

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH 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
No members of the public

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that at their last meeting, the County Council agreed to raise their portion of Council Tax to 3.99%.

With regards to Sizewell C, Cllr. Smith wished the Council well with its Judicial Review hearing later this month. He also said that the 20mph speed limit for the B1122 through Theberton may have been agreed with EDF however he has responsibility for Strategic Transport matters and he will make the final decision. He will examine the evidence but he exhorted the Council not to take the decision as a done deal. Cllr. Smith said he was trying to progress the 30mph speed limit for Eastbridge and said the position is positive especially if EDF agrees to provide funding. In response to a question from Cllr. Nat Bacon, Cllr. Smith said there was an almost blanket ban on 20mph speed limits in the county as the Constabulary will not enforce it. He said parked cars are an effective traffic calming measure. In response to a question from Cllr. Hilary Ward, Cllr. Smith said the County will not be able to fund the 30mph limit in Eastbridge but there is an overwhelming case for it to be instated as it had somehow been overlooked. He said that if EDF were unwilling to provide the funds, perhaps the County and the Council could work together.

Cllr. Smith said he will not attend the next meeting as it is during the pre-election period even though the County Council election is not for another two years. Cllr. Smith gave thanks to any Councillors who are considering stepping down and wished good luck to those Councillors standing for re-election.

b) District Cllr. Tom Daly summarised his previously circulated monthly report. He said he is standing for re-election and will attend the next meeting. District Cllr. Russ Rainger said he is not standing and he wished the Council well.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2023 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

5. Casual Vacancies

a) There were no applicants for the casual vacancies.

b) The Council noted the resignation of the Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and gave thanks for all her service to the Council. The decision to advertise the vacancy in the Yoxmere Fisherman and online at Suffolk Jobs Direct was ratified. Cllr. Stephen Brett said he has received two expressions of interest and he will circulate their CVs. Cllr. Stephen Brett, Cllr. Hilary Ward and Cllr. Bob Flindall agreed to

interview prospective candidates.

ACTION: Cllr. Brett to circulate CVs of applicants.

6. Energy Projects

- a) The Council noted Cllr. Paul Collins previously circulated report which is attached as Appendix I.
- b) The Council agreed to review Cllr. Paul Collins' draft letter addressed to the Sizewell C Directors, Julia Pyke and Declan Burke, and copied to Grant Shapps and Therese Coffey regarding the recently amended Property Price Support Scheme and to provide comments and/or approval.
- c) The Council agreed to review a draft joint letter addressed to EDF from Yoxford, Middleton cum Fordley, Westleton and Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Councils regarding issues with B1122 and B1125 proposals and to provide comments and/or approval.
- d) Cllr. Hilary Ward referred to a letter received from Therese Coffey which was sent to all residents. The Council agreed to support the proposals she sets out. Cllr. Paul Collins explained that she wants to set up a committee to look at other options for interconnectors but Nautilus, Eurolink and Sea Link will be well underway by the time that happens.

7. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

- a) Police Crime Report – the Clerk said no crimes were reported in the parish in January 2023.
- b) Speed Indicator Device – Cllr. Paul Collins said there was no report this month as the SID is still in its operating period.
- c) Tree Protection Order Application – the Council noted the reply from ESC which stated that there is no process for applying to serve a TPO. TPOs can be served by Local Authorities when there is a recognisable threat to a tree which would lead to a significant loss of public amenity. However, there are circumstances when other permissions Local Authorities take will be given priority and can overrule the TPO. Therefore a TPO cannot be used to obstruct work that has already been permitted through the planning process and Highways have exemption from TPO regulations in order to manage free passage in the road network. ESC said the oak tree at the junction of Moat Road and the B1122 falls within the area where the B1122 connects with the Sizewell Link Road and, subject to final construction detailed plans, the tree appears to be directly on the line of the connecting spur road and given that this is now an approved plan, a TPO cannot be used to prevent its removal if that is what is required.
- d) Eastbridge Common – the Clerk reported that she contacted East Suffolk Norse to undertake grounds maintenance but she has not yet received a reply. The Council noted a written offer of help from a resident of the Common. It was agreed to thank him for his kind offer but that the Council will manage the land for now.
- e) Elections – the Council noted the Parish and District Council elections to be held on 4th May 2023. The Clerk explained the pre-election period which begins on 16th March 2023. The nomination papers were circulated to the Councillors wishing to stand for re-election. The Clerk will make an appointment with the Elections Officer at ESC to hand-deliver the nomination forms and this date will be communicated to Councillors shortly.

ACTION: Clerk to make an appointment with the ESC Elections Officer.

- f) Dark Skies – Cllr. Stephen Morphey said that he had summarised the sequence of events the Council took to try to designate the parish as a Dark Sky area. This will be put in a letter to be sent to the Department for Levelling Up and copied to ESC.
- g) Theberton Playing Field – the Chairman recorded a vote of thanks to Cllr. Nat Bacon for raising the tree crowns at the playing field.
- h) Heritage Trail – the Council agreed to meet on 22nd March 2023.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Morphey to invite the local history recorder.

i) Community Council – Cllr. Hilary Ward informed the Council of the upcoming events. New banners are being commissioned. Policy documents are being put together. A meeting will be arranged to discuss the booking system. Trees have been cut back in the churchyard.

8. Planning

a) Cllr. Bob Flindall advised the Council that he had reviewed the following consultation documents and they did not require a response at this time.

i) the ESC Initial Consultation on the Rural Development Supplementary Planning Document.

ii) the ESC Initial Consultation on the Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document.

iii) the ESC Consultation on Guidance for Developments within Coastal Areas.

b) The Council noted the initiative of the East Suffolk Democratic Planning Alliance in relation to the ESC Local Plan. Cllr. Bob Flindall suggested that the initiative needs to be addressed with Town and Parish Councils in a more effective way.

ACTION: Clerk to reply and ask for a report summarising the initiative and the support required.

c) Cllr. Bob Flindall suggested that ESC could be invited to attend a future meeting of the Council to advise how to take forward a Neighbourhood Plan.

d) Cllr. Bob Flindall reported that SALC sent a report, summarising the findings of the survey, to ESC. It was discussed during a meeting of ESC's Scrutiny Committee. A joint statement is awaited from SALC and ESC.

9. Finance

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

b) The Council noted the s.137 expenditure limit of £9.93 per elector for the financial year 2023-2024.

c) Cllr. Bob Flindall asked the Council to postpone its decision to donate £100 to the Eel's Foot swift tower project. The Council agreed to set up an Earmarked Reserve.

d) The Council agreed to transfer the remaining Earmarked Reserve for the Burial Ground Shed to General Reserves.

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	£386.98	LGA 1972 s.112
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith	£31.68	LG (MP) A 1976 s.19
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£21.79	LGA 1972 s.111
Burial Ground Shed Repairs	Graham Bickers	£347.65	OSA 1906 s.10

10. Administration

a) The Council conducted the annual review and approval of the Asset Register.

b) The Council conducted the annual review and approval of the Internal Controls Statement.

c) The Council approved the Community Infrastructure Levy Report for the financial year 2022-2023.

11. Correspondence

a) The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 3rd February and 2nd March 2023.

b) The Council agreed with a request from a member of the public to upload information about Theberton Woods to the village website.

12. Items for the Next Agenda

The Clerk outlined the likely costs involved with appointing a new Clerk including SALC training, a new laptop, software and printer, and a filing cabinet to store the Council's records. It was agreed to ask the Hall Management Committee if a filing cabinet can be kept in the foyer of Jubilee Hall. The Clerk said the BT broadband bills for Jubilee Hall are currently in her personal name and will need to be transferred.

13. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7:00 pm at Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

A quiet month relatively although we have seen a number of articles in the papers about Sizewell C in terms of financing alongside the projected delays at Hinkley Point C and increased costs.

We continue to work on both the Judicial Review (22-23 March), investor companies and the poor performance of the EPR internationally.

2 T&E Parish Council

The request from SALC to set up a group to discuss handling of NSIP applications in parallel to that which the County are proposing has had a request for volunteers to attend a Zoom meeting next Tuesday. I have agreed to attend on behalf of T&EPC.

The changes to the PPSS have been received by all those originally hand delivered the PPSS. A draft response to SZC Ltd has been circulated with this report for consideration by the council.

A draft 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.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

No further news on SEAS hearing.

4 Eurolink, Nautilus and Sea Link Interconnectors

No further news on any of these projects.

5 EDF SZC B1122 plans

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

Appendix II – Financial Position

Receipts – February 2023

HMRC – VAT Recovery	£423.72
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Payments – March 2023

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£386.78
Sharon Smith – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£31.68
Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Expenses	£21.79
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Equipment Maintenance	£17.99
Graham Bickers – Burial Ground Shed Repairs	£347.65
Leiston Library - Donation	£50.00
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	£855.89

Bank Balances as at 3rd March 2023

Barclays Current Account	£3,358.01
Barclays Savings Account	£19,931.10
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	£23,289.11

Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£3,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£319.90
Community Infrastructure Levy 2021-2022	£651.14
Community Infrastructure Levy 2022-2023	£1,279.67
Jubilee Hall Broadband	£219.41
Platinum Heritage Trail	£10,000.00
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	£15,470.12

General Reserves	£7,818.99
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