

# MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 AT 7:00 PM

## 1. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett - Chair  
Cllr. Paul Collins  
Cllr. Bob Flindall  
Cllr. Stephen Morphey  
Cllr. Hazel Collins

### Apologies for absence:

District Cllr. Tony Cooper  
County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Russ Rainger  
District Cllr. Tom Daly – apologised  
Cllr. Hilary Ward - Vice Chair – apologised  
Cllr. Nat Bacon  
No members of the public

### In attendance:

Honor Houlding - Clerk/RFO

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

A new Clerk has been appointed, Honor Houlding and contract of employment has been signed by both Honor Houlding and Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair.

Honor would like to take part in as much training as available through SALC.

**ACTION:** Honor to sign up for new clerk trainings

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair. Addressed the meeting to confirm whether they would agree to the Work From Home Allowance as before mentioned by Ex-Clerk Sharon Smith.

All in favour

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair. Also explained how the parish had offered Honor her own laptop & printer however Honor would prefer to use her own equipment. However would the councillors agree to a £1 an hour work from home allowance, as paid by Honor's other employers to cover wear and tear on equipment, phone, laptop and use of mobile phone.

All in favour.

Sharon has talked to SALC – Sharon & Honor to sign end of year accounts. Sharon will complete end of year accounts and audit for year ending 2022/2023.

### 3. Public Forum

- a) County Cllr. None present
- b) District Cllr. None present

### 4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Morphey seconded by Cllr. Hazel Collins and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

**ACTION: do I need to do anything?**

### 5. Casual Vacancies

- a) Daryl Ash – stood at recent election, her application to the Council was uncontested and she will begin her role as on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023. Her first council meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- b) Cllr. Bob Flindall – Will be standing down from his duties as Bob has decided to move home and will no longer live in the Parish. Bob is happy to attend and be part of Council meetings in his role of Planning Applications advice until he moves home.

### Matters

- a) Cllr. Bob Flindall will continue to oversee planning application. nothing immediate actions required.
- b) Cllr. Paul Collins Dark Skies Update:

Cllr. Paul Collins has been speaking with Darsham Parish Council with regards to their new Dark Skies signage. Darsham Parish Council explained that they did not directly apply for Dark Skies and that they applied on behalf of Dash Astro. Darsham Parish Council were unable to assist Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council in taking this any further.

Cllr. Paul Collins suggested that the council could purchase their own Dark Skies signage and gain permission for putting up new signs with East Suffolk Planning that this could be a way to move forward.

East Suffolk Council currently have no dark skies area registered in the area. The council believe that we should write to The Secretary of State to request this to be looked into as East Suffolk Council may not be giving the Dark Skies programme the weight it deserves as it could interfere with future planning applications.

**ACTION: Paul to draft letter to The Secretary of State and submitted evidence to DCI inspection, not being taken seriously. To push to apply for Eastridge Dark Skies but not Theberton as the B120 causes light pollution.**

### 6. Energy Projects – Cllr. Paul Collins

- a) Cllr. Paul Collins attended the judicial review and believes that the hearing went well. The full report should be completed by early May 2023.

b) Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair, Cllr and Paul Collins attended the EDF meeting at Milson’s with Mr McGarry. It was mentioned that the EDF website is not easily navigated and very confusing at times making projects seem ‘secretive’ and not all information is readily available to be viewed by the public. East Suffolk Council have previously stated that they will create a specific planning website for Sizewell C applications however this has not been completed. Theberton & Eastbridge Parish council do not receive alerts for new planning applications for Sizewell C which will make things very difficult to review how conditions are being by East Suffolk Council. Furthermore, whether East Suffolk Council have the resources to properly scrutinising decisions during the development of the construction site.

Cllr. Paul Collins spoke of the £2.5 million per year budgeted allowance which has been agreed to be paid for the next years, made payable from EDF to East Suffolk Council in conjunction with £25 million as a one-off allowance which should cover the employment of energy project manager & planning consultants. There is currently no date when this funding if public services will begin to be paid.

In order for the council to influence planning applications for Sizewell C they should be displayed by the council in one place and receive alerts from the District Council.

It is believed that planning permission has been granted for building an access road to Lover’s Lane. Cllr. Bob Flindall has checked the District Council website and there are no specifications of this. The land in question belongs to John Poll.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett – talk to John Poll re access to Lovers Lane**

c) Cllr. Paul Collins held another Stop Sizewell C Guided Walk which had 24 attendees. The next walk is scheduled to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**ACTION: Honor go to Stop Sizewell 14<sup>th</sup> May**

d) The Environment Agency – have granted three permits for operation of nuclear site:

1. water discharge
2. radioactive discharge
3. permit to run diesel generators

Paul will continue to attend meetings and assessing the cumulative impact energy problems to the Parish.

The BEIS have stopped having meetings because The Secretary of State is being taken to the High Courts.

Declan Burke is due to come back to speak to Parish Councils.

EDF plans for new roads and pedestrian crossing over B120.

**ACTION: SB: meeting with EDF - Jack Raven email**

## **7. Clerk/Councillors’ Reports**

a) Energy Projects – As above.

b) Heritage Trail – Cllr. Stephen Morphey is waiting on Judith to collect photos from the archive however she is unable to meet until June. They will then choose photos and begin writing information for Heritage Trail.

**ACTION:** Cllr. Stephen Morphey to meet with Judith Croton before June to decide on photos and information to be used. Cllr. Stephen Morphey has agreed he will design the layout and gain quotes from Leiston Press for merchandise.

c) **Community Council** – Cllr. Hilary Ward not in attendance.

d) Police Crime Report – Clerk Honor Houlding reported that there were no crimes reported in the parish in **February 2023**.

e) Speed Indicator Device – Cllr. Paul Collins detailed the report for the last 2 months, February & March 2023. The level of traffic had increased dramatically, by approximately 50% from previous months. This is believed to be due to the current Sizewell outage. Interestingly the number of cars travelling above the speed limit also increased from 19.3% to 42.2%.

**ACTION:** inform sizewell – Paul to draft report to EDF Sizewell B & C evidencing the peak speeding in our parish and send to Richard Smith and Steve Merry ESC Highways. Also suggest that Suffolk Constabulary move the police mobile speed camera to layby past Wild about Birds.

Honor – speak to Sharon re when outage started/dates.

**f) Eastbridge Common –**

Mr Jones is aware of council's intention to install posts and rails around Eastbridge Common to protect the Common from cars parking and damaging the land. Although he had stated that he wouldn't park on the lane, this has been seen by villagers.

Eastbridge Common will require mowing and although Phil Jones has offered to complete the task himself the council suggested we receive quotes from The District Council and Kiwi Fencing.

Happy for SB & Paul to make decision before next meeting – yes.

**ACTION:** Honor to chase district council to clear.

**ACTION:** Paul & SB to go check height of common and gather quotes for fencing.

## **8. Planning**

a) Cllr. Bob Flindall advised the Council that he had reviewed the following consultation documents:

Lilycot, Church Road, Theberton. The annex building was originally granted permission as a care facility the owners late husband who subsequently died. The Highway Authority made sure that sufficient parking spaces were retained so as not to obstruct Church Road. East Suffolk Council showed more concern that the building was not being divided into two dwellings.

The conditions in place relate to the car parking facilities. Cllr. Bob Flindall suggested that this should be left up to Suffolk County Council and The Highway Authority to make the correct decision.

No comment. All in Favour.

b) Hill farm, Harrow Lane have applied for permission to build a new detached four bedroom house as agricultural accommodation for grazier or Farmer and family.

The council decided that it was East Suffolk Planning's responsibility to make the correct decision.

No comment. All in favour.

## 9. Finance

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

e) It was proposed by Cllr. Steve Brett, 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	£386.78	LGA 1972 s.112
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith	£31.68	LG (MP) A 1976 s.19
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£10.20	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk's PAYE	HM Revenue and Customs	£71.20	LGA 1972 s.112
Payroll Service	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£54.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Parish Clerk Vacancy Advert	Suffolk County Council	£90.00	LGA 1972 s.111

## 10. Administration

## 11. Correspondence

a) The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 9<sup>th</sup> March February and 11th April 2023.

### Correspondence – April 2023

- a) E-bulletins.
- b) E-newsletter.
- c) East Suffolk Local Council Network News.

### East Suffolk Council

- a) Eastbridge Common Grounds Maintenance.
- b) Notice of Town and Parish Council Uncontested Elections.

### Energy Projects

- a) EDF – Planned visit to your area.
- b) SPR – Notice of non-intrusive survey in local area.
- c) Environment Agency – Rolls-Royce SMR design progresses.

### Other

- a) Theberton Woods Update.

## **12. Items for the Next Agenda**

- a) To discuss Cllr Bob Flindall research for new traffic light system he encountered in Scotland.
- b) To discuss putting Village Sign back up.
- c) BT internet – re-instate direct debit

## **QUESTIONS FOR STEVE**

- d) Election expense forms – anything above £10 for elections – all has to be signed and sent.
- e) Remove rubbish in cemetery – with Steve

## **13. Next Meeting**

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting and 2023 Annual Meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.30 on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Honor Houlding

## Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

### 1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

TASC's Judicial Review of the Development Consent Order approval by the Secretary of State, supported by TEAGS and Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth, was heard in front of Justice Mr Holgate on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March as planned. The hearing was to consider 7 grounds, although one was dropped at the beginning of the hearing. Originally there had been 8 grounds but another was dropped several months ago following comments of the judge and advice from TASC solicitors and barrister.

Justice Holgate was very engaged throughout the 2 day hearing, asked questions and challenged points from all the barristers representing TASC, Secretary of State and EDF (Interested Party).

At the end of the hearing Justice Holgate reserved his decision, stating that it was important that he carefully considered all the points as some would have significant potential precedence in future planning applications.

We expect a decision between 4 and 6 weeks from the conclusion of the hearing which would place a decision between 21<sup>st</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May. Of course, this is not predictable and could be shorter or longer.

A meeting between TEAGS and SZC Co was held at Milsoms on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Alison Downes, Steve Brett and myself were in attendance and Julia Pyke and Declan Burke (DESNZ), both directors of SZC Co plus Marjorie Barnes and others from SZC and DESNZ were in attendance. The meeting was a result of Tom McGarry's somewhat inappropriate e-mail to various organisations and councils just before he left SZC and joined NGET and the Sealink project.

The major point for discussion was the inadequate level of information about the various ground clearance and preparatory projects now in progress on the Sizewell Estate around Kenton Hills and Goose Hill to create an access road to the proposed SSSI crossing.

Suggestions that residents go to the SZC project website or should receive information from their local parish councils supplied by SZC were discussed and we pointed out that whilst parish councils may put these on the website, we expect that few people will look at our website and often we only see those that are within our parish boundary or have relevance to the B1122.

We challenged SZC to ensure that these projects were placed on their project website in good time and labelled/described more clearly to help residents understand what is about to occur in good time rather than only being added as work is actually started. Also, the existence of the project website should be better advertised so that parish councils and organisations like TEAGS and TASC are not expected to be gatekeepers to the project just because we are probably most aware of the status at any particular time.

Several other projects are also now being noticed by parishioners and others in the surrounding district including the preparation of works to create compensatory fen meadow habitat at Benhall (and Halesworth and Pakenham). Some of these are also subject to applications to East Suffolk Council (and Suffolk County Council) to request DCO Requirements Discharge. There are 10 applications currently on the ESC planning website. These mainly concern submitting plans for archaeology investigation or other plans for technical issues such as dust suppression or temporary access to utility supplies for site offices etc.

We understand that a dedicated website is going to be created at ESC to bring all of these issues together rather than have to search for them in the general planning website at ESC as over time there will be many of these and the site should help with ability of residents and others to respond to these items.

There also needs to be a way of being informed of ALL SZC related applications for discharge of planning conditions or any other works as the existing ESC site only allows you to follow a single planning application as it progresses. These applications are all individual and only related by having Sizewell C in the description.

This limited way of operating will simply not enable those with an interest in the SZC project to follow all of the various applications being submitted to ESC and react within the timeframe between submission and approval consideration.

Some applications will be of significant size and complexity such as the final design of the Hard and Soft Coastal Defence and the associated Coastal Processes Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.

The regular meeting between Office for Nuclear Regulation and the various NOGs is to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> April in London.

The old BEIS Nuclear NGO meeting is now moved to DESNZ and despite trying to get a new date for this, DESNZ have been incommunicado and thus delaying arrangement of the quarterly meeting. We have found out lately that this was as a result of TASC taking the Secretary of State to court in the Judicial Review of the SZC DCO approval.

Two further public meetings are being organised.

The first is by Environment Agency on 15<sup>th</sup> May 15:30 – 17:00 via Microsoft Teams to discuss the recent granting of discharge permits for SZC.

The second is by the Office for Nuclear Regulation regarding the Nuclear Site License and a date and local location (not virtual) is currently being sought.

## **2 Energy Projects Cumulative Impact Group and Anglia Energy Planning Alliance**

A group consisting of the various windfarm, Sizewell C groups, Aldeburgh organisations, RSPB and others have met to highlight the cumulative impact of all the projects in this area to try and coordinate efforts in raising the considerable impacts should all of these projects actually come to fruition.

Following the creation of DESNZ (referred to as Disney in Whitehall apparently) from BEIS it is likely that Minister Andrew Bowie is likely to visit Sizewell in the near future and efforts to have him meet the Parish and Town Councils and other organisations in the same way as we met with Declan Burke in the past at Snape are underway. The Minister has overarching responsibility for all the energy projects in this area from SZC to interconnectors and wind farms.

## **3 T&E Parish Council**

I attended the meeting convened by SALC to discuss handling of NSIP applications in parallel to that which the County is now engaged. The discussion revolved around whether the SCC document could form the basis of document that could be used by Parish and Town councils. It wasn't clear whether the District Councils had been significantly engaged in SCC's efforts. Parts of the document clearly reflected the structure of the County Council and separation of officers from the political control so would need some significant changes. Minutes and actions from the meeting are yet to be circulated.

No comments have been received to the draft response to SZC Ltd that was circulated for the last meeting. It is attached once again, and if no changes are raised at the meeting, it should be sent to the SZC Co. Ltd. as soon as possible after the meeting.

Following responses from the chair to Charles MacDowell (Middleton), an updated draft of the letter to EDF/ESC/SCC resulting from the joint meeting of local Parish Councils concerning EDF plans for the B1122 and B1125 in the early years is also attached for consideration.

## **4 Scottish Power DCO Examination**

No further news on SEAS hearing.

## **5 Eurolink, Nautilus and Sea Link Interconnectors**

No further news on any of these projects, although see item 2 above.

## **6 EDF SZC B1122 plans**

Draft minutes



## Appendix II – Financial Position

### Financial Position – April 2023

#### Payments – April 2023

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£386.78
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£31.68
Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Expenses	£10.20
HMRC – Clerk’s PAYE	£71.20
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Equipment Maintenance	£17.99
Suffolk County Council – Job Vacancy Advert	£90.00
SALC – Payroll Service	£54.00
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	<b>£661.85</b>

#### Bank Balances as at 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Barclays Current Account	£2,688.17
Barclays Savings Account	£19,955.84
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	<b>£22,644.01</b>

#### Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£3,000.00
Community Infrastructure Levy 2021-2022	£651.14
Community Infrastructure Levy 2022-2023	£1,279.67
Jubilee Hall Broadband	£187.73
Eel’s Foot Swift Tower	£100.00
Platinum Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
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	<b>£15,218.54</b>

<b>General Reserves</b>	<b>£7,425.47</b>
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