
Barclays Savings Account	£17.40
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	£7,098.65

General and Earmarked Reserves

EDF Energy Grant - Work Party Tools	£132.58
General Reserves	£2,495.00
Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£1,000.00
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	£3,627.58

Bank Balance less Reserves **£3,471.07**

Payments - September 2020

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£194.50
Leiston Press – Newsletter Printing	£20.00
Sharon Smith – Zoom Meetings Monthly Subscription	£3.60
GeoXphere – Parish Online	£60.00
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	£278.10

Receipts – September 2020

Tony Brown's Funeral Services - Internment **£200.00**

Net Balance **£3,392.97**