

MINUTES OF MEETING OF ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Held in Assington Village Hall on Thursday 11th January 2018

Present: Councillors Simon Thorogood (Chairman), Stephen King, Rose Symonds, Bronwen Stacey, John Symons and Helen Wallace

Attending: Babergh District Councillor Jennie Jenkins, Jane Hatton (Clerk) and 7 members of the public

17/131 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Steve Betts (prior commitment)

17/132 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

No declaration of interest or request for dispensation had been received.

17/133 Minutes of Meeting held on 27th November 2017

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

17/134 Public Forum

District Councillor Jennie Jenkins informed the council that she had stepped down as leader of the council after 7 years in the position and John Ward has been elected as the new leader. There is a financial need to merge with Mid Suffolk and it had been agreed to hold a referendum but that it is important that the public are made aware of the financial situation when they vote and the consequences of not merging.

With regard to planning applications:

A resident raised their concern that applying for planning permission to get two holiday lets was done just to get an easy route to have two new permanent dwellings and that this will increase the traffic from one vehicle when the holiday accommodate is in use to probably two per dwelling. In addition, visitors and deliveries to the properties would also increase traffic, causing a lack of privacy to existing neighbouring residents.

Another resident suggested that rather than two dwellings, would it be better as one larger dwelling with less vehicles and more in keeping with the area. Another concern raised by a resident was that if there were in total five new properties in that small location, would it be likely that planning permission would be sought for even more, making the old farm complex into a Cul- de-sac.

A resident read out a letter from a concerned resident who could not attend, regarding the increase in properties in Assington especially along The Street, which has already had a 10% increase in 5 years and with the proposed new dwellings would be a 35% increase, which is far in excess of its fair share. The 10 new dwellings proposed would be a loss of view of the countryside and the rural nature of the village. There are few amenities such as a doctor, leisure facilities or school in the village and they ask that the PC do all they can to protect the village against further development.

Similar concerns were also raised by residents about the two new proposed dwellings opposite Hill Farm but in addition the phase in the application, stating that the land is not suitable for agricultural purposes was queried. Further concerns were raised regarding the proposed vehicular accesses on a very dangerous point in the road, on a blind bend.

17/135 Planning

The public meeting was closed and the Councillors Considered:

- a. **Planning Application –DC/17/06079** – Cart Lodge in Farmyard adjoining Hill Farmhouse, The Street, Assington, conversion of existing detached yard buildings/cartshed and associated works to provide 2 units of holiday accommodation to be occupied as permanent dwellings and resolved to **OBJECT** to this application on the grounds that:
 - It may set a precedent for other holiday lets to become permanent dwellings
 - It may be suitable for occasional use as a holiday let but unsuitable for conversion

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to a permanent dwelling as this is a listed building, currently without gardens or garages

- The increase in traffic and vehicle movements. Probability of more than one vehicle per property throughout the year rather than seasonal
- Loss of privacy for neighbouring property from continual use of track directly in front of existing property
- The PC would like to protest that the number of planning applications being approved by BDC is no longer sustainable for the village, it being totally disproportionate to the size of the village and detrimental in the extreme to the rural nature of a Hinterland Village and **objects** on that basis.

b. Planning Application DC/17/06240 – Outline planning for Erection of 2 two storey 5 bedroom dwellings and new vehicular accesses at Land Opposite Hill Farm, Assington and **resolved to OBJECT to the application on the grounds that:**

1. This area is in an AONB and the village strongly wishes to retain its long rural views to Assington Thicks. Building in this position would spoil this long open view on entry into the village.
2. The proposed buildings are adjacent to and in the vicinity of both Grade 1 and Grade 11 Listed Buildings, and any new buildings are totally inappropriate in style, and not in keeping.
3. Both properties proposed are large detached and not what the village needs or what the residents have requested, which are 2 to 3 bedroom properties
4. Being situated on a corner, both vehicular accesses onto the highway with the increased traffic from the properties would be a hazard to other traffic
5. Deficiencies in social facilities for further development in the village, as the village does not have a doctor or school and few leisure facilities and water disposal is stretched, with flooding in some places on The Street.
6. The PC would like to protest that the number of planning applications being approved by BDC is no longer sustainable for the village, it being totally disproportionate to the size of the village and detrimental in the extreme to the rural nature of a Hinterland Village and **objects** on that basis.

17/136 Delegation of Power

It was agreed that delegation of power was not required as the majority of the time a quorum can be obtained for any additional meetings required to discuss planning

17/137 Question to the Chair

- a. Cllr Stacey informed the meeting that she was waiting for a reply from highways regarding the curb outside St Edmunds Cottage
- b. Cllr King wanted to thank Cllr Thorogood for arranging the ditch which has made the footpath behind Vicary Estate passable.
- c. Concerns had been raised to Cllr King regarding the land opposite the Breakers Yard in Barracks Road and that the scrap cars had not been removed from the site and this will be investigated.
- d. It was agreed that Cllr Symons should be nominated to go to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

17/138 Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting date is the 29th January 2018 starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

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Assington Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence on the 18th May 2015