

# MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7:00 PM

## 1. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

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

### Apologies for absence:

District Cllr. Tony Cooper

### In attendance:

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

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

None.

## 3. Public Forum

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that next financial year's budget has been agreed and on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 the full Council will consider the budget and vote. The government allows an increase to the precept of up to 5% but £20m of efficiency savings combined with a better than expected government grant has enabled a proposed 3.99% increase. The budget will rise by £50m to £680m next year but social care costs are high so Cllr. Smith does not anticipate further Highways budget spending.

With regard to Sizewell C, Cllr. Smith met Tom McGarry to enquire about the community consultation arrangements which will be in place when he departs. There will be various committees that will meet quarterly but Sizewell C Co will try to resolve any matters raised in between. The Final Investment Decision ('FID') is likely to be taken in 12-18 months as Tom McGarry said EDF has to carefully prepare its case for funding from financial institutions. Substantial construction work will not begin before the FID, but reversible works will begin. Cllr. Smith said he has arranged to meet Steven Merry, the Highways' officer with responsibility for Sizewell C transport matters, regarding democratic oversight of the roads.

b) District Cllr. Tom Daly said he also spoke to Tom McGarry about the FID and Tom McGarry said he was pleased that EDF and the government were working in partnership to seek private investment. District Cllr. Russ Rainger said he understood the government and EDF were in a collaboration, and it takes time to prepare arrangements with private investors. Cllr. Rainger said EDF plan to undertake non-permanent works before the DCO is triggered. Cllr. Daly mentioned the enormous ecological disaster at Hinkley Point C as acoustic fish deterrents have not been provided to prevent fish from entering the intake pipes. Cllr. Paul Collins said that EDF are also not required to provide these at Sizewell C despite the Secretary of State requiring this to be included in the DCO. Cllr. Rainger and Cllr. Daly received a briefing from Five Estuaries, which is an extension of the Galloper Offshore Wind Farm. A formal consultation is expected later this year.

Cllr. Rainger also reported that £2.75m of grant funding has been secured under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Grants from the scheme are available to Parish Councils to set up a pantry scheme to help with the cost of living crisis. Suffolk Collaborative Communities is working to keep people warm and connected as part of the Ease the Squeeze initiative and there is funding available for this.

## 4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

## 5. Casual Vacancies

a) The Council noted the resignation of Cllr. Adam Hurrell and recorded a vote of thanks for all his service to the Council.

b) There were no applicants for the other casual vacancy.

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

a) Property Price Support Scheme ('PPSS') – Cllr. Stephen Brett read out an email received from EDF regarding the agreed changes to the PPSS following requests from the Council:

i) The deadline for reviewing the PPSS will be extended by five years to 2030.

ii) The scheme announcement date will be set at 3 February 2017 which aligns with the conclusion of the Stage 2 public consultation when proposals such as the borrow pits were presented, hence indicating more site activity near Eastbridge.

iii) All other criteria remain the same, including the boundary.

iv) No retrospective applications (ie a property already sold) are eligible for the PPSS.

v) Residents near the Sizewell C proposals who need assistance despite being outside of the PPSS boundary will be considered on a case by case basis. They will need to involve special circumstances or 'atypical' properties and will be judged on their individual merits and subject to a FID.

vi) The extension of the discretionary scheme involved consultation with the Parish Council and the local MP.

vii) EDF will write to residents to notify them of the update. Their engagement is now with applicants alone and the Council should note that nothing further will change.

Cllr. Stephen Brett asked the Council for their views on the changes:

i) Cllr. Bob Flindall said EDF should have held a public consultation about the scheme.

ii) Cllr. Nat Bacon said that a test case is needed to ascertain how the scheme will work in practice.

iii) Cllr. Stephen Morphey said EDF should inform the residents who are not eligible for the scheme.

iv) The member of the public said the first scheme was issued in August 2020. The Parish Council asked for a revised scheme which was promised for December 2021/January 2022 and then further promised in April 2022. The revised scheme was finally issued in January 2023. Residents sold their properties between these dates and have suffered blight. The member of the public made a retrospective application which EDF rejected. He thinks that the residents who sold after December 2021, when a revised scheme was promised, should be eligible. He advised the Council to raise this matter with Declan Burke, of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, given that the government are in partnership with EDF and he said he wanted right to be done by communities. The member of the public said there is unfairness in the scheme compared with the Hinkley Point C scheme and Theberton residents will not be mitigated during the early years' construction phase.

b) Energy Projects - the Council noted Cllr. Paul Collins previously circulated report which is attached as Appendix I.

c) Heritage Trail – Cllr. Stephen Brett informed the Council of the progress made at the first meeting which he attended with the Clerk, Cllr. Stephen Morphey, Cllr. Hilary Ward, Cllr. Hazel Collins and the local history recorder.

- d) Police Crime Report – the Clerk said one crime of sex/violence was reported at Doughty-Wylie Crescent in December 2022.
- e) Speed Indicator Device – the Council noted the latest report which is attached as Appendix II.
- f) ESC Planning Protocol – Cllr. Bob Flindall reported that a summary of the responses to the SALC survey was sent to ESC. No response has been received yet.
- g) Burial Ground – Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that he arranged for the trees to be cut back through the centre of the Burial Ground to open up the path. Cllr. Paul Collins said that the funeral bier stored in the shed may have been used to carry the Zeppelin pilots shown in a photograph hanging in the Theberton Lion.

**7. Parish Matters**

- a) The Council agreed to apply for a Tree Protection Order for the oak tree on the B1122 near the junction with Moat Road. It was also agreed to ask the ESC Arboricultural Officer to brief the Council at a meeting about Tree Preservation Orders and how to prevent threat to trees from the numerous energy projects.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact East Suffolk Council and Cllr. Stephen Brett to inform the landowner of the oak tree.**

- b) The Council reviewed the annual play equipment safety inspection report for Eastbridge playing field and agreed no action was necessary. Cllr. Stephen Morphey noted that the play equipment provided by other suppliers was not inspected.

**ACTION: Clerk to look for email agreement with Sovereign to inspect all play equipment items.**

- c) The Council agreed to obtain a quotation to contract a gardener to undertake grounds maintenance at Eastbridge Common. It was agreed to clear the ground, apply grass seed to the level surface, trim the nettles back hard on the bank, and add barriers to prevent parking on the Common. The barriers need to allow access for ongoing maintenance and be in keeping with the rural character of the area. It was further agreed, when the work is completed, to consider the resident’s offer to maintain the grass.

**ACTION: Clerk to draft a letter to East Suffolk Norse and send to Cllr. Stephen Brett for review.**

**8. Finance**

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position which is attached as Appendix III.
- b) The Council agreed to donate £50 to Leiston Library (LGA 1972 s.137)
- c) The Council reviewed the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Qtr 3 2022-2023.
- d) The Council noted the s.137 expenditure limit of £8.22 per elector for the financial year 2022-2023
- e) It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, 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

**9. Administration**

- a) The Council conducted the annual review and approval of the Standing Orders.
- b) The Council conducted the annual review and approval of the Financial Regulations.

**10. Correspondence**

- a) The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 6<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

b) Cllr. Bob Flindall briefly summarised the following ESC consultation documents and offered to review them in time for the next meeting:

- i) Initial Consultation on the Rural Development Supplementary Planning Document.
- ii) Initial Consultation on the Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- iii) Consultation on Guidance for Developments within Coastal Areas.

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

## **11. Items for Next Agenda**

Cllr. Bob Flindall informed the Council that funding for the swift tower at the Eel's Foot is an issue. The Council agreed to formally minute its support for the project and to agree to donate £100 at the next meeting.

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

## **12. Next Meeting**

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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

### **1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C**

Preparation continues for the TASC Judicial Review scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March. This will be a “rolled-up” hearing where the reversion (oral consideration of the so far rejected grounds) and the full JR hearing are combined.

We have received the response from the ONR to our questions regarding the IRSN documents and are disappointed at apparent contradictions and muted response from ONR. The official translation of the IRSN document is still outstanding despite the fact that the ONR felt sufficiently confident to respond to our questions. The latest information from the ONR states that we should receive it next week.

Despite this continuing delay, we continue to analyse the contents of the document with a number of collaborators and a recent publication by a French NGO, CRIIRAD, lends weight to our conclusions regarding the issues still under investigation regarding the Taishan 1 failure.

All change again at the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy with the department being split and a new Department for Energy Security and Net Zero being pulled out of BEIS, with Grant Shapps moving with it to become its Secretary of State. Kemi Badenoch becomes Secretary of State at the Department for Business and Trade, retaining her previous responsibility for Trade.

We have been trying to get a new date for the next quarterly BEIS Nuclear NGO Forum, as one is overdue. However, these latest changes may see that responsibility move to the new department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Our campaign to financial institutions and pension funds in the UK started last week as a number of adverts have been placed in tube stations close to financial centres in the City.

Concerns that despite EDF stating that it wanted to see UK investors be the main shareholders in SZC, there is significant concern being expressed about the risky and controversial nature of the project with three pension funds already stating that they not going to invest which could result in overseas Sovereign Wealth Funds, such as Mubadala (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, becoming significant investors and leaving less than 50% in UK based funds.

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

No further progress although we await confirmation of some changes that EDF have made to the Property Price Support Scheme..

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

SEAS appeal regarding its JR grounds has been successful but not sure of the date of that hearing.

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

No further news on any of these projects. However, a group of organisations including SEAS, SASES, TEAGS, and various Aldeburgh organisations has come together to raise the issues of cumulative impact of all the energy projects being proposed in this area.

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

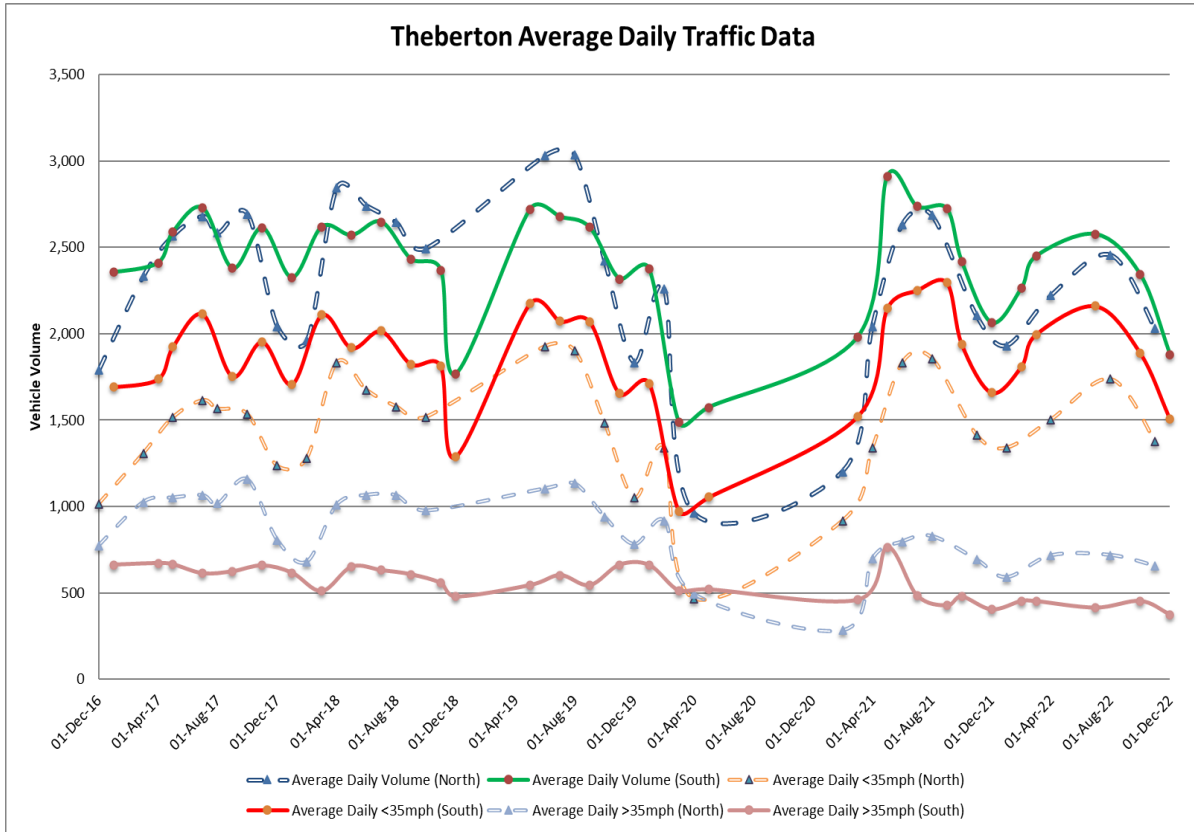
Draft minutes have been circulated by Sharon and another meeting date is yet to be proposed.

## Appendix II – Speed Indicator Device

The speed indicator device has been operational for sixty-three ~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 **36.8%** from north and **23.5%** from south.

The **85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed\*** is at close to 40mph with **40.1mph** from north and **37.9mph** from south when they enter the village.



SID Start Date	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	20-Dec-22	19-Jan-23
Average Daily Volume (North)	2,105		1,930			2,220		2,456		2,030		2,089
Average Daily Volume (South)		2,064		2,263	2,449		2,576		2,342		1,879	
Total Vehicles (North)	29,469		30,875			33,306		49,122		40,605		39,686
Total Vehicles (South)		30,965		29,421	36,733		46,362		44,493		35,702	
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	19,774		21,425			22,548		34,741		27,495		28,371
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		24,905		23,530	29,951		38,899		35,882		28,589	
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	9,695		9,450			10,758		14,381		13,110		11,315
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		6,060		5,891	6,782		7,463		8,611		7,113	
Average Daily <35mph (North)	1,412		1,339			1,503		1,737		1,375		1,493
Average Daily <35mph (South)		1,660		1,810	1,997		2,161		1,888		1,505	
Average Daily >35mph (North)	693		591			717		719		655		596
Average Daily >35mph (South)		404		453	452		415		453		374	
85th percentile speed North (mph)	39.0		38.7			39.2		38.7		39.2		38.4
85th percentile speed South (mph)		36.7		37.0	36.4		35.5		36.7		36.9	
% <35mph (North)	67.1%		69.4%			67.7%		70.7%		67.7%		71.5%
% <35mph (South)		80.4%		80.0%	81.5%		83.9%		80.6%		80.1%	
% >35mph (North)	32.9%		30.6%			32.3%		29.3%		32.3%		28.5%
% >35mph (South)		19.6%		20.0%	18.5%		16.1%		19.4%		19.9%	

\*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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Barclays Current Account	£4063.64
Barclays Savings Account	£19,931.10
	<u>£23,994.74</u>

### Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£3,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£609.61
Community Infrastructure Levy 2021-2022	£651.14
Community Infrastructure Levy 2022-2023	£1,279.67
Jubilee Hall Broadband	£251.09
Platinum Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
	<u>£15,791.51</u>

**Bank Balance less Reserves** **£8,203.23**

### Receipts – February 2023

Leiston Press – Newsletter Refund **£145.00**

### Payments – February 2023

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£386.78
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£31.68
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Equipment Maintenance	£17.99
	<u>£436.45</u>

**Net Balance** **£7,911.78**