

MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAY 10th MARCH 2021 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. Paul Collins
Cllr. Nat Bacon

Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Julian Wallis
Cllr. Beth Goose – written and accepted
Cllr. Philip Baskett – unable to connect
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith
District Cllr. T-J Haworth-Culf
District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO
No members of the public

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

None.

3. Public Forum

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith referred to the written report that is prepared for County Councillors each month but said he prefers to give an oral report at meetings to ensure he only covers matters of particular interest and relevance to the parish.

With regard to Sizewell C, Cllr. Smith has been advised by SCC that he does not need to speak at the first preliminary meeting as it is only a technical/procedural meeting and, at all stages, a London barrister will represent the County Council and ensure that its views are put across forcibly and properly. Cllr. Smith said he will attend as a spectator.

Cllr. Smith said the vaccination roll out was going very well, particularly from Saxmundham surgery who were offering spare vaccines to police officers. In the NHS England data tables, Saxmundham came first as the most vaccinated area in England.

The purdah period for the County Council elections begins on 25th March therefore he will not attend next month's meeting as it is important that all candidates are treated equally. Cllr. Smith said he has enjoyed his time with Theberton and Eastbridge and he has been proud to serve as its County Councillor. He remains in his position until 6th May therefore he can be contacted by email or telephone if there are any issues or concerns.

Cllr. Stephen Brett thanked Cllr. Smith for all his support and wished him luck for the forthcoming election. Cllr. Brett said the Council had asked for the second Sizewell C preliminary meeting to be delayed by 6 weeks to allow Councillors in purdah to participate.

b) District Cllr. T-J Haworth-Culf said the District Councillors must also comply with the purdah period therefore they will not attend the Council's next meeting. Cllr. Haworth-Culf said a barrister will also represent ESC at the Sizewell C preliminary meetings.

With regard to COVID, Cllr. Haworth-Culf reported that unregistered carers are now being invited to contact their surgery to request a vaccine. A testing site has opened in Aldeburgh and lateral flow tests can be ordered for school-age children from the County Council website.

Cllr. Haworth-Culf reported that the MyDentist surgery in Leiston is to close which has caused concern for many local residents. Dr Therese Coffey MP is speaking to NHS England who are working with MyDentist to ensure patients are offered access at alternative local NHS dental practices.

c) District Cllr. Jocelyn Bond said that Cllr. Graham Bickers had been continuing to discuss planning concerns with her and Cllr. T-J Haworth-Culf. Cllr. Bond said she forwarded the latest planning application for Sizewell A to the Council as it may be of interest. She said she had asked ESC to consult with the community about all the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects in the area. This request was declined as there is insufficient time between the consultations. Cllr. Bond and Cllr. Haworth-Culf continue to encourage residents to engage in the consultations.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr. Paul Collins, seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 10th February 2021 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

5. Matters Arising

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that he had spoken to Cllr. Julian Wallis and he has confirmed he will attend the next meeting. The Clerk noted that Cllr. Wallis has not attended a meeting since the Council resumed meetings in July 2020 and he has not given apologies nor reasons for non-attendance which would have enabled the Council to agree to a period of absence. The Clerk advised that Councillors are automatically disqualified for non-attendance at meetings for a six month period. County Cllr. Richard Smith confirmed this and advised that the Council were bound to inform the District Council of Cllr. Wallis' disqualification. It was agreed to follow County Cllr. Smith's advice but a vote of thanks to Cllr. Wallis was recorded for his time and valued service to the Council.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to inform Cllr. Julian Wallis and Clerk to inform ESC.

b) Cllr. Hilary Ward, referring to item 8c, asked if the letter about property blight due to Sizewell C had been sent.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate draft letter and list of recipients for approval.

c) Cllr. Graham Bickers, referring to item 13b, said he would create number moulds for use in the Burial Ground to identify the graves. They can be stored in the shed until ready for use.

ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers to progress.

6. Planning

Cllr. Graham Bickers summarised his previously circulated report about East Suffolk Council's Planning Protocol. Cllr. Bickers aimed to take a balanced view and compared ESC's current methods with other councils, particularly Cornwall Council. He found the processes differed greatly and that dialogue with the public and Ward Members is limited which reduces openness and transparency in the manner that planning application are determined. The system for referring planning applications to be considered by a full committee is flawed and Ward Members are not permitted to make the views of Town and Parish Councils known before the decision to refer an application to committee is taken. Cllr. Bickers recommended that the Council accepts his report and agrees to circulate it to all Town and Parish Councils in East Suffolk. A short survey will be included to ascertain the views of these Councils. The responses can be shared with the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and then with the District Council. Cllr. Stephen Brett seconded Cllr. Bickers' approach. All in favour. Cllr. Bickers also raised a concern about ESC Cabinet Members and Assistants with responsibility for Planning sitting on Planning Committees. Cllr. Bickers read out guidance from the Planning Advisory Service which stated that while this is permissible it is not advisable in large councils. It was agreed to include a question on this within the survey to all Councils.

ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers to finalise report and Clerk to send to all Councils in East Suffolk.

7. Energy Projects

a) Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Paul Collins reported that the meeting with EDF was amicable and constructive. All Councillors were happy with the informal notes of the meeting taken by the Clerk. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for 26th March 2021.

- Cllr. Paul Collins said he had reviewed EDF's proposed Property Price Support Scheme and he was disappointed to find that it only applies to properties within the construction site boundary. The properties within this boundary are already likely to be subject to a compulsory purchase scheme.
- Cllr. Collins said EDF expressed surprise at the suggestion to remove the Sizewell Link Road following the construction phase. Cllr. Collins informed EDF that a survey of residents' views on this matter was being undertaken. Cllr. Nat Bacon said it was a simple survey of those most affected. He said more pros and cons could have been added but they wanted to keep it as a simple yes/no question. The survey was issued with the Middleton newsletter and will be issued with the Theberton and Eastbridge newsletter next week. 550 people will be asked for their views, including those in the parish of Kelsale, to ensure the results are representative of people in the area. Cllr. Collins said that EDF claim that the results from its stage 4 public consultation show that most people are in favour of the Link Road remaining during the operational phase. Therese Coffey MP and the County Council would like it to be taken up whereas the District Council would like it to remain. Cllr. Collins said it will depend on PINS decision. Cllr. Bacon said removal would escalate costs and make route D2/W more viable.
- Cllr. Stephen Brett said EDF propose to construct a road bridge over Pretty Road to retain this accessway. EDF will produce technical drawings shortly and have asked the Council to conduct a public consultation in the parish about these plans.

b) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his previously circulated report, attached as Appendix I. Cllr. Stephen Brett said the deadline to register for the first preliminary meeting was today therefore Cllr. Collins has registered to speak. Cllr. Collins said the open floor hearings will be held between 19th-26th May where the public will be permitted to speak. Written Representations need to be submitted by 26th May. Cllr. Brett said it was important not to duplicate other Written Representations therefore co-ordination will be required with other respondents. Cllr. Collins said there is a need to ensure who is best qualified to make the necessary points and the Council can still put forward its own views and any additions. This may make a stronger argument to put before PINS.

8. Grant Applications

a) Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that a grant for £980 had been received from the ESC Enabling Communities Budget for the petanque piste at Theberton. The piste will be constructed by volunteers when the weather has improved.

ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to order materials.

b) Cllr. Hilary Ward reported that the District Councillors have offered to fund the installation and two years of running costs from their Enabling Communities Budget for broadband in Jubilee Hall. Cllr. Ward said she is waiting for the views of the Hall Management Committee. Cllr. Stephen Brett said his understanding was that the Hall Management Committee had given permission for broadband if the Council was willing to meet the costs.

ACTION: Cllr. Hilary Ward and the Clerk to progress.

9. Consultations

Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that the RSPB have joined a scheme which monitors the condition of their trees to ensure they remain accredited. The RSPB are being audited therefore the Forestry Consultation Team contacted the Council to ask for its views regarding forest management carried out by the RSPB. It was agreed to leave this matter to people who are qualified to undertake the assessment.

10. Progress Reports

a) Cllr. Paul Collins reported that the Speed Indicator Device was back up and running. The data collection unit is storing results but the battery only lasts for 12 days. There is additional battery to try next month. The report for March 2021 is attached as Appendix III.

b) The Clerk asked for the update about the Quiet Lanes Scheme to be postponed until the next meeting.

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

11. Police

Cllr. Beth Goose informed the Council by email that no crimes were reported in the parish in January 2021.

12. Finance

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

b) The Council agreed to deposit £240 with Leiston Press for annual newsletter printing costs.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange bank transfer.

c) The Council noted the Local Government Act s.137 expenditure limits for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

d) The Council reviewed and approved the current banking arrangements to allow two authorised signatories (the Clerk and one Councillor) to operate the online banking arrangements and to pay invoices by internet bank transfer.

b) It was proposed by Cllr. Hilary Ward, seconded by Cllr. Graham Bickers, and agreed to authorise the payments listed below. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£194.50	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£24.22	LGA 1972 s.111
Payroll Services	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	£22.80	LGA 1972 s.111
Clerk's PAYE	HM Revenue and Customs	£146.00	LGA 1972 s.112
Additional Insurance Premium	Business Services at CAS Ltd	£23.51	LGA 1972 s.111
Newsletter Printing	Leiston Press	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.142

11. 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 Control Statement.

c) The Councillors were reminded of the requirements of the Suffolk Local Code of Conduct.

12. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 5th February 2021 and 4th March 2021.

13. Questions to the Chair/Items for Next Agenda

None.

14. Next Meeting

a) The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 14th April 2021 at 6:00 pm.

b) The Council agreed to reschedule the Annual Parish Meeting of the Council from Wednesday 14th April 2021 to Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7:00 pm.

c) The Council agreed to reschedule the Annual Meeting of the Council from Wednesday 12th May 2021 to Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 8:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

Appendix I – Energy Projects Report

1 TEAGS – Stop Sizewell C

We have used the last month to start our preparations for the PINS Examination following the publication of the Rule 6 letter by the ExA giving the dates for the start of the preliminary meeting (PM) on 23 March. The first deadline is 10th March when applications to take part in the PM are required along with any written representations about the rule 6 letter, procedure and examination timetable.

The disappointing timing is that although there is an agenda item in the PM to discuss the changes to the DCO submitted by EDF, a decision on their materiality and whether/how they will be examined will not be made until 21st April, a week after the second PM (proposed 7th April with 14th April as a potential second date to conclude PM2) is completed. Once this meeting is held, the examination has 6 months to conclude (by 14th October), so the clock is ticking, but it will be a week into this period before we know the actual contents of the DCO that will be examined. This delay puts small organisations at a disadvantage, some of whom have retained experts to comment on particular aspects of the DCO, but may have to re-evaluate aspects of their evidence due to changes to the DCO, always assuming they are accepted by the ExA for examination.

We are also disappointed that some issues do not seem to be adequately covered in the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues published as Annex C of the Rule 6 letter and will be participating in the PM to ensure that these omissions are rectified. The first is the lack of any direct mention of the Hard and Soft Coastal Defence plans per se, even though a preliminary Coastal Monitoring and Mitigation Plan is included in the DCO documentation and the second is to ensure that a thorough examination of carbon footprint and net-zero contribution or otherwise is adequately covered.

We have been working with the other NGOs to ensure that we cover the full range of issues to be examined but support each other's efforts without too much duplication.

The outline examination timetable currently is given below.

Deadline for responding to timetable (Rule 6) and request to speak at Prelim Mtgs	10 March
Preliminary Meeting(s)	23 March & 14 April
Publication of full Examination Timetable	21 April
Open Floor Hearings	19 - 21 May (deadline for speaking 12 May)
Deadline for Written Representations	26 May
Site inspections	8 - 10 June
Issue Specific Hearings Compulsory Acquisition Hearings More visits/Open Floor Hearings/ Issue Specific hearings	Early/mid July Mid August Mid September
Examination must end	14 October

There are other deadlines interspersed with the various hearings and following the PM the timetable will be updated with more specific dates and subjects for Issue Specific Hearings and even after that additional meetings may be added as the examination progresses.

Alison has registered to speak at the PM for Stop Sizewell C and I am registered to speak on behalf of Minsmere Levels Stakeholders Group.

It is possible for individuals to register to speak on behalf of multiple organisations/groups as well as individually and be given separate 10 or 5 minute speaking slots within both Open Floor and Issue Specific Hearings.

2 T&E Parish Council

The meeting between EDF and T&EPC was held on 11th February and initial notes have already been circulated by Sharon. The next meeting is due to be held on 26th March. Once the meetings are completed, we would submit a summary report for inclusion in Parish records.

3 Scottish Power DCO Examination

Following submission of the written representation, the ExA has requested that we contribute to the Issue Specific Hearing 13 on Traffic and Transport on Friday 12th March.

The church have written to the examiners and Scottish Power saying they would not want any change or enhancement made to the path through the church yard as a result of any of the mitigation schemes within the village.

Their e-mail can be found at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010077/EN010077-004216-DL7%20-%20St%20Peter's%20Church%20Theberton.pdf>

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

Cllr. Brett and I attended a webinar and Q&A update on the two National Grid Ventures Interconnector projects destined for this area.

Much of the discussion revolved around the use of Multi-Purpose Interconnector (MPI) installations that would be built offshore on a platform to which wind farms would connect.

This would mean that some of the land-based AC/DC converter installations and other associated equipment would end up being built off-shore. Power can then be directed either to the UK coast for connection to the grid or to European countries who have interconnector agreements with the UK.

Apart from the obvious benefit of reducing the amount of shore-based equipment and substation footprint in the UK, one of the other benefits is that, currently (excuse the pun), wind farm cable utilisation is only around 40%. The use of MPI shared facilities out at sea means that cable utilisation can be pushed to about 90%, so less cable trenches and destruction of coastal habitats.

This doesn't mean that there is no installation required between the cable coming onshore and being connected to the grid power lines, just that it is significantly reduced by the MPI and the more efficient cable use coming on shore.

But before you all shout off-shore ring-main, the current maximum capacity of one of these cables is about 1.8GW so there will still be multiple cables coming on-shore for connection to the grid or being used to provide power to countries with interconnector agreements with NGV.

To give you some perspective, Scottish Power's EA1N is 800MW and EA2 is 900MW, so between the two of them at full output, simultaneously they would completely utilise one of these 1.8GW cables.

However, the two projects will have separate cabling, separate substations and connections to the National Grid and may even be developed sequentially rather than at the same time.

The Nautilus Interconnector to Belgium, which is the more advanced of the two interconnectors, is a 1.4GW connection due for completion in 2028 and a non-statutory consultation is expected to occur this summer. The Eurolink Interconnector to Netherlands is also a 1.4GW connection but is less advanced than Nautilus and is expected to complete in 2030.

It is highly unlikely that the two SPR projects would use MPI connections given their closeness to DCO completion, but I believe there are efforts to see if Scottish Power can be pushed to adopt this strategy.

There are also two UK to UK interconnectors proposed by the Electricity Supply Operator from Sizewell to Kent. We asked if these projects could also utilise the MPI strategy and avoid yet more cables and land

footprint for substations and converters etc. The answer was that this would not be possible as these were grid re-enforcement projects with different technical requirements which were not suitable for distribution via MPIs.

The upshot is that the MPI strategy does reduce footprint of substations etc on land but the capacity of cables will still mean multiple cable corridors as more and more windfarms are built. The unfortunate fact that the national grid infrastructure available at Sizewell is currently under utilised and is also capable of being upgraded through cable re-stringing means that its closeness to the coast makes it a prime location for cable onshoring of any type.

However, the more connections are made here increase risk for the national grid as the potential for a catastrophic single point failure here or at Bramford where the Sizewell power lines connect to the rest of the grid could cause a more catastrophic power outage across the grid (hence the Kent Interconnector projects). As it is additional capacity from Bramford, south towards London is already planned to recognise the additional load that will be coming to Bramford from windfarms off East Anglia, SZB and potentially SZC.

Appendix II – Financial Position

Bank Balances as at 11th February 2021

Barclays Current Account	£4,135.24
Barclays Savings Account	£4,017.42
	<u>£8,152.66</u>

General and Earmarked Reserves

EDF Energy Grant - Work Party Tools	£132.58
General Reserves	£2,495.00
Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£1,000.00
	<u>£3,627.58</u>

Bank Balance less Reserves **£4,525.08**

Income – March 2021

East Suffolk Council – Petanque Piste Grant	£980.00
HMRC – VAT Recovery	£2,324.42
	<u>£3,304.42</u>

Payments – February 2021/March 2021

Sharon Smith - Clerk's Salary	£194.50
Sharon Smith – Clerk's Expenses	£24.22
SALC – Payroll Services	£22.80
HMRC – Clerk's PAYE	£146.00
Leiston Press – Newsletter Printing	£20.00
Theberton Play Equipment Maintenance Package	£17.99
Westcotec – Repairs to SID	£932.16
David Bracey – Post-Installation Inspection	£300.00
Business Services at CAS Ltd – Insurance Premium	£23.51
	<u>£1,681.18</u>

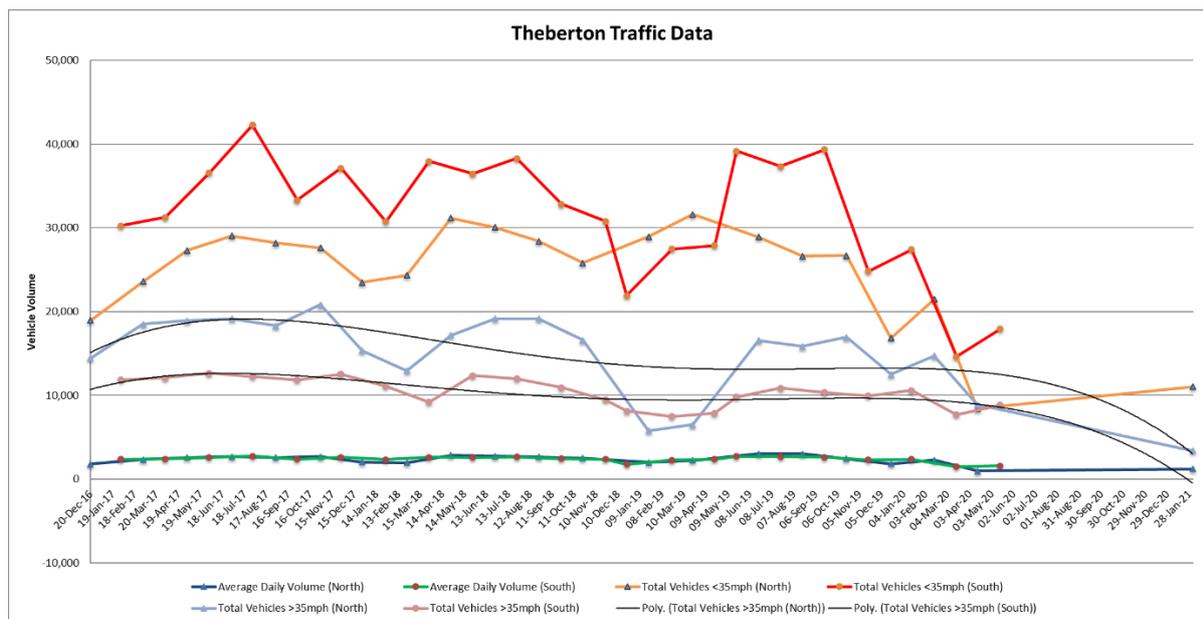
Net Balance **£6,148.32**

Appendix III – Speed Indicator Device

The speed indicator device has been operational for forty-three ~20-day periods since 20th December 2016. It is placed at one end of the village or other at ~30 day intervals. Last June the radar data logger failed and so has been absent in the village until recently when the unit was repaired.

As it happened we were still in lockdown when the SID failed and now we start again and we are in lockdown 3 and it looks like traffic may still be showing lower volumes. Traffic volumes are between 30% and 50% lower than pre-lockdown 1 but those exceeding 35mph is now averaging 39% from north and 26% from south.

The 85th percentile speed* is has reduced to 37.6mph from north and 40.2mph from south when they enter the village. The removal of trees on the roadside out towards Middleton may have made the SID more visible perhaps accounting for the speed reduction. It will take a few more months of monitoring to see if this is a permanent change or not.



SID Start Date	20-Jul-19	19-Aug-19	18-Sep-19	18-Oct-19	17-Nov-19	18-Dec-19	15-Jan-20	15-Feb-20	16-Mar-20	14-Apr-20	15-May-20	02-Feb-21
Average Daily Volume (North)		3,033		2,424		1,833		2,260		961		1,202
Average Daily Volume (South)	2,676		2,615		2,317		2,374		1,487		1,574	
Total Vehicles (North)		42,466		43,631		29,324		36,162		17,304		14,428
Total Vehicles (South)	48,175		49,682		34,762		37,990		22,310		26,761	
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)		26,606		26,699		16,817		21,461		8,421		11,030
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)	37,320		39,341		24,821		27,414		14,622		17,922	
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)		15,860		16,932		12,507		14,701		8,883		3,398
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)	10,855		10,341		9,941		10,576		7,688		8,839	
85 th percentile speed North (mph)		40.1		40.7		41.4		41.2		44.0		37.6
85 th percentile speed South (mph)	37.6		37.3		39.4		39.2		40.9		40.2	
% <35mph (North)		62.7%		61.2%		57.3%		59.3%		48.7%		76.4%
% <35mph (South)	77.5%		79.2%		71.4%		72.2%		65.5%		67.0%	
% >35mph (North)		37.3%		38.8%		42.7%		40.7%		51.3%		23.6%
% >35mph (South)	22.5%		20.8%		28.6%		27.8%		34.5%		33.0%	

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