

# MINUTES OF THE THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021 AT 7:00 PM AT JUBILEE HALL, THEBERTON

## 1. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr. Stephen Brett – Chair  
Cllr. Hilary Ward – Vice-Chair  
Cllr. Adam Hurrell  
Cllr. Stephen Morphey  
Cllr. Graham Bickers  
Cllr. Paul Collins  
Cllr. Laura Bonnett  
Cllr. Tom Lagden

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Nat Bacon – written and accepted  
County Cllr. Richard Smith

### In attendance:

Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
District Cllr. Tom Daly  
District Cllr. Russ Rainger  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper  
No members of the public

## 2. To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations

None.

## 3. Public Forum

- a) Cllr. Tom Daly referred to the previously circulated monthly report from the Ward members. He reported that land agents for National Grid Ventures will be contacting local landowners early next year seeking permission to conduct ecological surveys in connection with the Nautilus Interconnector. He said the surveys do not mean that the land has been chosen for development but the implication is there.
- b) Cllr. Russ Rainger reported that there will be no change to refuse collection schedules this Christmas. Cllr. Rainger said the District Council was looking at ways to provide support to Parish and Town Councils to conduct hybrid meetings to enable the public and Local Authorities to attend remotely.
- c) Cllr. Tony Cooper said the District Council were supporting the Treebilee project by gifting around 200 oak trees to Parish and Town Councils across East Suffolk to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Council discussed possible locations to plant the free tree. Cllr. Cooper reported that the District Council are proposing to increase its portion of Council Tax by 1.9% next year to meet the costs of supporting local businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic.

**ACTION: Clerk to register the Council's interest in a free oak tree.**

## 4. Minutes

Cllr. Paul Collins proposed that the Council approves the minutes of the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Seconded by Cllr. Hilary Ward. All in favour.

## 5. Matters Arising

- a) Cllr. Hilary Ward said that thanks were given to the Council for providing litter picker sets for community use.
- b) Cllr. Stephen Brett said that strimming Eastbridge Common had been postponed due to an injury to his hand.
- c) On behalf of a group of residents, Cllr. Hilary Ward sought permission to site a bench, commemorating the golden anniversary of two residents, next to the petanque piste at Theberton playing field. All in favour.

## 6. Energy Projects

- a) Cllr. Paul Collins summarised his monthly report, attached as Appendix I.
- b) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that he, Cllr. Paul Collins and the Clerk attended a virtual meeting with

EDF's legal team to discuss the terms of the Deed of Covenant which the Council has been asked to sign with NNB Generation Company (SZC) Ltd, Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council. Cllr. Brett reported that, following his request, EDF agreed that two representatives from the Council could attend the B1122 Early Years Working Group and act as one. Cllr. Brett proposed that the Council agrees to sign the Deed of Covenant subject to an amendment to the signing arrangements in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders. Seconded by Cllr. Collins. All in favour. Cllr. Brett said that Richard Bull, Head of Transport Planning for EDF, was also in attendance at the meeting and he asked for an update on the new plan for Potter's Street becoming one-way and the pedestrian crossing, and potential street lights, in Theberton. Richard Bull said he would find out and report back. It was also agreed at the meeting that the Council will write to EDF to set out the desired mitigation measures for the B1122 when the SLR has been completed and EDF will respond in writing to confirm which of these measures will be implemented.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett and Cllr. Hilary Ward to sign the final version of the Deed of Covenant. Cllr. Paul Collins to draft a letter to EDF.**

c) The Council noted the response received from EDF regarding the Council's request to revise the current Property Price Support Scheme. The response stated that the PPSS was a discretionary scheme aimed at mitigating against long-term diminution in value to properties as a consequence of generalised blight linked to the construction of the new power station. It is anticipated that changes to the PPSS could potentially be published in the first quarter of next year, in advance of the Secretary of State's decision.

Cllr. Stephen Brett said he was disappointed that a revised scheme has not yet been received, considering that the Council formally requested this in September 2021, but he was pleased that the response had been copied to the Local Authorities as this should ensure that EDF fulfils its promise. District Cllr. Russ Rainger agreed that the lengthy silence was poor, as work had been ongoing in the background, but said that the response was a positive message that EDF are looking to move forward on this issue.

Cllr. Hilary Ward raised concerns that the response indicated that EDF believes Theberton will be mitigated by the SLR but she said this is not the case in the early years and the ease of access to the wider area will be compromised. Cllr. Rainger replied that this has been covered in the Deed of Obligation via the B1122 Early Years Working Group and the Tourism Fund, etc.

Cllr. Graham Bickers said that if the parish had the same scheme as Hinkley Point C then Theberton would be included and therefore EDF's assertion is unacceptable considering they have said Sizewell C will mirror Hinkley Point C. Cllr. Bickers said EDF do not want to do this as the scheme is only voluntary and they do not wish to be a good neighbour and a responsible developer. The Sizewell C scheme was originally in the Heads of Terms (s.106) and then removed in later iterations. Cllr. Bickers said the parish was 'at the coal face' for direct mitigation and the scheme should therefore have been included in the Deed of Obligation. This Deed has now been signed by EDF and the Local Authorities therefore the Council must now push for a revised and fair scheme outside of the Deed. EDF said they would provide a revised scheme by Christmas but this has now been 'kicked into the long grass' until next year. It is Cllr. Bickers belief that EDF will delay producing a revised scheme until after the Secretary of State's decision and then it will be too late to seek resolution. Cllr. Bickers recommended that the Council brings this matter in front of the Local Authorities, Therese Coffey MP and the Secretary of State to seek their support to exhort EDF to produce an identical scheme to Hinkley Point C.

Cllr. Paul Collins said the response from EDF indicated that the revised scheme for Sizewell C would only consider blight on a case by case basis and it was not reasonable nor appropriate to set these limits. Cllr. Collins said the Council's response to the Deadline 10 submissions would go directly to the Secretary of State as the examination period has ended. The Council's response included a request for a revised PPSS similar to the Hinkley Point C scheme. Cllr. Collins said that EDF have agreed to provide a revised scheme in the first quarter of next year and the Secretary of State's decision will not be made until after 14<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr. Collins suggested that the Council waits for the revised scheme and then responds to EDF.

Cllr. Brett asked the Council for their views. Cllr. Bickers said it will be too late to inform the Secretary of State by then. There were no further views. The Council agreed to wait for the revised scheme but to reply to EDF to correct their assertion that the PPSS was not removed from the Deed of Obligation (it was removed from the Heads of Terms), to state that Theberton is not adequately mitigated by the SLR, that limitations to the properties to be included are not appropriate, and to ask EDF to agree to ultimately buy properties where homeowners are in extremis.

**ACTION: Cllr. Paul Collins to draft a response to EDF and circulate for comments.**

d) The Council noted the successful response from the community to the valuation letter to demonstrate blighting. Cllr. Graham Bickers said it was important to devise a sound basis for the valuations therefore he will arrange a meeting with the property surveyor to draft a number of questions for each homeowner to enable them to understand each property's characteristics. They can then value a number of properties to enable comparisons with a similar parish not subject to blighting.

**ACTION: Cllr. Graham Bickers to progress.**

## **7. Playing Fields**

a) The Council noted the annual play equipment safety inspection report for Eastbridge. There were no actions arising. Cllr. Stephen Morphey said he would like to be notified when the inspection is being carried out to enable him to attend.

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Sovereign to request notice of next year's inspection and to remove Cllr. Hilary Ward as the primary contact.**

b) The Council gave a vote of thanks to Cllr. Laura Bonnett and a team of volunteers for planting the hedgerow at Eastbridge playing field. Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed to put rabbit netting up to protect the saplings from his cattle and to plant the surplus stock in his garden until a suitable site could be identified.

**ACTION: Cllr. Stephen Brett to collect saplings from Cllr. Laura Bonnett.**

c) The Clerk reported that she declined the offer of a £126 grant for deer netting from the AONB Community and Conservation Fund.

d) Cllr. Stephen Brett reported that he and Cllr. Nat Bacon rectified the actions arising from the play equipment safety inspection report for Theberton. The new signage has been erected, the swings have been fixed and a replacement cap has been ordered. Cllr. Brett was authorised to order 800kg of play bark to top up the areas under the equipment.

## **8. Planning**

Cllr. Graham Bickers proposed that the Council supports planning application DC/21/5096/FUL - converting existing garage into annexe complete with disabled facilities and suitable for one-to-one care – Lilycot, Church Road, subject to Highways' review of the parking facilities and the safety of access to the single track road. Seconded by Cllr. Stephen Brett. All in favour.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the planning department.**

## **9. Future Projects**

a) The Council agreed to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 with Cllr. Tom Lagden's suggestion of a creating a Heritage Trail around the parish. It was also agreed to use the anonymous donation of £10,000 to finance this project. The working group will be led by Cllr. Lagden and supported by Cllr. Laura Bonnett and Cllr. Hilary Ward. Cllr. Lagden offered to draft terms of reference for the Heritage Trail working group. Cllr. Stephen Brett said he would invite members of the community to join the group. Cllr. Lagden was also nominated as Festival Community Champion and it was agreed to invite the Community Council to work with the Parish Council to organise a celebration event for the Platinum Jubilee in the first weekend of June 2022.

b) Following a resident's request, the Council considered erecting a traffic mirror to improve road safety at the junction opposite the Eel's Foot. It was agreed that, in the first instance, approval would need

to be obtained from Highways and Adnams.

**ACTION: Clerk to seek Highways' permission.**

c) Cllr. Tom Lagden reported that he spoke to some young residents in the parish and they have asked for full-size goal posts in Theberton playing field. Cllr. Stephen Brett replied that this could be budgeted for next year and the current small goal post could be moved to Eastbridge playing field.

**ACTION: Clerk to add goal posts to next year's budget.**

## 10. Clerk/Councillors' Reports

a) ESC Planning Protocol – Cllr. Graham Bickers reported that a successful inaugural meeting was held with several members from Town and Parish Councils and the SALC CEO. Cllr. Bickers was appointed to Chair the group and the Clerk agreed to take minutes of the meetings. It was agreed that District Cllr. Russ Rainger should remain in the group. Cllr. Rainger said he would try to remain neutral and report back to ESC in a positive manner. Following a discussion, the group agreed to look at planning protocols from the surrounding area and to create process flow-charts to enable clear comparisons. The group will then suggest amendments to ESC's flow-chart to demonstrate where the process can be improved. The group is due to meet again in January.

b) Community Council/Jubilee Hall Management Committee – Cllr. Hilary Ward said she was unable to attend the last meeting. She said the Community Council is sourcing further quotes for the replacement basketball backboard.

c) Speed Indicator Device – the latest report is attached as Appendix II. Cllr. Laura Bonnett reported that she spoke to the Safety Enforcement Officer and an additional speed camera location at the layby by Sycamore Park is being considered by the Safety Camera Enforcement Team. The Enforcement Officer said a data survey will need to be produced and there is currently a backlog. Cllr. Bonnett said the latest data collected by the speed camera van located at Doughty-Wylie Crescent reported 19 speeding offences. The Enforcement Officer said this location should be visited once monthly but Cllr. Bonnett queried this.

d) Police Crime Report - the Clerk said no crimes were reported in the parish in October 2021.

## 11. Administration

a) The Council conducted the annual review of the Risk Assessment.

b) The Council approved the continuation of the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

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

d) The Council conducted the annual review of the insurance policy and confirmed that the terms of the policy remain acceptable and that all known risks and assets are adequately protected. It was agreed to increase the insurance value of the tractor to £5,000 and to enquire whether the Community Council's fireworks display can be covered by the policy.

**ACTION: Clerk to amend the asset register and to contact the insurance provider.**

## 12. Finance

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

b) The Council agreed to grant a donation of £50 to Leiston Library (LGA 1972 s.137)

c) Cllr. Adam Hurrell proposed that the following payments are approved. Seconded by Cllr. Paul Collins. All in favour.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£249.82	LGA 1972 s.112

Litter Pickers and Bag Hoops	Sharon Smith	£109.86	PHA 1936 s. 87
Jubilee Hall Broadband	Sharon Smith (BT)	£28.99	LGA 1972 s.19
Playing Field Sign	Leiston Press	£38.40	PHA 1936 s. 87

### **13. Correspondence**

- a) The Council noted the correspondence received between 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.
- b) Cllr. Stephen Brett agreed to collect the Doughty-Wylie exhibition boards from EDF's storage. Cllr. Nat Bacon has agreed to store the boards temporarily until a permanent storage solution can be found.

### **14. Next Meeting**

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 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

As attendees at the BEIS Nuclear NGO Forum and in conjunction with Anglia Energy Planning Alliance, we were able to invite Declan Burke, the senior New Nuclear lead within BEIS, to a meeting with Parish Councils at Snape on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Unfortunately, Declan contracted Covid and the visit had to be cancelled with less than a day's notice. The intention is to reschedule the visit for early in the New Year. At last count, 40 Parish and Town Councils and 7 NGO's had signed up to attend. Alison is now joint chair of the BEIS Nuclear NGO group. The other chair is from BEIS.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November, as a result of Graham Bickers connections in the Ipswich Business community, we were able to put together a table of twelve business executives and other Stop Sizewell C contacts to attend an Ipswich Business Club lunch that was to be addressed by Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy being held at Milsoms in Kesgrave. As well as Graham, Stephen, Alison and myself, William Kendall (on top table with KK), Andy Wood (CEO Adnams), Harry Young (DMO and Snape Maltings), Tim Rowan-Robinson, Nick Burfield (ex-Ipswich Chamber of Commerce) and others joined us.

At the end of the lunch and KK's speech questions were taken in a public forum from each table. Andy Wood asked the first question following KK's speech from our table of ten about the damage to the local tourist economy that SZC will bring and was greeted with a significant round of applause from the audience.

Graham, on another table with Steve, also made a point about direct impacts on the local community in Theberton and Eastbridge, including housing blight, and the lack of an equitable Property Price Support Scheme when compared to that operated by EDF at Hinkley Point C.

Several other questions and engagements with KK were made both during the initial meet and greet by William Sieghart and between course during lunch when KK did the rounds of all the tables. Alison pointed out that initially we had not been against SZC but as a result of EDF's intransigence we had finally concluded that outright opposition for a development at Sizewell was the only way forward. I also asked him what his opinion was about the fact that the French government are considering ordering six simpler EPR2 rather than the EPR for £46bn compared to £23bn for two EPRs at HPC (and potentially SZC). KK said that, in his opinion, there was still a "significant way to go" before any SZC development will go ahead but continued to stress that the government believed another large new nuclear power station was needed, partly to bridge a skills gap to the implementation of SMRs.

Tom McGarry was EDF's representative, and Julia Pyke was rumoured to be a second attendee but wasn't there. We understand he was surprised to see us all in attendance.

On other fronts, we have submitted representation to the Public Scrutiny Committee regarding the proposed RAB legislation. The impact report published by BEIS along with the proposed legislation included some interesting criticisms about costs and optimism bias regarding timescales in particular.

We also pointed out some of the issues that are emerging regarding the EPR design and a vibration issue, uncovered initially at Olkiluoto (Finland) that have appeared in the press in the last week or so but have been in the news in France for some months.

Framatome (part of EDF) have apparently said that the existing EPR design cannot be modified to remove this issue as it would damage the integrity and strength of the existing reactors. They have suggested that a "shock-absorber" be fitted to the pressuriser to alleviate the issue but ASN (French equivalent to the ONR here) seem to be unhappy at this suggestion as Framatome have not discovered the ultimate source of the vibration.

The report on the Taishan 1 fuel rod failure, where the vibration issue may be a contributing factor, is yet to be finalised. There is also a potential question about the pressure relief valve failure at Olkiluoto, which was in part due to a design and manufacturing issue, but the vibration issue could have been a contributing factor.

A whistle-blower French nuclear engineer has stated that the vibration issue is a generic design fault that will affect all EPRs and the ASN note would seem to support this view.

The problem is specifically mentioned in an ASN note about the EPR2 design proposal being required to ensure the EPR vibration cause is determined and the issue is eliminated in the EPR2.

So it appears the EPR is no longer an acceptable design in France where EDF (80% owned by the French government) is based and where the designs and much of the manufacturing originate, and the UK is probably the last country where this design will be implemented.

With Taishan having the only two operating EPRs, one still off-line due to the fuel rod failure and Olkiluoto scheduled to be the first operating EPR in Europe early next year, it remains to be seen where this will all end up.

At Flamanville, the EPR has several issues that have to be rectified including a reactor head replacement and issues with substandard welds that need to be addressed. The last thing you would need within a fluid system at high pressure with substandard welds is a vibration issue.

We continue to press the ONR about the Taishan 1 failure as part of the ONR NGO group and will be raising these latest issues at the next meeting.

## **2 T&E Parish Council**

We were due to attend the Declan Burke visit and will attend the rescheduled visit in the New Year.

We have sent a letter to EDF urging them to get a revised Property Price Support Scheme proposal to us before Christmas.

## **3 Scottish Power DCO Examination**

No further news.

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

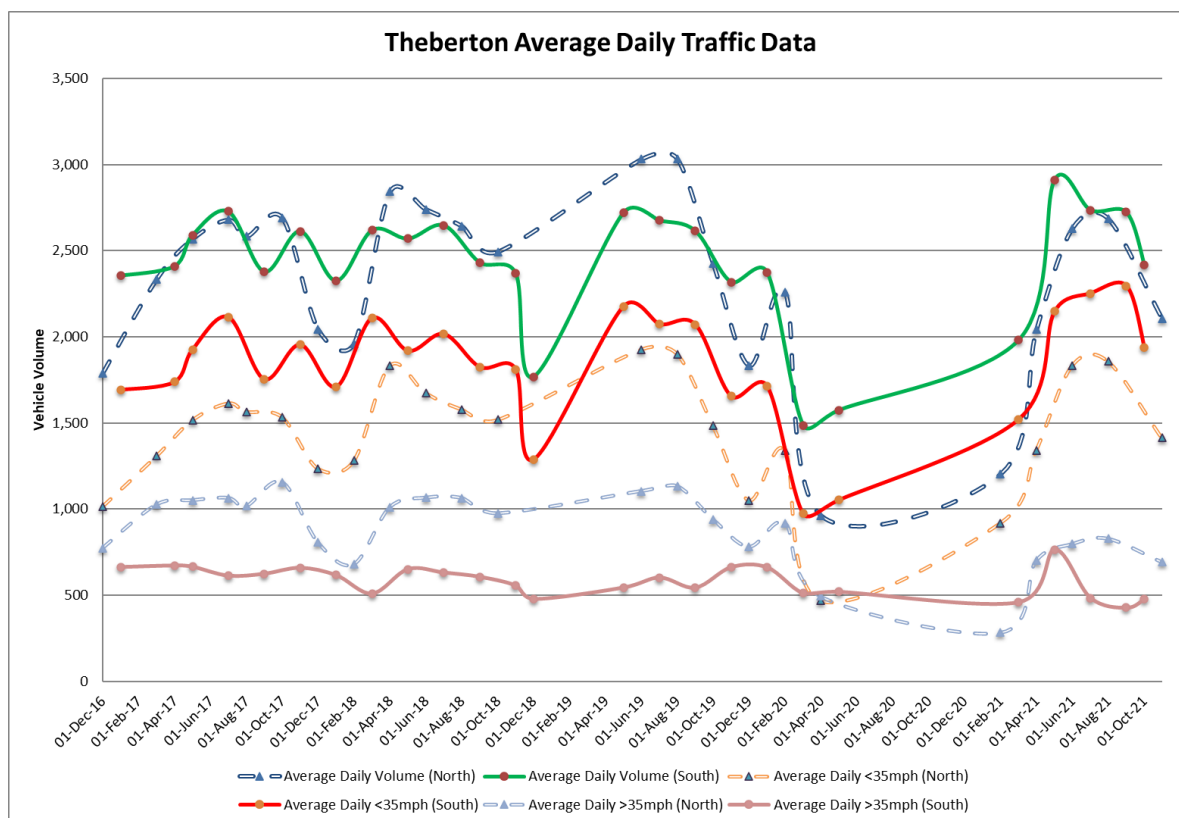
No further news.

## Appendix II – Speed Indicator Device

The speed indicator device has been operational for fifty-two ~20-day periods since 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016. It is placed at one end of the village or other at ~30-day intervals. Last June the radar data logger failed hence the gap between May 2020 and March 2021 when the repaired SID returned to active monitoring.

Traffic volumes in the period since March 2021 are back to normal and the long-term averages for those exceeding 35mph is now **38.2%** from north and **24.7%** from south.

The **85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed\*** is back at close to 40mph with **40.4mph** from north and **38.2mph** from south when they enter the village.



SID Start Date	14-Apr-20	15-May-20	02-Feb-21	05-Mar-21	06-Apr-21	06-May-21	05-Jun-21	07-Jul-21	08-Aug-21	07-Sep-21	16-Oct-21	08-Nov-21
Average Daily Volume (North)	961		1,202		2,042		2,630		2,685		2,418	2,105
Average Daily Volume (South)		1,574		1,981		2,912		2,736		2,723	2,418	2,105
Total Vehicles (North)	17,304		14,428		20,421		34,187		43,773		43,574	29,469
Total Vehicles (South)		26,761		25,749		34,947		43,773		43,574	29,021	29,469
Total Vehicles <35mph (North)	8,421		11,030		13,415		23,825		25,999		23,281	19,774
Total Vehicles <35mph (South)		17,922		19,770		25,767		36,025		36,734	23,281	19,774
Total Vehicles >35mph (North)	8,883		3,398		7,006		10,362		11,597		6,840	9,695
Total Vehicles >35mph (South)		8,839		5,979		9,180		7,748		6,840	5,740	9,695
Average Daily <35mph (North)	468		919		1,341		1,833		1,857		1,940	1,412
Average Daily <35mph (South)		1,054		1,521		2,147		2,252		2,296	1,940	1,412
Average Daily >35mph (North)	493		283		701		797		828		478	693
Average Daily >35mph (South)		520		460		765		484		427	478	693
<b>85th percentile speed North (mph)</b>	<b>44.0</b>		<b>37.6</b>		<b>39.2</b>		<b>38.8</b>		<b>38.7</b>		<b>35.3</b>	<b>39.0</b>
<b>85th percentile speed South (mph)</b>		<b>40.2</b>		<b>37.7</b>		<b>37.8</b>		<b>37.8</b>		<b>35.3</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>39.0</b>
% <35mph (North)	48.7%		76.4%		65.7%		69.7%		69.2%		80.2%	67.1%
% <35mph (South)		67.0%		76.8%		73.7%		82.3%		84.3%	80.2%	67.1%
% >35mph (North)	51.3%		23.6%		34.3%		30.3%		30.8%		19.8%	32.9%
% >35mph (South)		33.0%		23.2%		26.3%		17.7%		15.7%	19.8%	32.9%

\*The 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile is indicative of the speed that the majority of road users are travelling at.



## Appendix III – Financial Position

### Bank Balances as at 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Barclays Current Account	£392.01
Barclays Savings Account	£24,018.24
	<u>£24,410.25</u>

### Earmarked Reserves

Parish Playing Areas Maintenance and Sinking Fund	£2,000.00
Burial Ground Shed Roof Fund	£650.00
Community Infrastructure Levy	£1,767.60
Jubilee Hall Broadband Grant	£565.79
Anonymous Donation	£10,000.00
	<u>£14,983.39</u>

**Bank Balance less Reserves** **£9,426.86**

### Payments – November 2021

Sharon Smith – Clerk’s Salary	£249.82
Sharon Smith – Litter Pickers (2) and Bag Hoops (12)	£109.86
Sovereign – Eastbridge Play Maintenance Package	£17.99
Sharon Smith (BT) – Jubilee Hall Broadband	£28.99
Leiston Press – Playground Sign	£38.40
	<u>£445.06</u>

**Net Balance** **£8,981.80**