

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 8th JUNE 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

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Tom Lagden – written and accepted
Cllr. Adam Hurrell – written and accepted
Cllr. Nat Bacon – written and accepted
Cllr. Laura Bonnett – written and accepted
District Cllr. Tony Cooper
District Cllr. Tom Daly

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
District Cllr. Russ Rainger
County Cllr. Richard Smith
No members of the public

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith said that the decision on Sizewell C was moving closer and if the DCO is granted it will be necessary for all communities to consider the compensation they require. Cllr. Smith said workloads for Councils may increase. The Chairman asked if there would be funding available for the inevitable increase in the Clerk's hours. Cllr. Smith said the precept may need to be increased or an application made to the Sizewell C Community Fund but he agreed to speak to a specialist from the County Council about this. Cllr. Bob Flindall referred to extracts from a District Council cabinet meeting report, (shared by Cllr. Tony Cooper and Cllr. Russ Rainger) which extolled the benefits of the proposed Sizewell C development for education, businesses and the energy coast however there was not one mention of the impacts to local people in terms of the roads, the proximity of the construction site and the effects on tourism. Cllr. Flindall said the report should have considered communities who are directly affected. Cllr. Smith replied that there has been multiple occasions when communities have expressed their concerns. District Cllr. Russ Rainger said EDF will have forums and mechanisms to enable communities to raise concerns.

b) District Cllr. Russ Rainger summarised his previously circulated monthly report. Highlights included the District Council self-reporting to the housing regulator about rent increase irregularities in Waveney, the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees, and the appointment of a new Environment and Climate Change Officer. Cllr. Rainger also reported that the Aldeburgh and Leiston ward members have pooled their budgets to create a fund to support residents with the cost of living crisis. There are no further details at present but the funds are likely to be awarded to organisations already supporting those in need of support. Cllr. Stephen Morphey asked about the provision of super-fast broadband in the parish. The Clerk explained that she had attended a briefing from County Broadband Provider and she outlined their proposal. It was agreed to invite County Broadband Provider to brief the Council at a future meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to invite County Broadband Provider to speak.

4. Minutes

a) It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey, and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 11th May 2022 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

b) It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Morphey, and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 11th May 2022 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

5. Energy Projects

- a) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that he met with Stephen Billingham, the new Chairperson of Sizewell C, Julia Pyke, Director of Financing for Sizewell C, and Tom McGarry, Head of Regional External Affairs and Development for Sizewell C, at the Suffolk Show. Cllr. Brett spoke to them about the Property Price Support Scheme and the lack of parity with the Hinkley Point C scheme. Cllr. Brett said that Mr Billingham was listening carefully and replied that he would look into the matter but would not commit to a timeframe. In response to Mr Billingham's question about what else does the parish want, Cllr. Brett outlined why he thought Route D2 was a better option. Cllr. Bob Flindall said that an alternative road to the Sizewell Link Road was no longer an option but what was needed was the District Council to look after the parish and ensure it is properly resourced and funded to enable it to look after the community that will be hugely affected by Sizewell C. Cllr. Flindall opined that EDF funding in the Deed of Obligation is inadequate to meet the community's needs for a build of 10-12 years. Cllr. Brett said that Mr Billingham is happy to meet with parishioners when he has something meaningful to say.
- b) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his previously circulated report – attached as Appendix I. District Cllr. Russ Rainger said he has informed energy providers Nautilus and Sealink, etc that they cannot present amateurish proposals to Parish Councils in this area as they are now very experienced with NSIPs and will be asking technical questions and expecting comprehensive answers.

6. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

- a) Eastbridge Common – Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Paul Collins agreed to inspect the area for nettles again. Cllr. Hilary Ward recommended seeking professional advice to maintain the wildflower meadow.
- b) Eastbridge Burial Ground Shed – Cllr. Stephen Morpheu reported that the repairs were still progressing.
ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to send a letter of thanks to the volunteer.
- c) Kissing Gate – Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Nat Bacon have removed the kissing gate and arranged for repairs, sandblasting and repainting.
ACTION: Clerk to add to asset register at a nominal cost.
- d) Community Council/Jubilee Hall Management Committee – Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that the Community Council has advertised for new Trustees.
- h) Speed Indicator Device – report attached as Appendix II. Cllr. Paul Collins reported that the battery was still underperforming therefore the device will be returned to Westcotec for a check-up. If the device is working well, Westcotec has offered to provide the Council with a solar powered charger, worth £400, free of charge.
- i) Quiet Lanes – the Clerk reported that she has arranged a collection date for the signage with the Highways depot.
- j) Police Crime Report – the Clerk said no crimes were reported in April 2022.
- k) ESC Planning Protocol – Cllr. Bob Flindall said he had compared the performance of the District Council's planning department with thirteen comparable Councils and he formed a picture that ESC was broadly the same as it has a published constitution which lays down delegated responsibilities. Cllr. Flindall attended the SALC working group meeting and it became clear that the group's objectives were to better understand the planning process and to ask ESC questions about every stage. A questionnaire is being prepared and will shortly be issued to every Town and Parish Council in East Suffolk. District Cllr. Russ Rainger, who is also part of the working group, said there are a number of small issues which the group could successfully lobby ESC to make changes. He said there were problems with transparency which could be improved and more opportunities for ward members to speak at meetings to represent their communities.
ACTION: Cllr. Bob Flindall to brief the Council about the ESC planning process at the next meeting.

7. Parish Matters

a) The Council discussed the dead branch overhanging the culvert at the junction of Pretty Road/Main Road. It was agreed to ask the Environment Agency if they have responsibility for the culvert and to inspect the site.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Environment Agency.

b) The Council agreed to apply for a free hedgehog home from the Coasts and Heaths AONB to be sited at the Burial Ground.

ACTION: Clerk to apply.

c) The Council discussed the upcoming vacancy for a newsletter editor and agreed to ask around for a volunteer.

d) The Council agreed to apply for a grant from the Sizewell B Sponsorship Fund to restore the kissing gate.

ACTION: Cllr. Nat Bacon to provide figures. Clerk to apply.

e) The Council arranged a separate meeting to discuss the strategic aims for the parish.

ACTION: Cllr. Bob Flindall to draft a template policy. Clerk to book hall for 15/06/22.

8. Annual Accounts/Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

Cllr. Stephen Brett proposed that the Council approves the following documents. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

- a) the Annual Accounts for the financial year 2021-2022.
- b) the Bank Reconciliation for the financial year 2021-2022.
- c) the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the AGAR.
- d) the Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the AGAR.
- e) the Certificate of Exemption.
- f) the Budgeted Versus Actual Income and Expenditure for the financial year 2021-2022.
- g) the Community Infrastructure Levy report for the financial year 2021-2022.
- h) the analysis of the Significant Variances from the previous financial year.
- i) To set the period for the exercise of public rights from 13 June to 22 July 2022.

9. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position attached as Appendix III. The Clerk provided an update about the fraudulent direct debits.

b) The Council agreed to renew the Parish Council insurance policy with Community Action Suffolk. (LGA 1972 s.111)

c) The Council agreed to renew the tractor insurance policy with NFU Mutual. (LGA 1972 s.111) It was further agreed to increase the insurance value to £5,000 and to notify the insurance provider that the tractor is operated by a volunteer.

ACTION: Clerk to contact insurance provider.

d) 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	£323.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£83.83	LGA 1972 s.111
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith	£31.68	LGA 1972 s.19
Lawnmower Fuel	Stephen Morphey	£9.03	OSA 1906 s.10

10. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 6th May 2022 and 31st May 2022.

11. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 13th July 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

We are arranging for additional advertising to appear in Westminster and St. James Park tube stations for several weeks prior to the delayed decision date of 8th July.



The march on Sunday 15th May went well with just under 300 people present at the beach following the march from Leiston.

Additional submissions on coastal issues and flooding have been submitted to the Secretary of State following responses from EDF and examination of a BEEMS technical report about the Soft Coastal Defence and its maintenance via the Coastal Processes Management and Mitigation Plan.

Following several press articles about the new Strategic Energy Plan and the role of nuclear power within it, there has been a second set of articles that question the viability of the plan given the reluctance of investors, scale of the plan and the fact that it does not address the immediate problems of climate change, energy prices and the fact that it cannot provide UK energy independence, given that uranium has to be imported from elsewhere.

We continue to work on potential infrastructure pension investors to try and raise ESG issues with nuclear power. There have been some additional articles recently, saying that SMR's create more high level and spent fuel waste per MWhr than the conventional large reactors like Sizewell B or Sizewell C.

In a further twist to the EPR story, it has been reported in Le Canard Enchaîné (French Private Eye) that the Taishan 2 reactor is now operating at a lower power output to prevent vibrational damage that was originally detected at Olkiluoto 3 and reported at Taishan 1 as well as damage to the fuel rods at that reactor.

Taishan 2 does not appear to have suffered fuel rod damage so far and it has been suggested that this may be due to the fact that Taishan 1 operated for a significant length of time at low power prior to full power commercial operation and connection to the Chinese grid.

Olkiluoto 3 has had a damper fitted to try to ameliorate the vibration problem, but that reactor is still being tested and at last report was operating at 60% of full power. It is due to connect to the grid and start commercial full power operation in the summer assuming the testing is successful.

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. Neither has been granted permission to go to a hearing at this time.

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

The Sea Link briefing on 11th May is clearly proposing to connect at Friston substation once operational. It appears that no substantive conversations have happened between Sea Link and the Nautilus project about connections via their proposed multi-purpose connector in the North Sea as they believe that project not to be looking to manage this sort of grid reinforcement project. They have also not engaged with the second Kent to Sizewell interconnector proposal, as this project is not at a stage where a meaningful dialogue can be started.

Looking at the other wind farm extensions for the Galloper and Greater Gabbard wind farms (North Falls and Five Estuaries), it appears the landfall proposal for both North Falls and the Five Estuaries projects are looking to come ashore between Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea and to connect to a new purpose-built substation in Essex, based on the [Five Estuaries Scoping Report](#) and [North Falls Scoping Report](#) submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

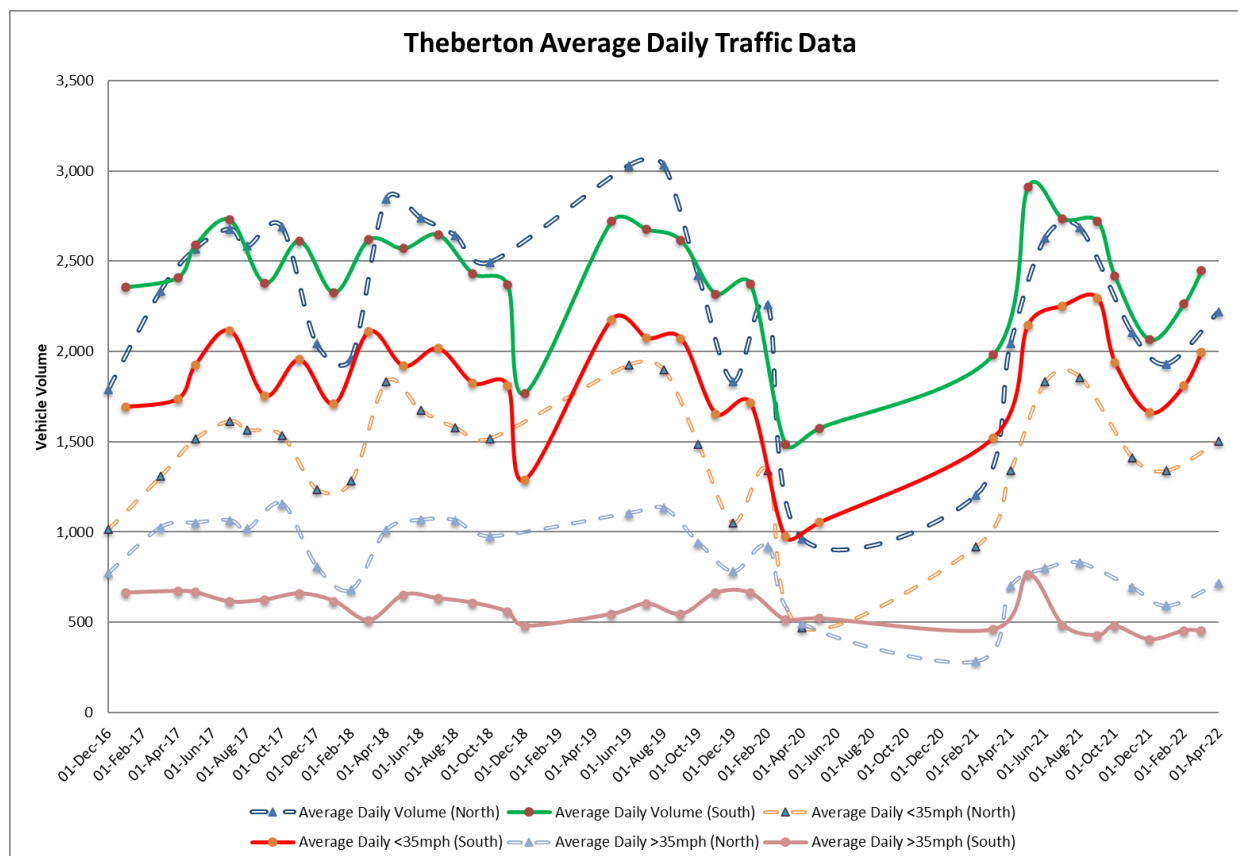
Appendix II – Speed Indicator Device Report

The speed indicator device has been operational for fifty-seven ~20-day periods since 20th 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 **37.6%** from north and **24.1%** from south.

The **85th percentile speed*** is back at close to 40mph with **40.3mph** from north and **38.0mph** from south when they enter the village.

Neither the lead/acid nor Li-ion batteries are lasting the full 20 days of allowed data collection. I have been in discussion with Westcotec and they are taking the SID back for testing and, assuming no faults are found, have agreed to fit a solar panel charger to the SID at no cost. My records indicate that following the repair that was made in early 2021, the lead acid battery certainly did not last as long.



SID Start Date	06-May-21	05-Jun-21	07-Jul-21	08-Aug-21	07-Sep-21	16-Oct-21	08-Nov-21	11-Dec-21	09-Jan-22	10-Feb-22	26-Mar-22	23-Apr-22
Average Daily Volume (North)		2,630		2,685		2,723	2,105		1,930		2,220	
Average Daily Volume (South)	2,912		2,736		2,723	2,418		2,064		2,263	2,449	
Total Vehicles (North)		34,187		37,596			29,469		30,875			33,306
Total Vehicles (South)	34,947		43,773		43,574	29,021		30,965		29,421	36,733	
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)		23,825		25,999			19,774		21,425			22,548
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)	25,767		36,025		36,734	23,281		24,905		23,530	29,951	
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)		10,362		11,597			9,695		9,450			10,758
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)	9,180		7,748		6,840	5,740		6,060		5,891	6,782	
Average Daily <35mph (North)		1,833		1,857			1,412		1,339			1,503
Average Daily <35mph (South)	2,147		2,252		2,296	1,940		1,660		1,810	1,997	
Average Daily >35mph (North)		797		828			693		591			717
Average Daily >35mph (South)	765		484		427	478		404		453	452	
85th percentile speed North (mph)		38.8		38.7			39.0		38.7			39.2
85th percentile speed South (mph)	37.8		37.8		35.3	36.8		36.7		37.0	36.4	
% <35mph (North)		69.7%		69.2%			67.1%		69.4%			67.7%
% <35mph (South)	73.7%		82.3%		84.3%	80.2%		80.4%		80.0%	81.5%	
% >35mph (North)		30.3%		30.8%			32.9%		30.6%			32.3%
% >35mph (South)	26.3%		17.7%		15.7%	19.8%		19.6%		20.0%	18.5%	

*The 85th Percentile is indicative of the speed that the majority of road users are travelling at.

Appendix III - Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 12th May 2022

Barclays Current Account	£9,570.09
Barclays Savings Account	£19,943.55
	<u>£29,513.64</u>

Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£3,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£650.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£2,263.28
Jubilee Hall Broadband Grant	£386.21
Jubilee Hall Broadband Fund	£150.00
Platinum Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
	<u>£16,449.49</u>

Bank Balance less Reserves **£13,064.15**

Payments – June 2022

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£323.50
Sharon Smith - Stationery	£83.83
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£31.68
Stephen Morphey - Lawnmower Fuel	£9.03
Barclays Bank - Fraudulent Direct Debit	£31.20
	<u>£497.23</u>

Net Balance **£12,566.92**