

# Assington Parish Council

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

Telephone: 01449 674727 Email: [assingtonpc@yahoo.com](mailto:assingtonpc@yahoo.com)

Minutes of the meeting of Assington Parish Council on Monday 29 July 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors Andrew Hill, Ian Jordan, Bronwen Stacey, Tony Howcroft and David Wiles  
**In attendance:** DCllr Lee Parker, CCllr James Finch, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and two members of the public

**24701 Apologies** for absence

Councillors Simon Thorogood and Helen Wallace. In the absence of the chairman it was agreed that Cllr Hill would chair the meeting

**24702** Agree **Minutes** of Assington Parish Council meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

Resolved correct and signed by Cllr Hill

### **Matters arising**

**24703 Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation** from Councillors

There were none.

**24704** County and District Councillor reports and **public forum**

### **Suffolk County Council Report Highlights:**

- Permission for a huge solar park in West Suffolk has been granted by the government
- Autism: plans to diagnose and assist both adults and children with the condition have been outlined
- Climate change remains on the council agenda
- Cold calling: residents are warned not to accept offers to undertake work by doorstep callers
- Fostering and adoption: the county is in need of additional fosterers particularly for emergency child care. Gaining fosterers employed by the council will reduce the huge bill for agency fosterers. 70% of fosterers are recruited via drop-in surgeries. Residents are encouraged to volunteer
- Speed Indicator Devices and ANPR cameras have been vandalised at Newton and also Gt Cornard,
- Acknowledged ANPRs are run by the Police in conjunction with SCC. CCllr Finch to speak to Tim Passmore to invite police to a future meeting

### **Babergh District Council report:** Cllr Parker reported that:

- Very little business was conducted before week commencing 23 July given the two elections (government and crime commissioner).
- Full council met last week. Main discussion points were CIFCO (the BDC and MSDC property investment company) and Listed Building Consent Orders which would offer a smoother route to add energy efficiency for owners of historic buildings. By the end of the year BDC should be the first local authority to adopt a lenient approach to energy efficiency in listed buildings, this would include insulation, solar panels, heating etc. Cllr Stacey has participated in the consultation.
- Heaven to Betsy coach in the Layby on the A1071: the Burger Van that was previously vending has been dismantled. As the land belongs to the County Council, CCllr Finch will enquire whether permission has been sought to vend on a permanent basis. DCllr Parker will ask Enviromental Health to investigate if/when it begins trading.

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Signed

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- Parking charges will be voted on on Friday 2 August. DCllr Parker advised lobbying cabinet members direct if the Parish Council wishes to oppose the scheme, which is expected to raise £1.8 million a year. There are costs attributed to maintaining car parks within the towns including machines, potholes, signage etc. 1 hour free parking would reduce the profit from parking by approximately £600,000, but still deliver a £1.2m profit. The scrutiny committee made a compromise proposal regarding the scheme but this is expected to be rejected by the Cabinet on Friday. Support of the compromise proposal to allow 1 hour free parking was reiterated by APC.

## Public forum

- The question raised related to Speed Watch and is reported in item no 24710

24705

## Planning:

### a. Planning applications:

DC/24/02419 Greens Farm House High Road Leavenheath CO6 4PG  
Householder Application - Erection of one and a half storey side extension to cartlodge including extension to driveway.

Resolved no comment

### b. Consider any planning application received **since the agenda was posted**

There were none

### c. Planning issues.

Assington Autos. BDC Planning Committee met on 24 July to discuss the planning application by Assington Autos to extend the operational area of their site. Cllr Jordan and a representative of the residents who had objected attended to speak in support of the objections to the proposal.

Councillors took the view that consent subject to the conditions proposed (plus a strengthening of the condition relating to the use of heavy machinery on a Saturday morning and a new condition on the installation of solar panels) could provide the Council with a valuable set of levers to ensure more effective regulation for the future. They stressed the need for effective enforcement, however, given the local concerns on noise in particular. The Planning Committee approved the application.

### d. Status of **planning applications** were noted

24606

Agree actions on Correspondence and emails circulated to Councillors by the Clerk  
Reported in the actions log

24607

Agree any actions required after reviewing the Clerk's Report  
Reported in the actions log

24708

## Finance

A Receive the RFO report.

Acknowledged

- Reconciliation of accounts against budget

Acknowledged

- Resolved to authorise payments to be made as per the schedule attached in the appendix and to set up a new direct debit to ICO. Clerk to earmark the donation to church in the reserves and to add a report on CIL expenditure to future finance reports

24709

## Review any issues raised for the Licensed Path, Footpaths and APC's Assets

24710

Assington Speed watch

The Speed Watch (CSW) team has suspended its activities, disappointed that little support has been forthcoming from the Police. Cllr Wiles received a letter from a Suffolk Police community officer who had visited the village following a complaint regarding the Speed watch team, who

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## Minutes of the meeting of Assington Parish Council on Monday 29 July 2024 at 7.30pm

were not notified of his visit. After three years' work by members of the group, who have reported over 4000 vehicles, the Police have provided little support. DCllr Parker added that Assington is not the only village in the area to have had similar concerns and to have stopped as a result.

Cllr Finch informed that the Police Commissioner had offered for Community Police Officers to attend Parish Council meetings on request. Clerk to formally request a visit by the CPO at one of the two remaining meetings this year via Cllr Finch, with cc to DCllr Parker.

Cllr Stacey suggested there is a need to continue to do something to support the speed limit through the village, such as "welcome to Assington" signs warning that the village is a speed watch area or investment in a speed reminder system. Cllr Howcroft highlighted the demonstrable success in resolving the problem of excessive speed following the reduction of the speed limit, and questioned the need for further investment or enforcement. The low level of interest from parishioners regarding joining the CSW team could reflect that the level of concern in the village regarding speeding has now reduced.

Cllr Hill therefore suggested a speed survey to determine the current extent of the problem (a wire counter collecting vehicle speeds), and to consider any police response at the September meeting. Clerk to enquire about survey via CCllr Finch and to raise concerns regarding the lack of support for CSW to CCllr Finch.

Thanks were extended to the Speed Watch volunteers for all their work and the many volunteer hours contributed to date. The topic will be revisited at a later meeting.

24711 To consider a donation toward the Sudbury CAB. It was confirmed that CAB benefit Assington residents directly and that any donation would be in line with APC policy on donations.  
Resolved to donate £100

24612 **Renewal of Insurance Policy**  
Clerk has received a quotation from Zurich Municipal for £264 which is still the cheapest on the market by £150. Agreed

24713 **Questions to the Chair**  
20mph speed limit stickers have been delivered to parishioners by Cllrs Stacey and Jordan. Thanks were recorded  
Cllr Howcroft: noted that the project to extent the Stour Valley National Landscape to Sudbury was rejected as insufficiently large, and that a seat has always been available for Suffolk's Parish Councils on the AONB board. This has now been taken up by a neighbouring Parish Council, and consideration will be given to a larger expansion covering the upper Stour, Brett & Box valleys.

Cllr Wiles reported that new doors will be delivered and fitted in the week of 19 August. The Sudbury AFC Under-15 football team will use the playing field and changing facilities for the coming season, and a memorial to Ted Nichols would be played on the field. APC's condolences to be sent to the Nichols family, recognising the substantial contribution made by Ted to the village. Clerk to agree note with Cllr Thorogood.

24714 **Date of the next meeting:** Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.  
Apologies from Cllr Jordan were noted for the next meeting

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**Minutes of the meeting of Assington Parish Council on Monday 29 July 2024 at 7.30pm**

The meeting was closed at 20.53

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Appendix

## Actions

Minute	Action	Who	Complete
	Planning comments to BDC	Clerk/AH	✓
	Pay suppliers	Clerk/Cllrs	✓
	Review planning applications prior to meetings	AH/IJ	✓
24614	Contact Hartley's Landscapes re the agreed contract and revise date of 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut. Request further cutting of vegetation and quote for triangles in three ways and Rose Green in village to be agreed by landscaper Cllr Wiles	Clerk DW	✓ ✓
24617a	Clerk to notify Rev Whiffin of decision on funding	Clerk	✓
24708	Note donation toward church refurb in reserves	Clerk	✓
24704	Contact CCllr Finch requesting his help with Police attendance at the September or November PC meeting cc DCllr Parker and also survey of speeding in both the Street and Further Street to establish whether formal action regarding speeding is required. Both actioned, awaiting response from Police closer to the date of next meeting	Clerk	✓
24704	Email to both CCllr Finch and DCllr Parker re the layby on the A1071 to establish whether "Heaven to Betsy" has gained permission to vend at that location and if it does vend for Cllr Parker to enquire about permissions	Clerk	✓
24704	Object to parking charges, to DCllrs Ward and Saul	All	
24708	Note objection to BDC re raise in dog bin charges	Clerk	✓
24708	Raise DD to ICO	Clerk	✓
24709	Contact Hartleys Gardens re advice on planting the two triangles to bear in mind that deer may graze on the plants and that there is a sign post in the centre of the triangle in Rose Green and that vehicles park on the green close to threeways awaiting response from Hartleys	Clerk	✓
24711	Notify CAB that £100 donation will be made	Clerk	✓

## Finance

### Payments to be made

£ 677.39 Clerk Salary  
£ 993.60 BDC dog and litter bins  
£60.04 WAVE/ Anglian Water business  
£5.00 BDC lease of wildlife area  
£35 ICO Data Protection fee to be set up as direct debit to reduce the fee from £40  
£100 CAB

### Payments paid since the last meeting

£1,350 Wadupp Windows – Village hall doors  
£2,219.00 Domestic Appliances Sudbury – Village hall white goods  
£16.00 bank charges

### Income Received since previous meeting

£180.00 allotment rental  
£625.19 bank interest

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Bank Reconciliation to Date				
	2023 - 24		2024 - 25	
	Budget	To year end	Budget	YTD
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Balance Brought Forward from year end accounts</b>		<b>84,391.56</b>		£88,874.16
Grants P3 grass cutting	331.40	1,021.40	<b>331.40</b>	0.00
Grants other	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Bank Interest	10.00	181.19	<b>30.00</b>	625.24
Other = Donations, rebanked cheques Jubilee and Allot	360.00	575.00	<b>360.00</b>	180.00
CIL	0.00	20,694.71	<b>0.00</b>	1,599.50
Precept	10,000.00	10,000.00	<b>10,000.00</b>	5,000.00
VAT Repayment	500.00	537.86	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£11,201.40</b>	<b>£117,401.72</b>	<b>10,721.40</b>	<b>£7,404.74</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
	Figures exclude VAT where paid as it is reclaimed, and is shown as VAT paid			
Staff Costs, salaries, HMRC, Payroll, expenses	3,575.00	4,349.71	<b>4,500.00</b>	677.39
Admin	300.00	476.36	300.00	22.50
Subscriptions		252.90	240.00	247.69
Donations	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,100.00	0.00
Street Lighting	500.00	636.89	<b>800.00</b>	0.00
CIL	0.00	22,786.73	0.00	3,314.17
Insurance	450.00	264.00	<b>300.00</b>	0.00
Audit	350.00	200.00	460.00	170.00
Grass Cutting (P3 Scheme)	330.00	360.00	360.00	0.00
Licensed Footpaths	150.00	135.00	150.00	350.00
Cut Allotments and Wildlife Area		135.00	<b>750.00</b>	0.00
Contingency	500.00	0.00	<b>500.00</b>	0.00
Maintenance	630.00	1,069.48	750.00	0.00
Jubilee/coronation Celebrations	0.00	395.74	0.00	0.00
Water and associated costs Allotments / Conservation	655.00	93.14	400.00	0.00
Neighbourhood Plan	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Bank charges				18.00
VAT Paid	500.00	496.88		397.33
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£9,595.00</b>	<b>£33,151.83</b>	10,610.00	<b>£5,197.08</b>
<b>Totals BF+ Income - Expenditure</b>			<b>£21,220.00</b>	<b>£91,081.82</b>
<b>Unity Trust Current Account</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>	<b>£4,922.97</b>	<b>23 July 2024</b>	<b>£1,725.08</b>
<b>Unity Trust Deposit Account</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>	<b>£85,732.05</b>	<b>23 July 2024</b>	<b>£89,356.74</b>
			<b>Total held in bank</b>	<b>£91,081.82</b>

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Assington Parish Council	£ 91,081.82
20485977 - <a href="#">Current T1</a>	£ 1,725.08 Available: £ 1,725.08
20485980 - <a href="#">Instant Access</a>	£ 89,356.74 Available: £ 89,356.74

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