

MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2024 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

SIZEWELL C PRESENTATION

1 Attendance and Apologies

Attendees:

Cllr Lesley Taylor – Vice Chair
Cllr Kathryn Rowe
Cllr Steve Thorpe
Cllr Charles Macdowell
Cllr Chris Reynolds

Apologies:

Cllr Julian Cusack – Chair
Cllr Graham Lacey
Cllr Michelle Kendall

Members of the public:

Nineteen members of the public
were in attendance

In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk/RFO
District Cllr Katie Graham
Sizewell C Zoe Botten
Sizewell C Michelle Emmerson-Grey
Sizewell C David Peacop
Sizewell C Spencer Bowdler
Sizewell C Tim Newton

2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.

It was agreed to move the Public Forum to Item 4 on the Agenda and the Sizewell C Presentation to item 3.

Middleton Parish Council welcomed the Sizewell team, Zoe Botten (Community Relations Manager), Michelle Emmerson-Grey (Community Relations Manager), David Peacop (Site Operations Director), Spencer Bowdler (Site Operations Site Lead) and Tim Newton (Site Head of Security).

3 Sizewell C Presentation

Zoe Botten introduced the presentation, which has been delivered, in various adaptations, to numerous parish and town councils within the area. Zoe Botten confirmed that the presentation slides would be made available to the Clerk for uploading onto the village website.

Action: Clerk to add presentation slides to the Parish Council website.

Zoe Botten confirmed her own and Michelle Emmerson-Grey's roles within the team. Both are based at Sizewell C information office in Leiston. Michelle Emmerson-Grey and Paul Lennon focus on individual enquiries. Zoe Botten and Richard Knight focus on governance and the Deed of Obligation.

David Peacop, Site Operations Director, gave some background information about his personal experience relevant to the project. It was advised that the purpose of the visit was to share information with the parish and to receive and answer any questions arising.

The site has been split into three areas: MCA (Main Campus Area), ACA (Ancillary Construction Area and TCA (Temporary Construction Area). The marsh development is the first area that has been completed. There are two other, smaller, environmental resettling works to be done.

The ACA area will house the offices, which will develop throughout the rest of the year. This area will be open to the public.

The TCA area is where the two main power stations will be built.

All security facilities will be housed in the MCA area.

The campus will house 2,400 beds with development imminent. The development will be removed at the end of the project. Assurance was given that Sizewell C will not be a repeat of Sizewell B in terms of employee behaviour and that the project will follow successful guidelines implemented at Hinkley Point, these take the form of a Code of Conduct, signed by all employees.

Michelle Emmerson-Grey then addressed the parish, confirming her role within the project, dealing with the noise mitigation scheme and vibration surveys. The works tracker (launched 18 months ago) was highlighted, and encouragement was given for locals to use the app for updates and relevant information. The app gives a map of the area and pinpoints where works are happening, clicking on the pin will provide further information on that particular area of work. Michelle Emmerson-Grey reiterated her, and her colleagues, availability and reminded the parish of the 24 hour, seven days a week help line.

Upon enquiry from Cllr Thorpe, Michelle Emmerson-Grey confirmed that they aim to respond to enquiries within between one and five working days. How the enquiries are dealt with depends on their nature. 80% of enquiries are resolved on the same day.

4 Public Forum

A member of the public asked about car parking and the local supermarkets, which are oftentimes full already. David Peacop advised that purpose-built shops, on campus, will be available to Sizewell workers, avoiding the need to visit local stores.

Cllr Macdowell introduced himself and proceeded to share concerns of the parish council. He noted disappointment that the presentation did not address traffic issues for Middleton, highlighting that the Sizewell link road has not been built before construction thus the current link road will be required to carry all the construction traffic and workforce traffic, which is of particular concern.

The Sizewell team were unable to provide a start and finish date for the early years phase but suggested a probable start date of two months.

Cllr Macdowell responded with concerns over vibration and noise insulation projects being completed before the traffic starts. SZC advised that all surveys will be starting in the next

two weeks, following which a plan will be shared detailing exactly what is going to happen and when.

Cllr Macdowell questioned whether this would all take place before the 600 trucks a day start, the reply to which was yes.

Cllr Macdowell then moved onto the question of speed limit enforcement. David Beacop advised that some measures have been put in place, for approval, to put signage on the B1125. The council have tentatively signed this off and it is going to the police tomorrow for their approval. This will include speed enforcement and dot matrix signs.

Cllr Macdowell enquired after an update of the 20mph limit on Middleton Moor. SZC confirmed their support for this and advised that they are in discussions with the council.

Regarding recent flooding events, SZC were asked whether there are any contingency plans in place, whereby diversion routes and signage is readily available. SZC responded that they are contingency planning now with the local police and that it should be up and running asap this year. Any diverting will be for both, works traffic and regular traffic.

The Sizewell team offered to 'action' the parish council concerns over rat running and stubs.

Enquiries about the triggering of the DCO, in other words, the start date before the final investment decision, was raised. SZC were unable to answer this enquiry.

A member of the public highlighted to the Sizewell team her personal issues and was offered a chat after the presentation.

Another member of the public raised similar concerns surrounding the noise mitigation boundary and a feeling of being 'fobbed' off by EDF. SZC responded that each circumstance is different and that, to date, the Deed of Obligation properties are the ones that have received their packs so far. Those that are further away from the distance made in the Deed of Obligation will be reviewed. Furthermore, refresh noise assessments will be submitted and may include other properties, but Sizewell cannot legally, now, offer the scheme to anyone other than those properties named in the Deed of Obligation.

A member of the public raised issues/problems surrounding other power stations, suggesting that they are unbuildable. Reassurance was sought that the timetables are going to be met and within budget.

David Peacop advised that it is above his pay grade to provide this information, however, at the next main site forum (Tuesday 16 January in Leiston) the delivery program will be given in its entirety.

A lack of empathy displayed by EDF was raised, including a focus on elderly residents whose final years will be disrupted.

David Peacop advised that traffic issues are the responsibility of the council and agreed that road improvement works need to be done quickly. The Sizewell team are going to 'push' the council, who should be in attendance at the main site forum next week.

Cllr Katie Graham from East Suffolk Council introduced herself and advised that her colleague, Tom Daley, meets regularly with the Sizewell team on all issues raised.

Cllr Taylor highlighted a particular incident whereby two lorries met on the B1122 and were unable to pass each other without knocking down the emergency sign for the level crossing. This happened over a month ago and nothing has been done about fixing it. The incident was caused by a Sizewell C wide load.

In response, SZC were not aware of this and suggested that it had not been reported and that they would investigate.

Cllr Taylor advised of another occasion, whereby she followed two SZC lorries that turned off into Lovers Lane, both were exceeding the speed limit the entire distance.

David Peacop directed the meeting to the worker Code of Conduct and asked that the public report these incidents to allow for further investigation and that, indeed, people have already been removed from the project for failure to comply. It was further confirmed, upon enquiry, that contractor's routes are being monitored.

Cllr Reynolds enquired whether tracking systems are in place to monitor speed as well as routes. It was confirmed that these will be put in place, although when earlier asked if speeding of contractors is being monitored and the routes they're taking, the response was "the routes, yes".

Cllr Macdowell enquired as to whether this would extend to private car workers driving to the site before the park and rides have been built.

SZC replied that they are unable to monitor the speed of cars but that they can, through the Code of Conduct, take action, if necessary.

It was confirmed that the park and rides will be ready before the campus, although a start date was not given, when asked.

Enquiries were made as to how staff behaviour is going to be policed. SZC confirmed that it depends on what the incident is and how it is reported. Any reports of unsocial behaviour or breach of the Code of Conduct will be investigated by the security team. There are several proactive elements in place including a project induction, highlighting project values, the signing of the worker Code of Conduct and everyone is put through alcohol and drug testing.

A member of the public, enquired after white van drivers and delivery of the little bits and pieces that are not part of a big shipment. Advice was given that anybody coming onto the site is subject to the same terms and conditions. Drivers must have a pass to enter the site and these can be terminated at a moment's notice. Residents were further encouraged to obtain registration numbers in order that problem drivers can be dealt with.

The talk of congestion from the A12 through Middleton, from workers/deliveries, was raised. SZC responded that there will be postal consolidation at the southern park and ride and smaller items will be delivered there, and then all transported to site together, to avoid rat running.

A member of the public suggested a system whereby SZC workers could be easily identified. It was agreed that this is something they will be undertaking and will probably be represented by a sticker of sorts on the back windscreen.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the effect of the extra traffic on local tourism. It was advised that every effort is being made to manage the flow of traffic. SZC highlighted the school run as the two most important parts of the day and that they are working on how to manage the flow of traffic at these two key times.

Residents highlighted to the Sizewell team the busy summer months too and suggested a lack of knowledge.

Zoe Botten offered to furnish the Clerk with the consolidate transport assessment, which is also available online. SZC have been working with various organisations such as Latitude to ensure timescales and works do not affect significant regular events.

Cllr Taylor enquired after the link road and expected start date. It was confirmed that this will be covered at the forum next week.

An enquiry was made by Cllr Rowe about the employment of local people. Tim Newton confirmed that the security team have recruited over 110 local people to the project. With a 'rule of thumb' travel time of no more than 60(-90) minutes. Local people will represent a minimum of a third of the workforce.

A member of the public enquired after medical facilities for the workers and was advised that there will be an occupational health facility on the site and although there are no dentists yet, there is an expectation for such. The team state that they are aware of not impacting on local resources.

It was asked whether the other infrastructure projects going on in the area (Lionlink/Sealink), have they been factored into the transport system too. SZC responded that these are all tied together through the CTMP (Construction Traffic Management Plans) and transport planning through the council.

District Councillor Graham addressed the meeting. She suggested that the impact of the traffic and all the effects of these projects have not been properly assessed. The impact on local tourism will affect local employment. The DCO is about to be triggered without a final investment decision (due to numerous unanswered questions). ESC has just submitted their formal response to the consultation for Sealink and have also just submitted a 50-page response outlining similar concerns regarding a lack of proper technical detail, proper consultation with parish council's and the need for proper coordination. ESC has also made clear the enormous burden that this is having on local communities and parish councils; going through these consultations, one after the other, not being given a proper view of the cumulative effects of all of them and the impact that this is having on people's mental health as well. She suggested that many people have moved to the area for their retirement and to enjoy their later years in peace and quiet and that's been taken away from them. ESC has made it very clear to represent all of that as well. Cllr Graham offered her card and invited residents to get in touch with herself and/or Tom Daly reiterating that East Suffolk Council are doing everything they can to represent residents through this.

The question of Sizewell C being a green project was raised by a member of the public, asking how long Sizewell C will need to be in operation before it recovers the carbon emissions that have been emitted during the build phase. District Cllr Graham added that the project is not green because it is taking away a huge amount of money and a huge amount of time when both of those things are very urgent for reaching net zero. She suggested that at a

build time of up to 13 years and a cost of between 20 and 30 billion the window for reaching net zero will pass.

Further invitations for questions were invited. The meeting was closed.

5 Next Meeting

The next regular Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13 February 2024 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.