

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON ON WEDNESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2019 AT 7:00 PM

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett - Chair
Cllr. Hilary Ward - Vice Chair
Cllr. Stephen Morphey
Cllr. Graham Bickers
Cllr. Philip Baskett
Cllr. Beth Goose
Cllr. Julian Wallis

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Paul Collins - written and accepted
Cllr. Nat Bacon - accepted
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond
District Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf
County Cllr. Richard Smith

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None.

3. Public Forum

a) The Chairman informed the Council that the briefing from National Grid Interconnectors was postponed due to ill-health.

b) District Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf thanked the Council for sharing its response to the Sizewell C stage 4 public consultation and for attending the Planning Committee meeting regarding the relocation of Sizewell B facilities. The Council discussed the way the meeting was conducted and informed the District Councillors present that the Council proposed to send a letter of complaint (item 7d refers).

Cllr. Haworth-Culf spoke about the recent flooding in Theberton and thanked all who assisted people who needed help or were vulnerable. The Council noted that the drains are still blocked despite Highways agreeing to replace the pipes some years ago.

ACTION: Clerk to report via Highways online reporting system.

Cllr. Haworth-Culf also warned the Council about an increase in fraudulent tradespeople operating locally and fraudulent telephone calls. The Council agreed they were happy to raise awareness about this by providing links on the village website and an article in the newsletter.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

c) County Cllr. Richard Smith also thanked the Council for sharing its response to the Sizewell C consultation. Cllr. Smith has received around 150 responses and will share these with his senior officers. The Local Authorities held cabinet meetings last month and approved their responses to the consultation. One of the main points of the Joint Local Authority Group's response was that it was not in a position to judge whether the advantages outweighed the disbenefits due to the lack of information provided in the consultation documents. The Local Authorities are continuing to meet with EDF on a regular basis in workshops where some information is being shared. EDF are expected to submit their application for a Development Consent Order in early 2020 but there is still a huge amount of work to do including the need to produce an Environment Statement.

Cllr. Smith also said the County Council are in the early stages of drafting next year's budget. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had recently announced his intentions and local government had come out fairly well. However, the County Council still have an overspend of £8/£9 million due to expenditure on adult social care and SEN children and 2% of next year's budget will be ring-fenced to meet these.

In response to questions from the Council, Cllr. Smith:

- i) advised that it must be proven that the parish lanes are unsuitable for HGVs and the most that can be done is to erect signage which the Parish Council would need to pay for. The Council agreed not to progress this as it was felt lorry drivers are following sat-navs and would disregard the signs.
- ii) asked for the proposed locations for a grit bin in Theberton to be resent to him and he will forward it to the necessary officer;
ACTION: Clerk to resend.
- iii) advised that a request for a visit from the speed camera unit must be raised with the Suffolk Constabulary's Safer Neighbourhood Team;
ACTION: Cllr. Beth Goose to progress.
- iv) advised the Council to contact the Highways Manager of the Halesworth depot to discuss imposing a speed limit in Eastbridge.
ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to progress.
- v) agreed to raise the question with the cabinet member with responsibility for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs whether large towns in the county are being asked to undertake 'self-help in the community' to cut verges and clean road signs in the same way rural parishes are.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 11th September 2019 be signed as a true record.

It was proposed by Cllr. Graham Bickers, seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward and agreed that the minutes for the Extraordinary meeting of 23rd September 2019 be signed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

- a) With reference to item 12b, Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that he purchased a hedge cutter using the ring-fenced funds for work party tools.
ACTION: Clerk to add to the insurance policy.
- b) With reference to item 6b, the Clerk was unable to ascertain the price for a new battery for the Speed Indicator Device as the model number was not available.
ACTION: Cllr. Beth Goose to inform the Clerk.
- c) With reference to item 9b, the Clerk reported that investment options for the playing equipment maintenance and sinking fund had been identified but advised the Council to first adopt an Investment Policy which will be tabled for approval at next month's meeting.
ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's agenda.

6. Meetings and Progress Reports

- a) Theberton Playing Field Improvements - Cllr. Hilary Ward informed the Council that the application to the ESC Enabling Communities Exemplar Programme for funding for the play equipment was successful but conditional on securing funding for the remaining items. Unfortunately, the application for funding for a climbing tower from the sports pot of the ESC Outdoor Playing Space Fund has been turned down as it did not meet the eligibility criteria to qualify as sports equipment. The Council considered whether to apply for funding from a different source or to reapply for funding for a different model of climbing tower which may meet the eligibility criteria. It was agreed to apply for funding for a new climbing tower - the Litcham 2.
ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward to obtain new quote from Action Play. Clerk to resubmit application form.
- b) Jubilee Hall - it was agreed to speak to the Management Committee again about the proposal to provide internet access in the hall and to discuss ways in which the Parish Council could help to meet the ongoing costs. The District Councillors previously agreed to meet the installation cost and one year of ongoing costs from their Enabling Communities Budget.

With the agreement of the Council, the Chairman extended the meeting by 45 minutes.

7. Parish Matters

a) The Council agreed to support the Community Council's application to list The Lion Freehouse as an asset of community value.

ACTION: Clerk to inform ESC.

b) The Council noted the annual play equipment safety inspection report for Theberton. It was agreed to include an amount in next year's budget to resurface the areas under the Monkey House Climber and the Mixed Swings. The issues with the mound and slide were previously noted and plans are underway to replace these (item 6a refers). It was agreed to erect signs in both playparks to inform visitors that any problems with the equipment and fields should be reported to the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk to send examples of signage to Cllr. Stephen Brett. Cllr. Brett authorised to order from Leiston Press.

c) The Council approved the response to the BEIS Regulated Asset Base Model for Nuclear consultation and agreed to endorse the Theberton and Eastbridge Action Group on Sizewell response.

ACTION: Clerk to submit and copy to interested parties.

d) The Council agreed to send a letter of complaint to East Suffolk Council regarding the conduct of the planning meeting for the relocation of Sizewell B facilities.

ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers to send final amendments to the Clerk. Clerk to submit to the Monitoring Officer, Democratic Services and the Chief Executive of ESC, copy to the National Planning Casework Unit and upload to the website.

e) The Council postponed whether to consider setting up a Community Energy Scheme.

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

8. Administration

a) The Council postponed approval and adoption of a Subject Access Request Policy and Procedure.

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

b) The Council agreed to appoint the Suffolk Association of Local Councils as internal auditor.

9. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position detailed in **Appendix I**.

b) The Council noted the external auditor's report and certificate.

ACTION: Clerk to upload to website.

c) The Council reviewed the budgeted versus actual income and expenditure for Quarter 2 2019/2020.

d) The Council agreed to purchase a wreath to commemorate Remembrance Day to the value of £12.00. The wreath will be placed by the Chairman on the War Memorial at St Peter's Church, Theberton on Remembrance Sunday.

ACTION: Clerk to order a wreath from the Royal British Legion. Cllr. Hilary Ward to check if the fallen soldier buried at Eastbridge is included on the War Memorial.

e) It was proposed by Cllr. Stephen Brett, seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward, and agreed to authorise the payments listed below.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Newsletter Printing	Leiston Press	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.142
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£106.20	LGA 1972 s.112
External Audit Fee	PFK Littlejohn LLP	£240.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Play Equipment Safety Inspection	Playsafety Limited	£90.60	PHA 1936 s.87
Brushcutter Service and Repair	Graham Bickers	£143.82	PHA 1936 s.87
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£226.78	LGA 1972 s.111

Strimmer	Stephen Brett	£458.91	PHA 1936 s.87
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10. Correspondence

a) The Council noted the correspondence received between 6th September 2019 and 3rd October 2019 detailed in **Appendix II**.

b) The Council discussed a resident's concern about an item of unsolicited mail asking residents to join an online networking group called Nextdoor Theberton. The Council noted a recent article on BBC News about this network confirms it is legitimate but may not comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations as members must submit their personal details which are not kept private. The Council agreed to put an article in the village newsletter advising residents of this.

ACTION: Clerk to progress.

11. Questions to the Chair

It was agreed to reconsider a request received from a resident to reject EDF Energy's proposal to construct two nuclear reactors at Sizewell.

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

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm.

Appendix I - Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 12th September 2019

Barclays Current Account	£3,889.07
Barclays Savings Account	£1,515.28
	<u>£5,404.35</u>

General and Earmarked Reserves

EDF Energy Grant - Work Party Tools	£515.00
General Reserves	£2,495.00
Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£1,000.00
	<u>£4,010.00</u>

Bank Balance less Reserves

£1,394.35

Income - September 2019/October 2019

Cemetery - Cremation of Ashes	£145.00
Precept - 2 nd Instalment	£3,006.99
Bank Interest	£0.72
	<u>£3,152.71</u>

Payments - October 2019

Leiston Press - Newsletter Printing	£20.00
Playsafety Ltd - Annual Safety Inspection	£90.60
Sharon Smith - Clerk's Expenses	£106.20
PFK Littlejohn - External Audit Fee	£240.00
Graham Bickers - Brushcutter Service and Repair	£143.82
Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£226.78
	<u>£827.40</u>

Net Balance

£3,719.66

Appendix II - Correspondence

Suffolk Association of Local Councils

- a) Suffolk Coastal Area Forum - AONB Report, Summary Notes and Meeting Notes.
- b) E-Bulletin - 13/09/19 and 26/09/19.
- c) Bitesize Training - Website Accessibility.
- d) Change to AGM Date - 26/11/19 at Elmswell Village Hall.
- e) Suffolk Community Awards 2019 Presentation Evening Press Release.
- f) The Local Councillor Newsletter.
- g) Suffolk Action Week - Volunteering.
- h) Annual Conference - Shaping Suffolk - 18/11/19 in Ipswich.

Consultations

- a) Independent Review into Local Government Audit - online survey, deadline 15/10/19.
- b) SALC - Review of Governance Arrangements Extended - online survey, deadline 31/10/19.
- c) East Suffolk Council - Council Tax Support Consultation - online survey, deadline 03/11/19.
- d) East Suffolk Council - Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document - online survey, deadline 25/10/19.
- e) Local Government Boundary Review - Have Your Say on County Division Arrangements - online survey, deadline 02/12/19.

Suffolk County Council

- a) Local Government Boundary Review - invitation to briefing - 10/10/19 at Endeavour House.
- b) Road repairs in Theberton and Eastbridge - October 2019.

East Suffolk Council

- a) East Suffolk Partnership Annual Forum - Shaping our Future invitation - 15/09/19 at Trinity Park.
- b) East Suffolk Community Workshops - Save the Date - 28/11/19 with Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham.
- c) Theberton Village Hall bottle bank.
- d) Message from Cllr. Tony Cooper.
- e) Suffolk Local Authorities - Parish Engagement Event - 15/10/19 at Stowmarket.
- f) Cllr. Terry-Jill Haworth-Culf Ward Report - October 2019.
- g) Outdoor Playing Space Fund Application Response.

Sizewell

- a) National Planning Casework Unit - Call-In of Sizewell B Planning Application under consideration.
- b) Suffolk Preservation Society - Response to Sizewell C Stage 4 Consultation.
- c) Together Against Sizewell C - Public Meeting on 26/10/19 in Colchester.
- d) EDF Energy - Hinkley Point C Update.
- e) SPLG - Minutes of the 13/09/19 Meeting.
- f) SPLG - Draft Response to Sizewell C Stage 4 Consultation.
- g) Westleton Parish Council - Draft Response to Sizewell C Stage 4 Consultation.
- h) Interconnector Projects in East Suffolk - Latest Information.
- i) Acknowledgement of receipt of Sizewell C Stage 4 Consultation Response from the Sizewell C Community Team, County Cllr. Richard Smith and Therese Coffey MP.
- j) East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two Planning Process Support.

Suffolk Constabulary

- a) Increase in Thefts from Vehicles in East Suffolk.
- b) Upcoming Public Meetings with Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner - 10/10/19 at Oulton Broad.
- c) Constables County Newsletter.

Other

- a) Rural Services Network - The Rural Bulletin - September 2019 and October 2019.
- b) Information Commissioner's Office - Latest News.
- c) One Suffolk Website Update.
- d) Message from a resident confirming fly tipping at Flash Corner has been reported to ESC.
- e) Suffolk Preservation Society - Landscape Training for Local Councils.
- f) Request to copy information from website.
- g) Parish Online News and Updates.
- h) PSMA Newsletter - September 2019.
- i) AONB Monthly Update - September 2019.
- j) Message from a resident concerning unsolicited mail.