

Assington Parish Council

Clerk Christine Hargan 4 Northfield Road, Onehouse, Stowmarket IP14 3HF –

Telephone: 01449 674727 Email: assingtonpc@yahoo.com

Minutes of the meeting of Assington Parish Council on Monday 30th January 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Simon Thorogood, Andrew Hill, Bronwen Stacey, Ian Jordan, Tony Howcroft and David Wiles

In attendance: DCllr Lee Parker, CCllr James Finch, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and 7 members of the public

23/101 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Helen Wallace

23/102 **Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation from Councillors**

None

23/103 **Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 28th November 2022**

It was resolved to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

23/104 **County and District Councillor reports and public forum**

CCllr Finch apologised for the lateness of the report and highlighted the following points:

CCllr Report

- Devolution which provides a 30 year £500million commitment to Councils
- Responsibility for education being returned to County Councils
- Transport challenge for rural counties
- Budget 4% increase in Council Tax, 75% of which will fund adult care services. There is an increase of 50% in demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), part of the increase will help education
- Ukraine: 1,200+ individuals are being housed in Suffolk numbers continue to increase and homes are needed for those people
- New technology to support adult services
- Request for photographs related to the late Queen taken during 2022 for inclusion in the National Archives
- Fostering and adoption
- A request for regular presence from the Police Static vehicle at Adams Well approaching the junction in Further Street near the bends between the Church and Water Tower?
- CCllr Finch to write to the Police Speeding team requesting monitoring 40mph speed limit in Averley Lane, because young people walk along there to the bus stop
- A second request for the Police Speeding Team regarding a digital device. It was reported that the signs would be ignored if permanently installed. CCllr Finch to discuss the best option for a SID with John Taylor from SCC
- Police Precept meeting: in rural areas people want to see more police but in urban areas they are happy for time to be spent on analysis of electronic data. 999 calls have increased by 50% and extra staff are required to process the reports

DCllr Parker Report January

- Explained the division of responsibility between District and County Councillors
- Budget going to cabinet next week. It is anticipated that Council Tax will be increased by 2.99% or £5.30 for a Band D property, subsidised by reserves and new homes bonus
- BDC has reported itself to the social housing regulator because it had failed to provide electrical and gas test certificates on time and it is now working with the regulator to undertake testing and to deliver the safety certificates
- BDC has signed the head lease for the first new GP facility in Sudbury for 25 years, to be sublet to the practice
- Additional noise and environmental reports have been received from Assington Autos, which are now being consulted on. The National Planning Framework dictates that, where development is sustainable, it will be passed
- Concern was expressed about the skip business that is currently operating. DCllr Parker agreed to can request that the application be referred to the Planning Committee and

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Signed

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explained the likely timelines The Parish Council is deeply concerned because they are trying to do the best for the village and community concern appears to be ignored

- Locality Budget £500 is available until the beginning of March

Public Forum

- 3 members of the village hall committee are resigning in May which leaves 3 months to replace them
- CIL expenditure: requests to consider grant for changing the Village Hall heating system to make it more sustainable, and also more disability/wheelchair access to footpaths, including the path to The Thicks
- Licenced paths: vandalism to finger posts. Clerk to request an update from the Footpath Wardens
- A request was made that the Parish Council fund a specialist to read the AA noise report attached to the planning application and gain advice what they mean in real terms
Member of public to contact Clerk with contact details for a noise specialist to analyse the data. Clerk to make contact re costs and timeframe

23/105 Planning

Planning applications to consider

[DC/23/00226](#) 10 The Gurdons Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LW

Application under S73a for Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of Planning Permission DC/19/01570 vary Condition 13 (Timescale for Landscaping) retention of hedging replacing dead/dying native hedge

The Parish Council resolved to object: there is no reason for the original hedge not to be replaced with native hedging

[DC/22/06097](#) Tiggys Cottage 13 The Street Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LJ Application for Listed Building Consent – Replacement of Peg tiled front porch roof with reclaimed slate
Resolved no comment

[DC/23/00335](#) Brownsmiths Dorking Tye Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO8 5JY Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a Proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a building for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6 – Erection of building for farm machinery and seasonal hay storage
Resolved to acknowledge the application and no comment

Consider any planning application received since the agenda was posted

DC/21/02579 Assington Autos. Application was received following publication of the meeting and therefore an additional meeting will be held on 13 February to consider this application.

Status of planning applications previously reviewed by Parish Council.

The status of applications was acknowledged, and the Clerk was asked to check whether she had correctly recorded DC/22/04211, whether object or no comment.

23/106 Agree any **action required on emails** circulated to Councillors since the last Parish Council meeting.

Actions are noted in the action log

23/107 Agree any **action** required after reviewing the **Clerk's Report**

Actions are noted in the action log

23/108 Finance

- a. Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statements and the Statement of Accounts vs Budget. Acknowledged

It was resolved to pay the accounts as per the schedule listed in the Associated Papers and attached in the appendix

- b. Budget It was resolved to demand a precept of £10,000. The following amendments were made Donations budget £1100, Coronation £250. Final decision regarding the budget would be made at the additional meeting on 13 February. Clerk to distribute a revised draft budget to Councillors for consideration prior to the next meeting
Clerk asked to contact DCllr Parker with request for Locality Budget of £500

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- 23/109 **Licensed Path, Footpaths** and APC's **Assets** including the maintenance of the allotments and conservation area.
Thanks to Cllr Hill for clearing the rubbish from the allotments,
Resolved to ask Grayham Hogger to undertake work installing 2 no posts and install new dog bins and the £250 allotment posts. Pre-approved budget of £500 for digging 12-metre trench and installing additional water points dug, and £80 for dog bins
- 23/110 **Highways update**
Quiet Lane sign on Assington Lane has been damaged
- 23/111 **Projects for CIL expenditure**
Air source heat pump £38K including solar panels on the roof
EV charging points
Additional footpaths within the village particularly from old school house to the church
Reduce the size of aggregate on footpaths to improve accessibility
During school hours flashing children sign
Village sign – already approved
Village beacon
Flag pole
Disabled footpaths
Second defibrillator in the village
Replacement for bus service – transport for people
- 23/112 **Engagement with young Residents**
Suggestions include competitions for young people for their designs, offering quiet space to study for exams and competition for exam results for the best-performing child
- 23/113 **Report on visit to Ryes School**
The school would like continued support for the children, they would like to maintain dialogue with the Parish Council. Next litter pick to be organised in March. The students would like to be integrated into the village, possibly with allotment or community actions
- 23/114 **Additional Bench**
A quote has been received from Bryn Hurren for £498 + £55 including fitting
It was resolved to order the bench
- 23/115 **Questions to the Chair**
Light pollution, Clerk to email DCllr Parker for update.
- 23/116 A Planning meeting will be held on Monday 13th February at 7.30pm. Next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday 27th March 2023 at 7.30pm, Preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm

The meeting was closed at 9.57 pm

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Signed

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Appendix

Actions

| Minute | Action | Who | Complete |
|---------|--|----------|------------------------|
| | | | ✓ |
| 23/104 | Contact noise specialist for advice on AA noise report | Clerk | ✓ |
| 23/104 | Contact Police speeding team requesting monitoring of 40mph speed limit | JF | ✓ Awaiting feedback |
| 23/104 | Contact SCC Highways (John Taylor) to identify digital speeding device for use in Further Street | JF | ✓ Awaiting feedback |
| 23/104 | Contact DCllr regarding grant of £500 from Locality Budget | Clerk | ✓ |
| 23/104 | Contact Footpath Wardens for update on repair of footpath finger post | Clerk | ✓ |
| 23/105 | Planning comments to BDC | Clerk/IJ | ✓ |
| 23/105 | Check Planning log re entry on DC/22/04211 for correctness and report back to Councillors and correct if necessary Incorrectly recorded, No comment was agreed and sent to BDC, | Clerk | ✓ |
| 23/108 | Pay suppliers | Clerk/TH | ✓ |
| 23/108 | Send Precept demand to BDC | Clerk | ✓ |
| 23/108 | Enquire re higher interest bank account with any bank and feed back to Cllrs | Clerk | |
| 23/1109 | Order 2 additional dog bins for delivery to Cllr Hill. | Clerk | ✓ |
| 23/114 | Order additional bench from Barn Workshop | Clerk | ✓ |
| 23/113 | Note date for next litter pick with Ryes School March | All | ✓ |
| 23/115 | Email to DCllr Parker for update on Light Pollution | Clerk | ✓ |

23/108

Income since last meeting

£180 Allotment rental

£46.07 Bank Interest

Payments to be made

£594.68 Clerk Salary and WFHA

£50.00 Spingold Design and Print – printing of Neighbourhood Plan booklets

£120.00 David Bracey play safety inspections –

£26.71 Wave – allotment water

£33.60 SALC 2 x modules councillor training

£66.00 SALC CiLCA training module 3 for Clerk

£85.98 Councillor expenses, Christmas 2022

£240 PKF Littlejohn – Audit fees

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Signed

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