

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 25th November 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Simon Thorogood, Andrew Hill, Tony Howcroft, Bronwen Stacey and Helen Wallace

In attendance: CCllr James Finch and Christine Hargan (Clerk).

241101 **Apologies** for absence

Councillors Ian Jordan and David Wiles. DCllr Lee Parker

241102 Agree **Minutes** of Assington Parish Council meeting held on 30th September 2024

Resolved accurate and signed by Cllr Thorogood

Matters arising

There were none

241103 **Declaration of Interests** and **requests for dispensation** from Councillors

Cllr Stacey declared an interest in the Churchyard and the Assington Association.

241104 County and District Councillor reports and **public forum**

Suffolk County Council Report Highlights:

- Flooding: it is now 12 months since storm Babet and costs to protect the county have increased to £1.5 million. The County Council have requested a further £5 million for additional flood prevention work.
- Budget consultation provides the opportunity to have your say how the budget is spent. The consultation ends on 16 December: [SCC Budget Consultation 2025/26](#)
- Local transport fund is closing on 25 November 2024. The council is aware that the traffic flow increasing on the B1508 through Bures, while Newton Green has a major issue on the A134 and are planning a pedestrian crossing.
- A scheme called Lendology is in place to assist with the cost of insulating houses.
- Fostering: a new promotion is in place and a video advertisement has been released.
- The Government has restarted consultation on devolution. There will be two meetings with the Secretary of State on consolidating devolution and the role of local government. The results will be released in a White Paper in early December.
- ~~Bramford to Twinstead went through because insufficient information regarding operational plans had been released. Ed Miliband approved the plan subject to Suffolk County Council approving plans for workflows in advance of work taking place.~~ Bramford to Twinstead was approved by the newly appointed Secretary of State Ed Milliband despite National Grid not providing to the County Council sufficient information regarding operational Highway plans. However Ed Miliband did approve the plan with the proviso that National Grid provide to Suffolk County Council further information on Highway workflows in advance of Highway work taking place AND Suffolk County Council approval is obtained..

Babergh District Council report: no report was received from Cllr Parker, therefore the Clerk will forward the District Councillor's report as provided to Chilton Parish Council.

Public forum

241105 **Planning:**

a. Planning applications:

[DC/24/04896](#) Round House Further Street Assington CO10 5LE Application for Listed Building Consent. To remove all cement render and replace with new lath, therma fleece insulation, 3 coats of lime render and 3 coats of Suffolk pink lime wash.

Resolved no comment

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Signed

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[DC/24/04895](#) Round House Further Street Assington CO10 5LE Householder Application. To remove all cement render and replace with new lath, therma fleece insulation, 3 coats of lime render and 3 coats of Suffolk pink lime wash.

Resolved no comment.

[DC/24/05077](#) Dillacks Farm Colchester Road Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LT Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/23/05548 - Condition 3 (Solar Array Screening)

Resolved no comment

[DC/24/04806](#) Cotton Wood Barracks Road Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5LP Application under S73 for the Removal or Variation of a Condition following grant of DC/21/02579 dated 10/09/2024 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Change of use of land to extend an Authorised Treatment Facility (salvage yard); construction of 5no storage/dismantling buildings, and other associated operational works.

The Parish Council is disappointed that it has not seen improvements to working conditions to date. However, it wishes to show goodwill to the company, which clearly needs additional time to undertake the changes recommended by Babergh District Council. As such it **resolved** to support the views of Babergh District Council Environmental Health, and recommend that an extension of time to 6 months be granted to allow the company to comply with the original conditions as laid down in the Planning Consent with the following caveats:

- Condition 5 (Hours of Operation)
Limitations on HGV change to 6 am – 5pm: the Parish Council felt that the proposed change of wording was not helpful. It agrees that a new survey should be provided as 6am is still night time and will quote a passage from the Neighbourhood Plan. Resolved to Object to variation of this condition
- Condition 6 (Vehicle Cutting Operations) A new survey should take place from residents' gardens at a time that is not previously announced to the company and response to be dependent upon the result of the survey, but if this is not completed propose original condition be extended to 6 months.
- Condition 7 (Additional Barriers and Areas of Use): the initial noise assessment was completed with the doors open so it is considered acceptable. The area of objection relates to the new wording which is not measurable and therefore suggests that the time to comply to the original condition be increased to 6 months.
- Condition 8 (Bailing Operations): suggest extension of time to comply with the original condition to 6 months.
- Condition 9 (Waste Loading): suggest extension of time to comply with the original condition to 6 months.
- Condition 10 (Reversing Alarms): this change improve current conditions remove the new wording – no reason why the condition should be changed. Resolved to Object to variation of this condition
- Condition 11 (Noise and Vibration Management Plan): suggest extension of time to comply with the original condition to 6 months.
- Condition 12 (Hours of Construction): The Parish Council supports the request to vary this condition according to the supporting letter.

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

There were none

- c. **Planning issues.**

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

241106 Agree actions on Correspondence and emails circulated to Councillors by the Clerk
Reported in the actions log. No actions were requested.

241107 Agree any actions required after reviewing the Clerk's Report
Reported in the actions log

241108 **Finance**

- Receive the RFO report.
Acknowledged
- Reconciliation of accounts against budget
Acknowledged
Propose £500 grant to be paid to the Assington Association towards the production costs of the Assington News and £500 to the PCC towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard. Proposed Chair, seconded Cllr Howcroft, unanimously resolved.
- Budget: Resolved to set the Precept £10,000, which this year will be a small rise due to the variation in the number of people paying a reduced level of council tax. Clerk and Cllr Howcroft to revise the figures on the budget table for discussion at the January meeting.
- Revised Financial Regulations. Further to discussion the Clerk and Cllr Howcroft will fine tune the document for adoption at the January meeting.

241109 **Review any issues raised for the Licensed Path, Footpaths and APC's Assets**
six half oak barrels planted with roses and herbaceous perennials for £825.00. Clerk to request photographs of oak tubs in situ in similar locations and to gain an alternative quotation for a quantity of wild rose bushes to be planted on each Green.

241110 **Assington Speed watch**

As read

241111 **Administration of wildlife area**

The existing administrator wants to step back, and therefore a volunteer is needed. Information to be sought on the duties of this voluntary role which will be featured in the Assington News with a view to attracting another resident to take over. A sign was suggested to promote the location of the allotments and wildlife area but no decision was made.

241112 **Questions to the Chair**

There were none

Meeting dates for next year 27th January, 31st March, 2nd June, 28th July, 29th September and 24th November.
to be held in Assington Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9.13pm

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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 nd 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	✓
241108	Advise PCC and Assington Association that a grant of £500 to each organisation has been authorised	Clerk	✓
241108	Revise the Financial Regulations prior to the next Parish Council meeting	Clerk / TH	✓
241108	Revise the draft budget further to discussion for approval at next meeting	Clerk / TH	✓
241109	Contact contractor re barrels and rose bushes	Clerk	✓
241111	Discuss administration of wildlife area and gain outline of duties to enable a new volunteer to be found	AH	✓

Finance

Payments to be made

£500 to the PCC to assist with churchyard maintenance

£500 to Assington Association to help with the costs of Assington News

£861.87 Clerk Salary and back pay

£182.69 Clerk expenses

£60 Community Action Suffolk – web hosting.

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Bank Reconciliation to Date				
	2023 - 24		2024 - 25	
	Budget	To year end	Budget	YTD
Income				
Balance Brought Forward from year end accounts		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	1,241.72
Other = Donations, rebanked cheques Jubilee and Allot	360.00	575.00	360.00	360.00
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	1,154.19
Total Income	£11,201.40	£117,401.72	10,721.40	£14,741.09
Expenditure	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	2,032.17
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	264.00
Audit	350.00	200.00	460.00	170.00
Grass Cutting (P3 Scheme)	330.00	360.00	360.00	1,050.00
Licensed Footpaths	150.00	135.00	150.00	225.00
Cut Allotments and Wildlife Area		135.00	750.00	126.08
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				41.40
VAT Paid	500.00	496.88		1,012.93
Total Expenditure	£9,595.00	£33,151.83	30,610.00	£10,368.94
Totals BF+ Income - Expenditure			£61,220.00	£93,246.31
Unity Trust Current Account	31 March 2024	£4,922.97	19 November 2024	£773.09
Unity Trust Deposit Account	31 March 2024	£85,732.05	19 November 2024	£92,473.22
			Total held in bank	£93,246.31

Assington Parish Council

£ 93,246.31

20485977 • Current T1

£ 773.09

Available: £ 773.09

20485980 • Instant Access

£ 92,473.22

Available: £ 92,473.22

Signed

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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

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Signed

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Date