

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held via Conference Call on Monday 6th April 2020**

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**Present:** Councillors Simon Thorogood (Chairman), Rose Symonds, Helen Wallace, Ian Jordan, Andrew Hill, Bronwen Stacey and John Symons

**Attending:** Jane Hatton (Clerk)

**20/031 Apologies for Absence**

None received.

**20/032 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensation had been received.

**20/033 Planning**

a & b The Councillors reviewed **Planning Application DC/20/01307** - Change of use and conversion of barn into 1 dwelling at Shamrock Farm, Marshalls Green, Assington and it was agreed that this should be considered alongside **Planning Application DC/20/01308** - Works to facilitate conversion of barn into 1 dwelling at Shamrock Farm, Marshalls Green, Assington - as one application and all Councillors agreed to **object** to this application on the following points:

- Importantly, this is not an agricultural barn, and has not been in use as an agricultural barn for a very long period of time; page 12 of the accompanying heritage statement confirms that, “the barn technically is already in residential use.” As such it should be treated in planning law as a residential outbuilding and a subdivision of a residential property in open countryside.
- This application is in conflict with Policy ASSN1 of the draft Assington Neighbourhood Plan which should now begin to be given weight as it has passed its six week public consultation stage. The application is for a new dwelling in open countryside outside the settlement boundary of the village, and therefore should be permitted only in exceptional circumstances, where an identified local need has been demonstrated and where this need cannot be fulfilled by development within the settlement boundary. The application makes no attempt to demonstrate this.
- The application also conflicts with policy CS2 of Babergh Core Strategy 2014 (and NPPF paragraph 79 is engaged) for the same reasons; it is well outside of the settlement boundary, there are no exceptional circumstances justifying the application, and there is no proven need for the housing.
- While it was not suggested in any way that this has happened in this instance, Councillors did not want to give a signal for the future that allowing outbuildings to deteriorate in condition is a route to achieving residential planning permission.

**20/034 Banner and Thank You Box**

A resident had suggested doing a banner to show the villagers support of the NHS with designs from children and they had a contact who would be able to produce it for free. It was agreed that as long as the children were able to do their designs remotely and sign in their designs Councillors agreed to support the banner. The resident had also suggested putting together Thank You Boxes for care workers with items such as hand cream. Councillors agreed to support this and give a £100 donation towards the boxes. Cllr Symonds will liaise with the resident to arrange this.

**20/035 Question to the Chair**

- a. Cllr Thorogood wanted to thank everyone for setting up the volunteer Covid-19 support group. Cllr Hill advised that they had 20 volunteers and had had 2 requests for assistance so far

*SIGNED* \_\_\_\_\_

*DATED* \_\_\_\_\_

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which they were able to fulfill quickly. Cllr Hill has been in regular contact with Babergh District Council who are eager that the group remains ready to face any possible spike in demand in the coming weeks. The group has been registered with Community Action Suffolk and SCC Tribe.

- b. Cllr Thorogood wanted to express the councils thanks to Stephen King for all his efforts and said that he has done an amazing job in organising the new playground which had now been opened.
- c. Cllr Thorogood introduced for discussion the letter which the council had received from a resident, who had raised concerns regarding antisocial behaviour and the advice from BDC was that there was very little that the parish council can do but should advise the resident that if they feel physically threatened then they should dial 999 or make a formal report to BDC themselves. It was agreed that the clerk should reply in writing to the resident.
- d. Cllr Thorogood raised the concern that a caravan had been dumped partially in the road at Dorking Tye. Cllr Hill advised that there was a notice on it that BDC had logged it and if it had not been removed within four weeks, it would be removed. It was agreed that the clerk should write to BDC and SCC Highways to ask when the caravan would be removed as it was an obstruction in the road.

**20/036 Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting date is Monday 18th May 2020 at 7.30pm.

**The meeting closed at 8.40pm**

*SIGNED* \_\_\_\_\_

*DATED* \_\_\_\_\_

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