

# 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors Simon Thorogood, Andrew Hill, Tony Howcroft, David Wiles, Helen Wallace & Ian Jordan

**In attendance:** CCllr James Finch, DCllr Lee Parker, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and one member of the public

23701. **Apologies** for absence

Cllr Bronwen Stacey

23702. Receive **declarations of interests** and **request for dispensation** from Councillors  
none

23703. Agree **Minutes** of Assington Parish Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023  
Agreed

23704. County and District Councillor reports and **public forum**

### **Suffolk County Council report**

- CCllr Finch highlighted the Sudbury-based charity Success After Stroke charity, which provides care, help and therapy to stroke survivors
- Ukrainian refugees: SCC is working with housing providers to assist families in finding rented accommodation, and providing a £2,000 support grant to assist them
- Libraries: the current contract for provision of library services is ending soon and a new contract is being sought. The mobile library service forms part of this, and it is important that those who value it also make use of it
- Fire Service: for the past five years Suffolk has shared a control room with Cambridgeshire Fire Service, which is replacing its system. The contractor has not delivered on the contract so Suffolk is now operating solo
- SCC is digitising its records. Ancestry.com is assisting by providing the software
- Items in blue (recycling) bins must not be bagged as they will not be recycled
- Fostering: 960 children in Suffolk are in care, including some refugees. Work continues to recruit additional foster carers
- CCllr Finch has met with the Project Director of National Grid at Langham and advised that some undergrounding is proposed outside of AONB in Great Horkesley. He will be cooperating with the District Council as it responds to National Grid

### **Babergh District Council Report**

DCllr Parker reported

- The cabinet's main points of focus are climate change and collaboration on communities, as many Neighbourhood Plans have been implemented
- Pressure is being maintained on National Grid to consider all options for the new infrastructure between Norwich and Tilbury
- The mandatory annual re-registration of voters is in progress
- Initiative to make homes more energy-efficient: grants are available of up to £18,000 per household, open to homeowners and landlords where household an income is less than £31,000, among other eligibility criteria
- Failings in BDC Election processes: an action plan is in place to ensure problems do not reoccur, and will be brought before the Audit Commission this year
- The option is available to attend Housing Committee meetings online, should attendance be necessary.
- Appeal no AP/22/00009 re development of 2 houses in Barracks Road Assington was dismissed and the Neighbourhood Plan was upheld by the planning inspector. DCllr Parker reported that consistency in supporting NPs is now being seen

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Signed

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- Climate change: the District Council is already committed to reaching net zero by 2030

## Public forum

A member of the public reported that the solar industry is unregulated, and was concerned to ensure that any investment is sound. Solar inverters function only if there is an electrical supply, so they do not work during power cuts. The scheme must be registered with MCMS in order to sell the electricity generated

23705. Planning:

- a. **Planning applications:** none
- b. Consider any planning application received **since the agenda was posted**  
There were none
- c. Status of **planning applications**  
The report was accepted

23706. Agree actions on **Correspondence and emails circulated** to Councillors by the Clerk

Reported in the actions log

23707. Agree any actions required after reviewing the **Clerk's Report**

Reported in the actions log

23708. Finance

- a. From the **RFO**, review Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statements and the Statement of Accounts vs Budget **Report** authorise payments made/to be made and note income received since the last meeting  
Accepted
- b. Open additional bank accounts with Unity Trust Bank  
Documents were signed

23709. Review any issues raised for the **Licensed Path, Footpaths and APC's Assets**

Resolved to engage Bryn Hurren to supply and fit two noticeboards and associated legs as per the quotation provided to Cllr Hill. A budget of £1200 was agreed

Cllr Thorogood reported concern regarding a length of hedge on the roadside by Assington Garage and it was resolved to engage a local contractor to trim

23710. Councillors agreed a response to Suffolk County Council regarding bus stop, sharing deep concern in the village from users of the bus service – pending further discussion.

23711. Projects to consider for **CIL expenditure**

Village hall projects: the project to install solar panels will cost approx £24,000. Decision on co-funding with the Village Hall charity to be made, subject to business plan offering benefit to the village, once any grant funding is confirmed. Potential cost of £13,000 for the installation of EV charging equipment – funding to be discussed once any grant is confirmed

Agreed scope of footpath accessibility works for feasibility study, focusing on the area from the entrance to the Thicks to the Village Hall. Cllr Howcroft to contact landowner of Sheepwalk Barn to discuss potential improvements to stiles

23712. **Questions** to the Chair

Photinia hedge: retrospective planning application has been refused

Councillors considered a proactive offer to the landowner create a public space on the meadow adjacent to the fishing lakes. Cost could be prohibitive.

23713. Next scheduled **meeting** will be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.20pm

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Signed

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## Appendix

### Actions

Minute	Action	Who	Complete
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
23/305	Planning comments to BDC none to send	Clerk/AH	
23/305	Letter to Environment Agency re Assington Autos	AH	✓
23/108 23/516	Open current and instant access deposit account with Unity Trust Bank	Clerk/TH	Ongoing
23/308	Pay suppliers	Clerk/TH	✓
23/309	Liaise with SCC Highways regarding final bill for Speed Reduction and to request refund of overpaid monies	AH	
23/311	Distribute projects for CIL expenditure to Councillors and to Assington News		✓
23/309	Permissive footpaths enquire whether upon completion land is sold with permissive path in place	HW	
23/309 / 23517	Ask Sudbury Wardens to supply posts and fit new dog bins. Locations for dog bins agreed as Footpath 12 at Three Ways, and opposite church. What3words locations to be agreed with councillors and distributed to BDC and Sudbury Wardens.	Clerk	Ongoing
23513	Review planning applications prior to meetings	AH/IJ	
23/514	Send end of project reports and photographs to BDC	Clerk	✓
23/516	Send audit report to external auditors	Clerk	✓
23516	Advertise period of public rights to examine accounts	Clerk	✓
23/517	Chase contractor regarding fitting new fence posts and water points to the allotments	ST	✓
23/517	Ask groundsman responsible for playing field for costs to and attend to the traffic islands and to consider a planting scheme	DW	
23/519	Confer with Village Hall Committee on projects for CIL expenditure and purchase of defibrillators. Clerk to share previous quotes	DW/Clerk	✓
23/519	Confer with carpenter regarding viability of renovation or replacement of noticeboards	DW	✓
23/519	Explore improvement of surface of footpath opposite Centuries and entrance to the Thicks	HW/TH	
23/519	Explore viability of replacing multiple stiles at Sheepwalk Farm/Rice's Barn with gates and confer with Footpath Wardens	HW/TH	
23/520	Assist with/forward website research undertaken previously to Cllr Wiles	Clerk	✓
23/520	Clerk to order 20mph wheelie bin stickers x 100 payment to £40 pre authorized, stickers regarded too small order larger size.	Clerk	✓
23/709	Order two noticeboards from Bryn Hurren as per quotation	AH	✓
23/709	Engage local contractor to trim section of hedge by Assington Garage	ST	✓
23/710	Councillors to agree response to SCC regarding bus stop	All	

### 23/108

**Income** since last meeting

**£5000 Precept**

£6877.84 CIL

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Signed

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**Payments to be made**

£645.24 Clerk Salary

£90 WAVE water bill. Wave had estimated all bills until we gave them a reading in March

£5.00 lease of conservation area

£845.55 BDC Dog and litter bin emptying

£220.00 Heelis and Lodge Internal Audit services

£216.16 SALC

**Payments already made agreed in principle in March 2023**

£129.22 Councillor Expenses for Coronation

£200.00 Band hire – Happy Sounds music

£206.87 Councillor Expenses for Coronation

£141.94 Councillor Expenses for Coronation

Resolved to pay

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Signed

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Date