

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Assington Village Hall on Monday 18th October 2016

Present: Councillors S Thorogood (Chairman), S Betts, S King, B Stacey, J Symons and H Wallace.

Attending: D Crimmin (Clerk), 26 residents and 1 member of public.

16/107 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Symonds (holiday) sent her apologies as did Jennie Jenkins (Babergh District Councillor).

16/108 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

No interests were declared and no request for dispensation had been received.

16/109 Minutes of Meeting held on 26th September 2016

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16/110 Public Forum

Residents raised their objections to the proposal to build up to 10 dwellings on Land North of the Hollies which included:

- The proposed development was outside the BUAB
- Too many dwellings
- One proposed dwelling too close to Celandine
- The concerns over road safety to both vehicles and pedestrians
- No footway connecting the proposed site with the village
- The impact on nearby historic buildings
- The estate style development detracting from the style of other homes in The Street
- The impact on school and doctors' services in the area
- Was there a local need for the number of houses proposed
- The village having provided an additional 10% of homes since 2011
- Not supported by recent survey of residents
- No benefit to village only to developer.

A local conservation expert also raised concerns over the impact of the proposal on the evolving wildlife area along the boundary with Celandine. On a show of hands 26 people attending the meeting voted against the proposal.

Residents also reiterated their previously written objections to the proposal for the change of use of the field East of Pump Farm to an enclosed dog walking and exercise area. The Manager from Pump House felt that whilst the fencing of the site along the boundary with their land required upgrading, they had no issues with the proposed use of the land.

16/111 Planning

- a. The councillors reviewed **Planning Application B/16/01167 Land North of The Hollies, The Street** - Outline: Erection of up to 10 dwellings (all matters reserved) and resolved to object to the application on the following grounds:
 - i. The application failing to meet the criteria of CS11 for development in a Hinterland Village in terms of size / scale, layout and character to its setting in the village or being adjacent or well related to the existing pattern of development
 - ii. The impact on the historic settings of houses surrounding the proposed site
 - iii. Has not demonstrated a proven local need for "up to 10 houses"
 - iv. Is contrary to the recent Village Survey conducted with residents on development in the village with its estate style which does not propose infill, frontage development
 - v. Assington has already provided a 10% increase to its housing stock since 2011 in the number of homes developed and approved, and there are other more suitable

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sites in the village that can meet the demand for the small number of dwellings, that are required in the village, as identified in the Village Survey.

- vi. No footway connects the proposed site with the amenities of the village
 - vii. The lack of footway would also mean that residents would not be able to safely walk to the "village green" outlined on the development so this would only benefit the residents of the proposed development
 - viii. The road outside proposed development is close to the bend on entering the village and suffers from poor visibility for both vehicles and pedestrians leaving the site. A survey conducted by Suffolk County Council in May 2015 showed that the road is used on average by 1255 vehicles a day. This usage will increase due to the recent permission to extend the caravan park in the centre of the village.
 - ix. The impact on the developing conservation area on the Celandine boundary has not been taken into consideration in the outline plan.
- b. The councillors reviewed further information from local residents and the applicant regarding **Planning Application B/16/01204 Land East of Pump Farm, The Street** - Change of use of field to enclosed dog walking and exercise area and resolved, on the casting vote of the Chairman, to object to the planning application.
 - c. An application for The Barn at Assington had been received since the agenda was posted but Babergh has given an extension to APC which will allow this to be reviewed at the November meeting.

16/112 Defibrillator

The councillors reviewed the quotation from JA Griggs for providing an electrical supply and installing the defibrillator at the Village Hall and resolved to allocate the contract to them at a cost of £250 + VAT.

16/113 Question to the Chair

The Clerk was asked to raise the issue of the hedge encroaching over the road at Hill Farm with SCC Highways.

16/114 Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is the 28th November 2016 starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm