

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2022 AT 7:00 PM

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett - Chair
Cllr. Hilary Ward - Vice Chair
Cllr. Stephen Morphey
Cllr. Paul Collins
Cllr. Bob Flindall
Cllr. Laura Bonnett
Cllr. Adam Hurrell

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Tom Lagden – written and accepted
Cllr. Nat Bacon – written and accepted
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
District Cllr. Russ Rainger
District Cllr. Tom Daly
County Cllr. Richard Smith
Tom McGarry - EDF
Andy Mower - EDF
Michelle Emmerson-Gray - EDF
2 members of the public

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

a) Tom McGarry and Andy Mower briefed the Council about EDF's proposals for a wetland habitat creation scheme at Eastbridge and answered questions from the Council and public about the planning application. In response to a question from Cllr. Collins, Mr Mower agreed to send the Council further information about the diversion route for Bridleway 19 and a breakdown of the Deed of Obligation funding. Cllr. Stephen Brett asked Mr McGarry to consider maintenance work to Eastbridge Road and to further consider implementing a 30 mph speed limit. In response to Mr McGarry's reply that speed limits are the responsibility of SCC Highways, County Cllr. Richard Smith agreed to ask Steven Merry of Highways to reassess Eastbridge Road.

Mr McGarry also provided the Council with an update to the Property Price Support Scheme ('PPSS'). Mr McGarry said that after regular discussions between the Parish Council, the Local Authorities, Therese Coffey MP and EDF, it has been agreed to enhance the discretionary PPSS to offset the impact caused by the construction site. Mr McGarry said that the Sizewell Link Road will take traffic off the B1122 therefore there will be no change to the PPSS for Theberton who will continue to be offered a case-by-case compensatory scheme. Mr McGarry said that Cllr. Stephen Brett advocated strongly to Sizewell C Co's senior management for the PPSS boundary to be extended to include the 50 properties in Eastbridge up to and including Potter's Street. This was agreed and the revised PPSS will begin at the commencement date, after a Final Investment Decision is made. The details of the scheme will be published in due course and will include the eligibility criteria.

b) County Cllr. Richard Smith said that the planning application for the wetland habitat at Eastbridge is another example of a series of late applications from EDF. He said there was no minister to decide on the DCO application although the decision is still expected on 20th July 2022. Cllr. Smith said the County Council voted unanimously to oppose National Grid's proposals to increase the pylons from two to three from Sizewell. Cllr. Smith said he had asked if the pylons would be increased numerous times during public consultations and he was always assured they would not.

Cllr. Smith also reported that the County Council's budget was underspent by £9 million last year due to a cut in services during the pandemic. In this year's budget, the County Council estimated that inflation would rise by 2%, whereas it is currently at 9%, so the £9 million in reserves will help to cover this. The

budget process for next year has begun and it is expected to be the most difficult budget to balance in the last 10 years. The message from central government is that expenditure must be reined in so Cllr. Smith is pessimistic about the level of government subsidy this year. He said the County will not raise their portion of Council Tax therefore they will be investigating ways to fill the hole in the budget.

c) District Cllr. Tom Daly summarised his previously circulated report. In response to Cllr. Daly's enquiry about the Dark Skies Project, the Clerk explained that the Council requires a letter from the District Council stating that it supports the Council's application for Dark Sky Discovery Status and if the District Council has a Dark Skies Policy then the Council would wish Theberton and Eastbridge to be recognised. The Clerk said she had invited James Mallinder, the Cabinet member with responsibility for the Environment, to a meeting to discuss this initiative and the Parochial Church Council's desire to designate the churchyard as a wildflower meadow as part of the District Council's 'Pardon the weeds, we are feeding the bees' scheme. The Clerk said both her and the Church Warden's requests had been ignored. Cllr. Daly apologised for this poor response from the District Council and promised to look into the matter.

d) District Cllr. Russ Rainger reported that the District Council's Chief Executive, Stephen Baker, intends to retire at the end of the year and the recruitment process has begun. Cllr. Rainger said that the District Council has been instrumental in helping the University of Suffolk to open a new dental school which will provide an NHS service. Studies show that many dentists stay where they train so it is hoped that in two years many more dentists will be available locally. Cllr. Rainger concluded by informing the Council that a range of activities and meals are being provided for children over the summer break.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 8th June 2022 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

5. Matters Arising

Cllr. Laura Bonnett said she had perhaps received an expression of interest from a resident to be the next newsletter editor.

6. Planning

Following a discussion, the Council agreed to object to planning application DC/22/2273/FUL – creation of wetland habitat for wildlife on land in the vicinity of Lower Abbey Farm within the EDF Sizewell Estate on the grounds that the proposed wetland is not needed to improve habitats currently and it is only required should Sizewell C received development consent, the proposed works would result in undue disturbance and loss of amenity to local communities, the proposed wetland does not meet the objectives of the DCO proposals as evidenced by the representations submitted by Natural England, RSPB and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the proposed wetland should have been completed years ago, and the proposed plan to reduce the value and quality of the compensatory habitat in order to complete the wetland in a single winter season, instead of the two years originally proposed, is unacceptable. The Council also agreed that the application should be decided by a planning committee and not under delegated powers.

ACTION: Cllr. Bob Flindall to draft a response and circulate for comments. Clerk to confirm consultation expiry date.

7. Energy Projects

a) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his previously circulated report. Cllr. Collins informed the Council that the Anglian Energy Planning Alliance has arranged a virtual meeting to discuss how to respond to the DCO decision. Cllr. Collins and Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed to attend.

b) The Council decided not to appoint a member to the Sizewell A and B Stakeholder Group.

8. Parish Matters

a) The Council briefly discussed ways to manage the wildflower meadow at Eastbridge Common. Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed to consult with RSPB about ways to manage the habitat.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to progress.

b) The Council accepted a quotation for £100 (excluding VAT) from Realise Futures to install the two Talking Benches.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

9. Consultations

Cllr. Bob Flindall agreed to review the ESC Consultation: Draft Housing in Clusters and Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside Supplementary Planning Document and, if necessary, to circulate a draft response for comments and approval.

ACTION: Cllr. Bob Flindall to progress..

10. Finance

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

b) It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Collins, seconded by Cllr. Adam Hurrell, and agreed to authorise the payments listed below. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£323.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's PAYE	HM Revenue and Customs	£23.80	LGA 1972 s.112
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith	£31.68	LGA 1972 s.19
Internal Audit	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£243.60	LGA 1972 s.111

11. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 1st June 2022 to 8th July 2022.

12. Items Postponed

Due to the lateness of the hour, all other agenda items were postponed until the next meeting.

13. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 10th August 2022 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

Our updated advertising appeared once again in Westminster tube stations for two weeks prior to the delayed decision date of 8th July. The pictures below show the two sides of the stairwell exit opposite Big Ben and Parliament.



Additional submissions on coastal issues and flooding from myself and Bill Parker have been accepted by the Secretary of State.

Both Alison and I met with a Treasury official on Tuesday 5th July to discuss aspects of how RAB will work in practice and also to discuss how the various Value for Money assessments will be carried out and how and when a Government Investment Decision might be taken.

We also met with BEIS at the Nuclear NGO Forum meeting in the afternoon, for which Alison is vice-chair. Chris Hands MP, Minister at BEIS was present for about 30 minutes of Q&A on a variety of subjects including Sizewell C financing and the Nuclear Energy Strategy.

Of course, on the way home, the growing number of ministerial resignations were being announced. Also resulting changes of responsibility were being announced to fill in the inevitable gaps. This included Paul Scully MP who was the Minister responsible for determining the SZC DCO application, being moved to the Department for Levelling Up. Lee Rowley MP and George Freeman MP, both BEIS ministers resigned, leaving only Chris Hands MP and Secretary of State Kwasi Kwarteng left to deal with the SZC DCO. However, as both of them have been negotiating with EDF and making public statements of support, both are considered to be compromised in terms of determining the DCO application.

Of course, on Thursday the Prime Minister announced his resignation with a promise not to make any significant policy changes or large financial commitments whilst acting as a caretaker PM.

We were warned that an announcement regarding the SZC DCO was to be made on Thursday afternoon, as had a number of media organisations, and pre-recorded some interviews for ITV Anglia, amongst others assuming that the decision to approve or reject would be made. We were then surprised when the announcement was for yet another delay to 20th July (last day before Parliament goes into recess).

Jane Hunt MP has now been appointed to take one of the vacancies left through reassignment and resignations but as yet BEIS do not know who will be the minister that will make the decision on the DCO.

All the pointers were indicating an approval, as meetings had been arranged on Monday 11th July for EDF and Declan Burke (BEIS) to meet with select Parish Council chairs. Alison and I had also arranged to meet with Declan Burke on the same day in Leiston. However, the delay in the DCO announcement to 20th July, has now postponed these meetings and Declan Burke will not be visiting Suffolk.

EDF in France are now to be fully nationalised, taking the last ~16% of tradeable shares back into state control. Jean Bernard Levy has resigned his position as Chairman and CEO of EDF but will continue until a new appointment is made.

There is some media discussion as to whether the renewables part of EDF will be split out and made private as originally proposed in project Hercule that came to halt in 2020. There are also reports saying EDF will concentrate on the French nuclear fleet repair and renewal and stop overseas developments in the future.

There still remains uncertainty about the Taishan reactors with Taishan 1 still off-line but, according to BEIS, Taishan 2 is still operating at full power until it comes off-line for its outage later this year. There still appear to be difficulties with sparse communications with the Chinese Nuclear Regulator.

EDF are under additional scrutiny by the ONR for cyber security issues surrounding their existing operating nuclear sites.

Anglia Energy Planning Alliance have announced a Zoom meeting for the Parish and Town Councils who signed the last letter to Secretary of State Kwasi Kwarteng for next Monday evening, 18th July.

2 T&E Parish Council

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

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

The SPR decision has been approved. At least two Judicial Reviews are being pursued. One from SASES and one from SEAS. The SASES JR request has been approved to go ahead on six grounds. The decision on the SEAS request was negative but they are pursuing another route for an oral hearing.

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

No further progress.

Appendix II - Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 9th June 2022

Barclays Current Account	£9,040.29
Barclays Savings Account	£19,913.85
	<u>£28,954.14</u>

Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£3,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£650.00
Community Infrastructure Levy 2021-2022	£1,265.94
Community Infrastructure Levy 2022-2023	£997.34
Jubilee Hall Broadband Grant	£354.53
Jubilee Hall Broadband Fund	£150.00
Platinum Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
	<u>£16,417.81</u>

Bank Balance less Reserves **£12,536.33**

Payments – July 2022

Sharon Smith – Clerk's Salary	£323.50
HMRC – Clerk's PAYE	£23.80
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£31.68
SALC – Internal Audit	£243.60
Business Services at CAS - Insurance	£477.21
	<u>£1,117.78</u>

Net Balance **£11,418.55**