

# MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022 AT 7:00 PM

## 1. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett - Chair  
Cllr. Hilary Ward - Vice Chair  
Cllr. Paul Collins  
Cllr. Nat Bacon  
Cllr. Bob Flindall  
Cllr. Stephen Morphey  
Cllr. Hazel Collins

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Adam Hurrell  
District Cllr. Russ Rainger  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

### In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Tom Daly

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

None.

## 3. Public Forum

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith said that during the Chancellor's Autumn Statement he announced that Suffolk will have a County Deal which will devolve some powers and extra funding of £60 million per annum for 30 years from central government. The funding is not index linked and 40% must be spent on capital projects with the remaining 60% on revenue expenditure. The Chancellor said that Suffolk will have a mayor which the Leader of the County Council refuted and said that the Leader will be directly elected with no associated bureaucracy. Cllr. Smith said Mayors do not work well in rural areas. The deal was signed last week, and the official text is available on the County website.

Cllr. Smith also reported that the County Council is working hard to reach a balanced budget but it is challenging. The Chancellor announced that there are extra funds for social care but the actual amount will not be announced until 21<sup>st</sup> December. The Scrutiny Committee will meet the following day to review the budget so the proposed increase to Council Tax will be in the public domain then. Service reductions are expected as there is a budget gap of up to £50 million this coming year. County Councils have the power to increase Council Tax by up to 5%.

Cllr. Smith said the County will respond to the Sea Link public consultation and will object to the proposals.

b) District Cllr. Tom Daly summarised his previously circulated report. Highlights included: the launch of the Field to Fork scheme which offers grants of up to £2,000 to community farms and allotments; the launch of a Cost of Living Community Grant Fund which enables voluntary organisations and community groups to support individuals and families who are struggling with the cost of living crisis; a network of thirty-one Warm Rooms are open across Suffolk; the East Suffolk Walking and Cycling Strategy has been adopted; and free parking is available in ESC car parks on selected dates over the Christmas period. Further details about the highlighted items are available on ESC's website or from the Ward Members. Cllr. Daly concluded his report by informing the Council that it may apply for membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Group if it wishes.

## 4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett, seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

## 5. Matters Arising

a) With reference to item 6, Cllr. Stephen Morphey circulated photos of Darsham's dark skies signage. It was agreed that similar signage for this parish would have no weight as it has no backing from the District

Council and therefore it may cause confusion for residents. It was decided to seek support from the District Council again after the elections in May 2023.

b) With reference to item 12b, Cllr. Stephen Brett said he spoke to a representative from the Church about storing the funeral bier. She agreed to take the request to the Parochial Church Council and report back.

## **6. Casual Vacancy**

There were no applicants for the casual vacancy.

## **7. Energy Projects**

a) The Chairman informed the Council about the discussion at the Sizewell C B1122 Early Years Working Group held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023:

- Survey work will be carried out at Pretty Road to ensure two HGVs can pass each other.
- Pretty Road will be closed at times during the construction of the bridge but Moat Road will remain open.
- Gateways and road markings will be at either end of Theberton village.
- EDF were informed that the gateway at the northern end of the village may obscure the Speed Indicator Device.
- The yield line will be brought forward at Church Road to improve visibility.
- The curve on the northern end of the Church Road junction will be narrowed to slow traffic entering.
- SPR proposed an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on the B1122 on the north side of the Church Road junction however this may no longer go ahead.
- 20 mph is being considered for Theberton village. Initial support from both EDF and SCC.
- The message was reinforced that the parish wants 20 mph regardless of whether there is a pedestrian crossing.
- At the next meeting, EDF will be asked to confirm that this 20 mph limit will apply between the gateways.
- A zebra crossing is being considered for Theberton village. It will need 3 or 4 lampposts and electrical cabinets. There may not be existing room on the footways and the location of driveways may present a problem.
- A consultation will be held in the parish about the proposed zebra crossing as it is acknowledged that this is a sensitive subject.
- The visibility when exiting Potter's Street to the B1122 is poor, especially when turning right. EDF propose to prevent exit from this road and to make it one-way only.
- EDF also propose to make Onner's Lane one-way only, in the opposite direction, with exit permitted to the B1122.
- If these changes go ahead there will be implications for other roads in the parish, particularly Church Road.
- At the next meeting, EDF will be asked to provide 'not suitable for HGVs' signage for Church Road and Onner's Lane.
- Asked EDF if it was possible for sat navs to direct traffic down Eastbridge Road, particularly delivery lorries.
- The Council will consult Potter's Street and Onner's Lane residents when exact proposals are received.
- These changes are proposed to be permanent, not just during the early years' phase.
- There will be changed priorities at Flash Corner where Potter's Street, Onner's Lane, Baker's Hill and Chapel Road meet.
- Paths at either end of Theberton village are only possible within the constraints of the Highways' boundary. The Council may need to negotiate permissive paths with landowners.

- At the next meeting. EDF will be asked to consider a 30 mph speed limit for Eastbridge and resurfacing of the minor roads at the beginning of the project as part of the interventions being discussed by this working group.
- The minutes from the meeting were not yet available and would be circulated to Councillors in due course.

b) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I.

c) The Chairman reported on the first joint meeting of neighbouring Parish Councils to consider EDF and SCC Highways' proposals for the B1122 and B1125 during the Early Years' phase. Cllr. Stephen Brett, Cllr. Paul Collins and Cllr. Nat Bacon attended. Representatives from Middleton cum Fordley, Blythburgh, Westleton and Yoxford Parish Councils also attended. Apologies were received from Kelsale, Darsham and Walberswick Parish Councils. The Chairman said the meeting was useful to share information and experience about the interventions in other parishes. The Clerk's minutes will be circulated to Councillors shortly. The group agreed to meet again in February 2023.

**ACTION: Clerk to circulate minutes.**

d) Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed that the Council approves Cllr. Paul Collins' responses to the National Grid Sea Link and Euro Link public consultations. Cllr. Hilary Ward seconded. All in favour. District Cllr. Tom Daly requested copies of the responses.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to submit responses and copy to various interested parties.**

e) The Chairman said that Tom McGarry from EDF will attend the meeting in January 2023 to brief the Council about the excavation of the wetland habitat and to explain the Property Price Support Scheme which should be made public in January.

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

## **8. Clerk/Councillors' Reports**

a) Platinum Heritage Trail – Clerk to circulate dates for a meeting in the new year.

b) Community Council/Jubilee Hall Management Committee – Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that the fireworks event raised £365 which was a great success. Tickets are on sale for the children's Christmas party. The Committee are drafting a safeguarding policy. Cllr. Ward said she would inform community groups about the availability of the ESC Cost of Living Community Grant Fund.

c) Police Crime Report – the Clerk said one crime of violence/sexual offence was reported in Onner's Lane in October 2022.

d) Speed Indicator Device – latest report attached as Appendix II. Cllr. Paul Collins reported that the solar charger is working well.

e) Eastbridge Common – the Council agreed to strip back the nettles and reseed the Common in the spring.

f) ESC Planning Protocol – Cllr. Bob Flindall agreed to review the initial report received from SALC and to report back at the next meeting.

g) Strategic Aims Project – Clerk to circulate dates for a meeting in the new year.

## **9. Budget and Precept 2023-2024**

a) The Council considered and accepted the draft budget for the financial year 2023-2024.

**ACTION: Clerk to upload to website.**

b) The Council agreed to set the parish precept for the financial year 2023-2024 at £8,088.52. This is a charge of £53.64 per annum for a Band D property and will show as a 5% change on the Council Tax bill against the Parish element.

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

## 10. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position attached as Appendix III.
- b) It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Collins, seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward, and agreed to authorise the payments listed below. All in favour.
- c) The Council agreed to fund the Quiet Lanes signage from Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

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
Ease the Squeeze Leaflet Printing	Sharon Smith	£26.55	LGA 1972 s.137
Quiet Lanes Signage	Suffolk County Council	£450.00	RTRA 1984 s.72
Councillor Training	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£187.20	LGA 1972 s.111
Eastbridge Play Equipment Maintenance – Annual Charge	Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd	£215.88	OSA 1906 s.10

## 11. Administration

- a) The Council conducted the annual review of the Risk Assessment and agreed the minor changes.
- b) The Council agreed to appoint the Suffolk Association of Local Councils as internal auditor.
- c) The Council agreed meeting dates for 2023.

## 12. Correspondence

- a) The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022.
- b) In response to an email received about a hedge overhanging the highway, the resident agreed to arrange for the hedge to be cut back.  
**ACTION: Clerk to advise the informant.**

## 13. Questions to the Chair/Items for the Next Agenda

- a) Cllr. Bob Flindall enquired about the outstanding actions to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and the strategic plan and the proposal for a community shop. The Clerk replied that she would circulate dates to all Councillors for a meeting to discuss the strategic plan which will incorporate the Neighbourhood Plan and other ideas put forward.
- b) Cllr. Stephen Brett asked if the post for the Quiet Lanes reminder sign on Moat Road had been erected by Highways.  
**ACTION: Clerk to check.**
- c) Cllr. Stephen Morpheu asked whether the Eastbridge playing field had received a visit from the play equipment safety inspector. The Clerk replied that the inspector could not locate the playing field on his first visit so a second date had been rescheduled but she had not yet received a report.  
**ACTION: Clerk to follow up report.**

## 14. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

## **Appendix I – Energy Projects Report**

### **1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C and TASC**

The oral Judicial Review reversion hearing for TASC scheduled for today (14<sup>th</sup> December) was cancelled last week due to the judge being ill. A provisional date of 19<sup>th</sup> December is being looked at, but it depends on a judge and all three parties barristers and lawyers being available. As the courts close on 22<sup>nd</sup> December until after the New Year, the hearing may not happen now until January 2023.

In terms of the JR, we have been working on skeleton arguments for the 8 grounds being sought for review. This now includes a ground on an Acoustic Fish Deterrent following the unsuccessful challenge by EDF to the DCO requirement at Hinkley Point C to fit one. In the Sizewell C DCO documents and examination the same assessment methods were used that EDF relied upon at Hinkley Point which has now been rejected by the Secretary of State.

We have also now received skeleton arguments from the Secretary of State and EDF for the oral hearing and these are being reviewed.

As far as Stop Sizewell C is concerned, we continue to explore ways to campaign on the financial issues and the technical issues that are being revealed by the French Nuclear Authorities. We have a number of questions lodged with the Office for Nuclear Regulation on these reports and issues and hope to get a response before the New Year.

### **2 T&E Parish Council**

Despite warm words from EDF at the Deed of Obligation meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, we still await written confirmation of the more flexible approach outlined at the meeting.

### **3 Scottish Power DCO Examination**

SASES are waiting for the result of their JR. They hope it will be given before Christmas but have no guarantees this will be the case.

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

No further news on the Nautilus Interconnector.

The Sea Link project submitted a Scoping Opinion Request to PINS in advance of the end of the non-statutory consultation which is highly irregular. Our response to the Scoping Report has been sent to PINS and PINS published their Opinion on the PINS Sea Link website on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

A response to the Sea Link non-statutory consultation has been distributed to councillors for comment. The Deadline for submission is 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The Eurolink non-statutory consultation also runs to December 18<sup>th</sup> and a response has been circulated to councillors for comment. The consultation was really only about landfall, cable route and converter station options but with the discussion about coordination and co-location of landfall, cable routes and converter stations for all three projects, I have selectively added comments from the Sea Link Scoping Opinion Report response where relevant.

### **5 EDF SZC B1122 plans**

Councillors Brett, Bacon and I attended the B1122 working group meeting with EDF and Suffolk Highways on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Whilst EDF have made some headway with potential plans for the various junctions (Pretty Road, Church Land, Moat Road/Onners Lane and Potters Street), there still remains work to be done before plans will be ready for our comments or any public meeting. One change to the original plan discussed during the DCO and DOO meetings is the proposal that Onners Lane would become one-way from Flash Corner to the existing B1122 crossroads.

Work on plans for a potential pedestrian crossing just south of Church Lane is still unfinished and Steve Merry of Highways confirmed that any crossing would need 3 or 4 lights associated with it. However, during discussions, it became clear that there simply may not be sufficient room on the pavements for the require poles and electricity supply boxes anyway. EDF have agreed to go away with their contractor and work up

plans to see if a zebra crossing can be fitted in to the available space. If this is not possible then an uncontrolled non-zebra crossing is the only option, and this would have an accompanying 20mph speed limit associated with it. Where the 20mph speed limit would begin and end has not been discussed yet.

Councillors Brett, Bacon and I attended the joint parish council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December on behalf of T&EPC and each of the attending councils gave an overview of the proposals so far from EDF. Sharon took minutes and these will be circulated in due course.

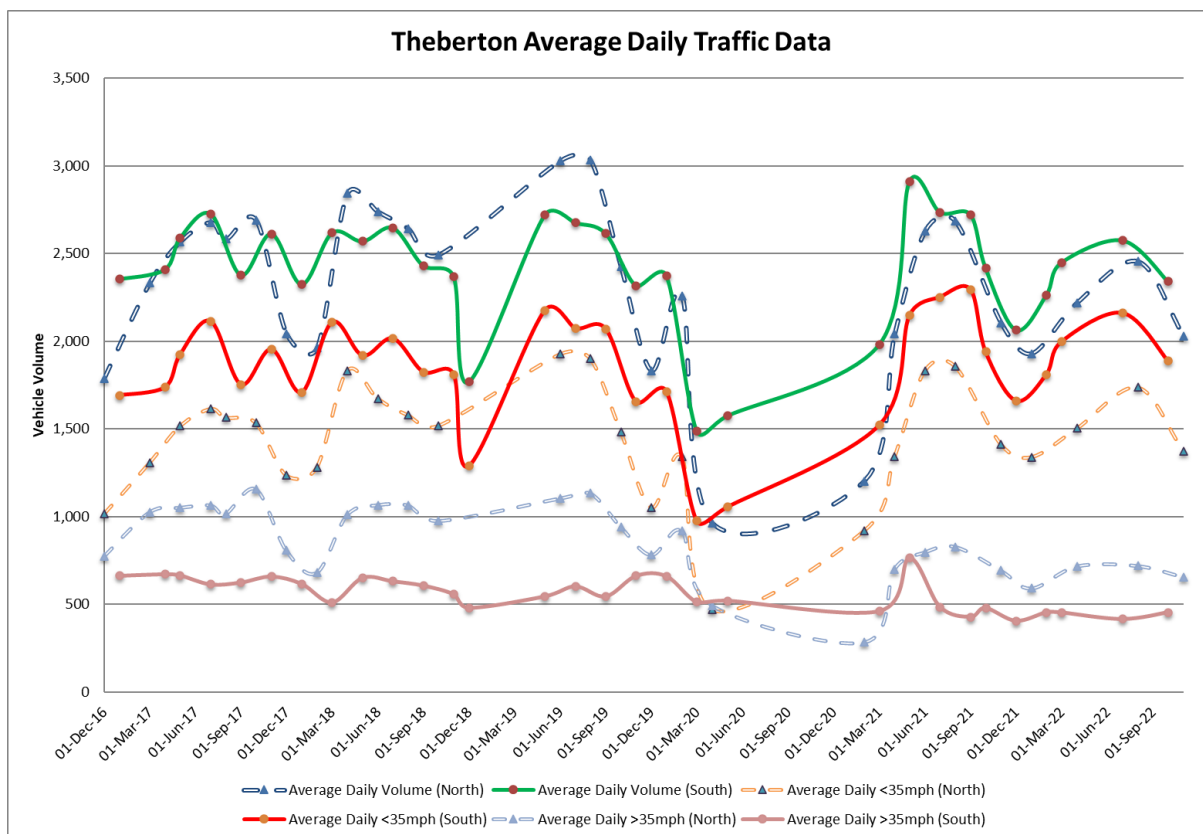
## Appendix II – Speed Indicator Device

The speed indicator device has been operational for sixty-one ~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.

Traffic volumes in the period since March 2021 are back to normal and the long-term averages for those exceeding 35mph is now **37.9%** from north and **23.7%** from south.

The **85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed\*** is at close to 40mph with **40.2mph** from north and **37.9mph** from south when they enter the village.

The solar panel continues to keep the batteries charged allowing the full 20 days of recording to take place.



SID Start Date	07-Sep-21	16-Oct-21	08-Nov-21	11-Dec-21	09-Jan-22	10-Feb-22	26-Mar-22	23-Apr-22	24-Jul-22	18-Aug-22	21-Oct-22	20-Nov-22
Average Daily Volume (North)			2,105		1,930			2,220		2,456		2,030
Average Daily Volume (South)	2,723	2,418		2,064		2,263	2,449		2,576		2,342	
Total Vehicles (North)			29,469		30,875		29,421	36,733		33,306	49,122	40,605
Total Vehicles (South)	43,574	29,021		30,965		29,421	36,733		46,362		44,493	
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)			19,774		21,425		23,530	29,951		22,548	34,741	27,495
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)	36,734	23,281		24,905		23,530	29,951		38,899		35,882	
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)			9,695		9,450		5,891	6,782		10,758	14,381	13,110
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)	6,840	5,740		6,060		5,891	6,782		7,463		8,611	
Average Daily <35mph (North)			1,412		1,339			1,503			1,737	1,375
Average Daily <35mph (South)	2,296	1,940		1,660		1,810	1,997		2,161		1,888	
Average Daily >35mph (North)			693		591			717			719	655
Average Daily >35mph (South)	427	478		404		453	452		415		453	
<b>85th percentile speed North (mph)</b>			<b>39.0</b>		<b>38.7</b>			<b>39.2</b>			<b>38.7</b>	<b>39.2</b>
<b>85th percentile speed South (mph)</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>36.8</b>		<b>36.7</b>		<b>37.0</b>	<b>36.4</b>		<b>35.5</b>		<b>36.7</b>	
% <35mph (North)			67.1%		69.4%			67.7%			70.7%	67.7%
% <35mph (South)	84.3%	80.2%		80.4%		80.0%	81.5%		83.9%		80.6%	
% >35mph (North)			32.9%		30.6%			32.3%			29.3%	32.3%
% >35mph (South)	15.7%	19.8%		19.6%		20.0%	18.5%		16.1%		19.4%	

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

## Appendix III – Financial Position

### Bank Balances as at 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Barclays Current Account	£5,724.07
Barclays Savings Account	£19,919.19
	<u>£25,644.08</u>

### Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£3,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£601.53
Community Infrastructure Levy 2021-2022	£1,101.14
Community Infrastructure Levy 2022-2023	£1,279.67
Jubilee Hall Broadband	£314.45
Platinum Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
	<u>£16,296.79</u>

**Bank Balance less Reserves** **£9,347.29**

### Payments – December 2022

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£386.78
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£31.68
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Equipment Maintenance	£17.99
Sharon Smith – Leaflet Printing	£26.55
SCC – Quiet Lanes Signage	£450.00
SALC – Councillor Training	£187.20
	<u>£1,100.20</u>

**Net Balance** **£8,247.09**