

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Held via Conference Call on Monday 7th September 2020**

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

**Attending:** Jane Hatton (Clerk)

**20/086 Apologies for Absence**

District Councillor Lee Parker apologies for joining the meeting late.

**20/087 Declaration of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

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

**20/088 Minutes of Meeting held on 27th July 2020**

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

**20/089 Public Forum**

No members of the public in attendance.

**The public meeting was closed.**

**20/090 Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Wallace informed Councillors that all is going to plan and a printed copy of the plan submitted to BDC will be circulated to all Councillors within the next couple of days for their comment. The referendum will take place in May 2020.

**20/091 Routine Correspondence**

- a. Councillors agreed that the email correspondence between resident and BDC planning regarding Planning Application DC/20/03362 which will be discussed until item 9.a on the agenda.
- b. Councillors noted the email from BDC Planning regarding national planning policy framework.
- c. Councilors noted the letter from BDC Licensing regarding licensing policy revision
- d. Councillors noted the email from resident regarding the overgrown footpath FP20 which has been forwarded onto the Footpath wardens
- e. Councillors noted the email from resident regarding planning applications where the destruction of the wildlife may not be taken into account.

**20/092 Clerk's Report (Appendix A)**

It was agreed that the two items outstanding which DCllr Parker was going to follow up will be raised at the next meeting.

**20/093 Finance**

- a. All cheques to be signed and due for signing as itemized in appendix C, were authorized by the Councillors. The Councillors noted the income received since the last meeting and reconciliation of bank accounts against the bank statements, and Statement of Accounts against the Budget.
- b. Councillors agreed that the annual increase to the clerks hourly rate from the 1st April 2020.

**DCllr Parker joined the meeting at this time.**

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**20/094 Planning**

a. Councillors considered the **Planning Application - DC/20/03362** - Erection of Nursery School with ancillary parking and construction of vehicular access to Land South of Access Road From C733 to the Church, Assington and resolved to **strongly object** to the proposal primarily due to its complete conflict with the recently submitted Neighbourhood Plan.

While the Neighbourhood Plan has not yet been examined or adopted, it has been submitted to Babergh District Council and therefore should be given due weight in planning decisions. The policies that this application conflicts with are those which mirror other neighbourhood plans in the Babergh district, which have been examined and adopted, and therefore are very unlikely to change.

The proposal appears to pay no regard to the Assington Neighbourhood Plan whatsoever, and therefore its design results in conflict with a number of policies:

- 1) **Conflict with ASSN1 Spatial Strategy.** The application is not for an existing business located within the parish, and therefore it cannot be deemed “essential for the operation of an existing business”. No identified local need has been demonstrated and no attempt has been made to locate the business within the Settlement boundary.
- 2) **Conflict with ASSN12 Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity.** The site lies within the Area of Local Landscape Sensitivity. As such proposals should only be permitted where they protect and enhance the special landscape qualities of the area. This proposal will seriously damage the special landscape qualities of the area by removing the wide open agricultural landscape which sets the scene for the historic grade 1 listed St Edmund’s church.
- 3) **Conflict with ASSN13 Protected Views.** The proposal will not only damage, but will remove, the important protected view 4 identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. If allowed it will have a significant detrimental impact on the wide open countryside setting of the village.
- 4) **Conflict with ASSN24 – Local Businesses.** The proposal results in a significant adverse impact on highway safety, and damages the local landscape character, and therefore is not supported by this policy.

In addition, the application will have a serious impact on road safety and congestion in the area of the A134/C733 junction. Assington Parish Council will be making a formal complaint to Suffolk Highways in regards to their failure, despite identifying that the application does not provide safe access, to object to this application.

Given the clear and demonstrable inaccuracies in Suffolk Highway’s report, Assington Parish Council requests that the planning authority disregard their advice on this occasion as they have done in other instances (e.g. application DC/18/01894). There are demonstrable factual errors in their report (e.g. “there has only been one slight injury accident in the area”) which would justify such an approach.

The application quite obviously will have a serious impact on road safety. It is located in an accident hotspot which has seen 16 accidents in the last 10 years, four of which were serious and

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one of which was fatal. In some instances these accidents have resulted in cars coming off the road and ending up in the fields, thankfully not harming any bystanders. In these fields it is now proposed to put a nursery (!!)

The main danger is presented from the increase in traffic turning into the C733 road. Coming from the Sudbury direction this is likely to result in tailbacks at peak times, with cars taking increased risks to dive through gaps in the traffic. From the Colchester direction vehicles turning left are presented with a sharp U bend, which results in them having to slow significantly, presenting a danger of vehicles (which have a history of taking these bends too quickly), causing a rear-end collision. Putting a large number of children into this situation would be irresponsible in the extreme.



***Road traffic incidents in the specific area of the proposal 2010-2020 (black fatal, red serious, yellow/purple minor). Crashmap.co.uk***

We understand that Babergh will be under substantial pressure to give significant weight to the employment opportunity this development presents and the risk of loss of employment were Yorley Barn Nursery to close. However, refusal of this application will not result in such an event, as a number of alternative existing buildings are currently for sale and for rent in the local area, and which could be converted to the required use far more quickly than if this application were approved (with the associated required archaeological surveys needed beforehand, etc.)

We request that the applicant works with the council with regards to finding a suitable site for the nursery which is both sustainable, safe from a road transport perspective, and compliant with the

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Assington Neighbourhood Plan - we would be delighted to welcome such an impressive and successful business to the area and look forward to injecting significant energy into helping it.

We request, however, that this unsustainable and dangerous application is refused.

b. Councillors considered the **Planning Application - DC/20/03422** - To allow provision of visitors car park space at Land East of The Street, Assington and resolved to **support** the application.

c. Status of planning applications previous reviewed by APC are as follows:

Date Received	BDC Ref	Application	APC Ref	APC Response	BDC Response
31/03/20	DC/20/01307	Change of use and conversion of barn into 1 dwelling at Shamrock Farm, Marshalls Farm, Assington	20/033	Objected	
31/03/20	DC/20/01308	Works to facilitate conversion of barn into 1 dwelling at Shamrock Farm, Marshalls Farm, Assington	20/033	Objected	
30/06/20	APP/D3505/W/20/3249865	Change of use of existing restaurant and outbuilding to provide 5 dwellings at The Case Restaurant, Further Street, Assington	20/065	Objected	
15/07/20	APP/D3505/W/20/3250773	Erection of up to 19 dwellings at Land East of The Barn at Assington, The Street, Assington	20/077	Objected	

**20/095 Questions to the Chair**

DCllr Parker updated Councillors regarding the outstanding items in the Clerks Report and will contact Cllr Stacey regarding the filling of garden ponds and is continuing to look into the issues which have been raised regarding Assington Autos. Cllr Hill updated Councillors regarding the setting up of the Community Speed Watch Group and that SCC Highways had been very helpful in this instance.

**20/096 Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting date is Monday 28th September 2020 at 7.30pm.

**The meeting closed at 8.45pm**

**Appendix A Clerk's Report**

Minute	Action	Status	Done
	Minutes placed on website / sent to parish magazine / Lee and James		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Planning Comments sent to BDC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Cheques sent to suppliers.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20/021 b	Clerk to contact Paul Gant SCC Highways as a response had not been received following the meeting with Cllrs on the 3rd December	Awaiting response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20/071	Clerk to send letter of engagement to Simon White		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20/072	BDC Parker to look into the planning permission at Assington Autos regarding the sites operating hours and the road sign		<input type="checkbox"/>
20/082	Cllr Hill to confirm with Cllr Finch that he had no concerns regarding setting up a Community Speed Watch group at this time		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
20/066	BDC Parker to look into if there are any restrictions on filling up garden ponds		<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Clerks Hours</b>		
	1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020: 69hrs worked/60 hrs pd		
	<b>Calendar Reminder</b>		
	Shoulder of Mutton AVC renewal due 19th August 2024		

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**Appendix C RFO Report**

**Receipts and Payments**

ASSINGTON				Minute	Power	Receipts	Payments
Date	Details	File Ref	Ref				
07/09/20	Places4People Ltd - Planning	PO12	882		LA 2011 ss 1 to 8		205.20
07/09/20	Places4People Ltd - NP Support	PO13	883		LA 2011 ss 1 to 8		3,591.00
07/09/20	BDC - Conservation Lease	PO14	884		LA 2011 ss 1 to 8		5.00
07/09/20	J Hatton - Additional Hours	PO15	885		LA 2011 ss 1 to 8		414.90
07/09/20	HMRC	PO16	886		LA 2011 ss 1 to 8		103.60

**Bank Reconciliation**

	Statement Date	Statement Balance	Actual Balance	Unpresented Cheques	Credits not shown	Difference
Community Premium Accounts	31/7/20	£100.00				
		£56,527.56	£50,209.68	£6,417.88	£0.00	£0.00
Cash		£0.00	£0.00			£0.00
		£56,627.56	£50,209.68	£6,417.88	£0.00	

**Statement of Accounts vs Budget**

	Budget	Actual		Reserves	Budget	Actual
Assets B/Forward		£38,996.28				
<b>Income</b>			<b>Expenditure</b>			
Precept	£10,000.00	£5,000.00	Staff Costs	£2,880.00	£1,202.45	
Grants	£331.20	£5,074.00	Admin	£1,550.00	£319.95	
Bank Interest	£5.00	£13.51	Donations	£600.00	£700.00	
Loan	£0.00	£0.00	Street Lighting	£350.00	£0.00	
Other	£360.00	£240.00	CIL	£0.00	£423.00	
CIL	£0.00	£9,139.66	Insurance	£350.00	£0.00	
VAT Repayment	£0.00	£0.00	Inspection	£350.00	£0.00	
			P3 Scheme	£360.00	£0.00	
			Licensed Footpaths	£175.00	£0.00	
			Contingency	£500.00	£171.00	
			Maintenance	£630.00	£0.00	
			Loan Repayment	£0.00	£0.00	
			Loan Interest	£0.00	£0.00	
			Allotments / Conservation	£655.00	£5.00	
			Neighbourhood Plan	£1,500.00	£6,228.48	
			VAT Paid	£0.00	£632.70	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,696.20</b>	<b>£19,467.17</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£9,900.00</b>	<b>£9,682.58</b>
			Assets C/Forward			£50,209.68
<b>Total</b>		<b>£58,463.45</b>	<b>Total</b>			<b>£59,892.26</b>

**End of Appendices**

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