

# Assington Parish Council

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

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

Minutes of the meeting of Assington Parish Council on Monday 30 September 2024 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors Simon Thorogood Andrew Hill, , Bronwen Stacey, Helen Wallace and David Wiles.

**In attendance:** DCllr Lee Parker, CCllr James Finch, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and 16 members of the public. The Chair welcomed two members of the Police Force and also BDC Communities officer

**24901 Apologies** for absence

Councillors Ian Jordan and Tony Howcroft

**24902 Agree Minutes** of Assington Parish Council meetings held on 29th July 2024

Resolved accurate and signed by Cllr Thorogood thanks to Andrew for chairing the previous meeting

## **Matters arising**

**24903 Declaration of Interests** and **requests for dispensation** from Councillors

There were none.

**24904 County and District Councillor reports and public forum**

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

- The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement has been ongoing since 2009, The Secretary of State has approved the application in principle subject to approval by Suffolk County Council Highways. The County Council have objected to the plans from the inception through to the approval, no detailed plans appear to be in place.
  - Cllr Hill asked whether an objection from SCC would force National Grid to create a plan that SCC agree to? It was responded that the plans must be approved by SCC prior to work commencing.
  - Some local residents have received legal papers regarding compulsory acquisition of their land, the letter is worded ambiguously and recipients have interpreted it in various ways. Whilst a purchase of land by National Grid cannot be stopped it can be mitigated. Residents have been advised to appoint a local land agent. Cllrs Thorogood and Finch can advise privately of specialist companies. Full costs can be claimed from National Grid.
  - There is no firm date for commencement of construction due to the requirement of SCC to agree the plans which include construction of a haul road along the length of the line.
- Ofstead have inspected children's services, and noted an improvement to an already outstanding report, inspectors concluded that children's safeguarding is strong and their experience of the care system in Suffolk remains the CC's priority.
- A serious fire at the recycling centre in Great Blakenham was caused by batteries. Residents are asked to recycle batteries and NOT dispose of them in black bins
- Relaunch of the purchasing group Solar Together which provides cheaper access to solar panels and may be available for listed buildings. Further details via [Suffolk.gov.uk/news](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/news)
- Cllr Finch appealed for additional foster parents to help local youngsters. Further information can be acquired from Suffolk County Council.
- **Road signage** when utilities undertake essential maintenance and divert traffic they should also be accountable for removing signs. SCC fine companies for leaving signs once the work is completed and is considering an increase of fines to the companies.
- Residents in the Rose Green area are deeply concerned with speeding motorists to the point that some feel it is too dangerous to use the road to walk especially with children and prams. CCllr Finch will gain advice from highways to find a solution.

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Signed

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

- The current regime of refuse collection which has been in place for 20 years is changing in April, a simpler recycling scheme will be introduced with better recycling, a food caddy and an additional blue bin and will be able to recycle glass. Cllrs mooted that parish charities financially benefit from glass recycling
- CIL continues the good work £800,000 distributed in the recent round of grants
- Devolution in Suffolk has been rejected for the time being,
- Urgent government action has been requested to end the lack of council housing
- Locality budget is available

## Public forum

Suffolk Police were welcomed. The Community Speed Watch group expressed their disappointment regarding lack of Police support and reported a number of problems including motorcycles racing through the village, various types of vehicles travelling at excessive speed and cars with loud exhausts. The Community Speed Watch having worked voluntarily to assist the Police for 4 years, had received a letter during the summer following a complaint from a member of the public. The letter criticised their operation which had been approved by the Police force.

The officer explained that there are three teams in the local Police area, Cameras, Traffic and Community Policing. Within the teams only some officers are trained in speed monitoring. There are three cameras between 4 people, and the teams require more intelligence to establish where and when speeding happens so that they can direct resources to manage the problem.

Whilst it is appreciated that data is sent to the Control Centre, when it is forwarded to the individual teams it is done via a third party and contact details of the originator have been removed. The Community Policing Team need an email ideally to notify dates of offences, locations, incident times, make and model of the car to enable the team to review ANPR details, a marker can then be placed on vehicles. The process will take a month or more due to operational issues and prioritising workload.

Residents can report minor traffic offences which are a nuisance including all the things reported by Cllr Wiles, the identity of the reporter will not be disclosed therefore members of the public should be confident that there will be no recriminations when reporting offences, however the reports should be as detailed as possible and include make, model of vehicle and location of the issue Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) will be used to identify the vehicle and a marker will be placed on it to ensure that it gets stopped. A section 59 notice could be placed on a vehicle doing so provides officers with the power to seize a vehicle if a warning is ignored it:

- Deals with the anti-social use of motor vehicles on public roads or off-road.
- Is issued when vehicles are used to cause distress, alarm, annoyance, or in an anti-social manner.
- Allows police officers and PCSOs to seize vehicles being used in an anti-social manner. stays on the vehicle if they get 2 Section 59s their vehicle can be seized.
- If the issue is with drugs, suspicious activity, or known drunk drivers the same process should be followed. With antisocial behaviour if there are a number of ASBs the Police will escalate. Reports will be treated as anonymous to protect the source.

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If the village wants an engagement day, the Community Policing Team (CPT) will be happy to oblige at weekends and can also provide posters and other resources both to community groups and schools.

In conclusion Assington is a quiet rural area therefore it is identified as low priority. The Community Police Team is willing and keen to help however, they acknowledge that timely communication within the force remains a problem and ask to be copied into any correspondence with the Police Force.

- Speed survey Cllr Finch to speak to highways

24905

## Planning:

### a. Planning applications:

[DC/24/00386](#) Willow Farm Further Street Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LD Full Planning Application - Change of use of agricultural land and excavation of a field to create a Private Lake

To consider the additional documents posted on the application which reduce the lake in size by approximately 50%, No comment from majority of consultees, however heritage feel that it should be reduced further and moved to the west of the site to avoid spoiling the view for Willow Farm.

Resolved No comment

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

There were none

### c. Planning issues.

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

24906

Agree actions on Correspondence and emails circulated to Councillors by the Clerk Reported in the actions log. No actions were requested.

24907

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

24908

## 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 a row underneath the CIL report. It will also be noted in the earmarked reserves at year end and to add a report on CIL expenditure to future finance reports

24909

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

Finger post at the thicks has fallen. Clerk to notify the footpath wardens.

24910

## Assington Speed watch

The main report is recorded under minute no 24904

Cllr Wallace acknowledges speeding issues in The Street, but problems also exist in Marshall's Green and Barracks road where the speed limit reduces to 30MPH Cllr Hill responded that unfortunately it is not possible for Speed Watch to operate in those locations because there is nowhere along the lanes with a clear 100 metres in either direction which is the legal minimum to enable a speed watch to be placed, however, it may be possible to request the presence of a Police vehicle.

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Another alternative is to request that a blanket speed limit of 20mph is placed on all quiet lanes.

24911

## **Questions to the Chair**

There were none

**Date of the next meeting:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm

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Signed

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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 and that vehicles park on the green close to threeways awaiting response from Hartleys Rose Green Roses in Rose Green hardy shrubs Mahonia quote	Clerk	✓
24711	Notify CAB that £100 donation will be made	Clerk	✓
24904	Request speed survey from SCC	JF	
24904	Consider projects requiring the use of Locality Budget	All	
24909	Contact Footpath Wardens regarding replacement of finger post at The Thicks.	Clerk	

## Finance

### Payments to be made

£ 677.39 Clerk Salary

£ 182.69 Clerk expenses

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Signed

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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>		84,391.56		£88,874.16
Grants P3 grass cutting	331.40	1,021.40	331.40	385.68
Grants other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	10.00	181.19	30.00	625.24
Other = Donations, rebanked cheques Jubilee and Allot	360.00	575.00	360.00	180.00
CIL	0.00	20,694.71	0.00	1,599.50
Precept	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
VAT Repayment	500.00	537.86	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£11,201.40</b>	<b>£117,401.72</b>	<b>10,721.40</b>	<b>£12,790.42</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	4,500.00	1,354.78
Admin	300.00	476.36	300.00	22.50
Subscriptions		252.90	240.00	282.69
Donations	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,100.00	100.00
Street Lighting	500.00	636.89	800.00	0.00
CIL	0.00	22,786.73	20,000.00	4,214.17
Insurance	450.00	264.00	300.00	0.00
Audit	350.00	200.00	460.00	170.00
Grass Cutting (P3 Scheme)	330.00	360.00	360.00	350.00
Licensed Footpaths	150.00	135.00	150.00	575.00
Cut Allotments and Wildlife Area		135.00	750.00	65.04
Contingency	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Maintenance	630.00	1,069.48	750.00	828.00
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	0.00	0.00
Bank charges				18.00
VAT Paid	500.00	496.88		1,012.93
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£9,595.00</b>	<b>£33,151.83</b>	<b>30,610.00</b>	<b>£8,993.11</b>
<b>Totals BF+ Income - Expenditure</b>			<b>£61,220.00</b>	<b>£92,671.47</b>
<b>Unity Trust Current Account</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>	<b>£4,922.97</b>	<b>23 September 2024</b>	<b>£814.73</b>
<b>Unity Trust Deposit Account</b>	<b>31 March 2024</b>	<b>£85,732.05</b>	<b>23 September 2024</b>	<b>£91,856.74</b>
			<b>Total held in bank</b>	<b>£92,671.47</b>

Assington Parish Council

£ 92,671.47

20485977 - Current T1

£ 814.73

Available: £ 814.73

20485980 - Instant Access

£ 91,856.74

Available: £ 91,856.74

CIL Budget								
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021/22	2022 / 23	2023 / 24	2024 / 25
	Full year	Full year	Full year	Full year	Full year	Full year	Start of year	YTD
Total received in year		£6,224.51	£16,697.14	£27,216.03	£27,719.33	£20,694.71	8,901.31	£1,599.50
Total retained CIL (previous year retained plus new receipts)	£3,221.78	£9,446.29	£22,921.65	£48,014.94	£75,311.27	£85,141.28	71,255.86	£63,718.91
Total CIL expenditure	£0.00	£3,221.78	£2,122.74	£423.00	£10,864.70	22,786.73	9,136.45	£4,664.17
Net retained CIL	£3,221.78	£6,224.51	£20,798.91	£47,591.94	£64,446.57	£62,354.55	£62,119.41	£59,054.74

Signed

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## **Payments since the last meeting**

£1,350.00 Wadupp Windows from the CIL budget – Village hall doors

£264.00 Zurich insurance

£16.00 bank charges

£60.04 WAVE/ Anglian Water business

## **Income Received** since previous meeting

£5,000 Precept

£385.68 Suffolk County Council – grant for grass cutting

A VAT reclaim of £1,012.93 has been made but at publication of Associated Papers has not been received

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Signed

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Date