

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 27th November 2023 at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: CCllr James Finch, DCllr Lee Parker, Christine Hargan (Clerk) and 2 members of the public were present DCllr Lee Parker

231101 Apologies for absence

Cllr Helen Wallace

231102 Receive **declarations of interests** and **requests for dispensation** from Councillors
None

231103 Agree **Minutes** of Assington Parish Council meeting held on 25th September 2023
Agreed and signed by the Chairman

231104 County and District Councillor reports and **public forum**

Suffolk County Council report CCllr Finch updated his report on the following:

- The bus user group has had a positive impact on bus timetables
- Flooding: the government has provided extra funding to assist with homes flooded in Suffolk
- Finance is being provided to assist residents with computer literacy
- New highway contractor Milestone is now active
- There appears to be a democratic gap between SCC and BDC in supporting parishes on disruption and destruction of habitat caused by major Energy projects
- AONB changed its name to National Landscape
- Kebab Van, assessment officer is considering road safety due to condition of highway. The issue has been reported to DVLA, Police and SCC Highways
- DCllr Parker asked about Parish objection to the vendor? Vans on each side of carriageway are registered with food standards and are the mobile arm of a business in Sudbury. The issue is lack of consultation.
- Return of unused funds for 20mph works. Cllr Hill to escalate issue to CCllr Finch for action.

Babergh District Council Report

- No formal report was received
- The Joint Local Plan has been formally adopted and included Neighbourhood Plan policies.
- £943k has been provided for improvements to housing stocks
- A consultation with heritage property owners is underway regarding revising approach to energy efficiency measures. The consultation should be distributed widely the higher the response the better
- CIL at end of October £1.3M funding was dedicated to larger infrastructure projects. Contact DCllr Parker for further information
- "One Network" website will assist in establishing information on road closures..
- Assington Autos application still hasn't been decided, documents are awaited from applicant and will probably be heard by Planning Committee.

Public forum

- A member of public asked to speak about their planning application which will allow them to start a small business and to encourage visitors into the village which will bring additional footfall to the local businesses.

231105 Planning:

a. **Planning applications:** T

[DC/23/04936](#) Pump Farm School Bures Road Assington Sudbury Suffolk CO10 5NA

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Signed

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Full Planning Application - Erection of 2No single storey buildings to offer additional classroom spaces

Resolved Support but the Parish Council are concerned about the level of lighting and therefore respectfully suggest that if granted a clause is placed on the consent to place motion sensors on the lighting in the car park and to enhance ecology that the site may be surrounded by native hedging

[DC/23/04725](#) The Nook The Street Assington CO10 5LW Planning Application -

Change of use of land for the siting of up to 5no shepherds huts and 1no log cabin for use as holiday lets. Conversion of stables to provide shower/toilet facilities.

Resolved to support, but respectfully suggest that if approved that the planning authority places a suitable covenant on the consent preventing future housing to be developed on the site.

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

There were none

- c. Status of **planning applications**

231106 Agree actions on **Correspondence and emails circulated** to Councillors by the Clerk
Reported in the actions log

David Gotts hedge near the Thicks ask him what he does 2 x cuts

231107 Agree any actions required after reviewing the **Clerk's Report**

Reported in the actions log

231108 Finance

- d. 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

- e. Transfer of funds from Barclays Bank to the new Unity Trust Bank was unanimously agreed

Bronwen thinks precept should rise a little each year.

231109 Review any issues raised for the **Licensed Path, Footpaths and APC's Assets**

None

231110 **CIL expenditure**

Projected projects

Air source heat pump and solar panels for the Village Hall

EV charging points

Village sign – already approved

Village beacon

Flag pole

Improve accessibility on Public Footpaths

Replacement for bus service – transport for people

Bus stop to put a tarmac hard standing on the A134

Road narrows sign at Centuries where road narrows and St Edmunds Close,

Replace multiple stiles at Sheepwalk Farm with gates to improve accessibility

231112 Update on **National Grid** Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement

Started to get airtime, NG shuffled keep making noise to keep live BDC helpful Suffolk Not so

231113 **Questions to the Chair**

Every year Christmas Tree shape at Perrywood

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A bungalow in the middle of the village is untidy and residents have asked if the Parish Council will contact them Cllr Thorogood to speak to them

Cllr Wiles has a potential donation toward fitting a new kitchen in the village hall. It was agreed that this could be accepted.

231114

Meetings for 2024 all to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

29 January, 25 March APM and PC meeting, 20 May AGM, 29 July, 30 September, 25 November

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm

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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
231105	Planning comments to BDC	Clerk/AH	
23/108 23/516 23716 231108	Open current and instant access deposit account with Unity Trust Bank Transfer funds to Unity Trust Bank. Test transfer made Transfer £5k to UT Bank for November payments if successful Transfer balance Assist Cllr Stacey with setting up banking application	Clerk/TH Clerk/TH Clerk/TH	Ongoing
23/308	Pay suppliers	Clerk/TH	
23513	Review planning applications prior to meetings	AH/IJ	
23/519	Register for Defib training if interested	All	
23/520	Register for internet banking with Unity Trust	ST,AH,BT	
23/709 23/911	Review projected projects for CIL expenditure	TH/Clerk	
231104	Communicate with CCllr Finch re refund from SCC for works to 20mph speed limit	AH	✓
231104	Communicate with SCC to gain refund due following the 20mph Speed limit	JF	
231104	Sign up to One Network website and distribute info on local road closures to councillors	Clerk	✓
231104	Communicate Heritage homes survey to owners of listed buildings	All	
231106	Communicate with Gardens Arb regarding the current schedule of cuts, forward information to contractors to enable quotations to be made	Clerk	
231108	Enquire about Reserves, confer with Cllr Howcroft re process and revise/clarify budget and distribute to Cllrs prior to the next meeting	Clerk	
231112	Research electronic Christmas Tree at Perrywood garden centre and distribute to councillors	BS	✓

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Signed

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Bank Reconciliation to Date				
	2022-23		2023-24	
	Budget	To year end	Budget	YTD
Income				
Balance Brought Forward from year end accounts		84,391.56		84,249.89
Grants P3 grass cutting	331.40	1,021.40	331.40	0.00
Grants other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	10.00	181.19	30.00	436.43
Other = Donations, rebanked cheques Jubilee and Allot	360.00	575.00	360.00	180.00
CIL	0.00	20,694.71	0.00	8,901.31
Precept	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
VAT Repayment	500.00	537.86	0.00	0.00
Total Income	£11,201.40	£117,401.72	10,721.40	£103,767.63
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	1,908.80
Admin	300.00	476.36	300.00	274.51
Subscriptions		252.90		216.16
Donations	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Street Lighting	500.00	636.89	800.00	0.00
CIL	0.00	22,786.73	0.00	5,362.87
Insurance	450.00	264.00	300.00	264.00
Audit	350.00	200.00	460.00	430.00
Grass Cutting (P3 Scheme)	330.00	360.00	360.00	0.00
Licensed Footpaths	150.00	135.00	150.00	0.00
Cut Allotments and Wildlife Area		135.00	750.00	0.00
Contingency	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Maintenance	630.00	1,069.48	750.00	542.96
Jubilee/coronation Celebrations	0.00	395.74	0.00	658.47
Judicial Review				
Water and associated costs Allotments / Conservation	655.00	93.14	400.00	218.30
Neighbourhood Plan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
VAT Paid	500.00	496.88		1,241.73
Total Expenditure	£9,595.00	£33,151.83	10,610.00	£12,217.80
Totals Income - Expenditure			£21,220.00	£91,549.83
Barclays Community Account at	31 March 2023	£100.00	21 November 2023	£100.00
Barclays Business Premium at	31 March 2023	£84,149.89	21 November 2023	£91,447.83
Unity Trust Current Account				£1.00
Unity Trust Deposit Account				£1.00

ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY > 20-83-50 10123706 Show recent transactions	£100.00 Available balance Last night's balance £100.00	 Single payment  Transfer  More
ASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL Business Premium ME > 20-83-50 50123749 Show recent transactions	£91,447.83 Available balance Last night's balance £91,447.83	 Single payment  Transfer  More

Payments to be made

£854.39 Clerk Salary

£630.00 David Gotts – grass cutting

£68.34 Community Heartbeat Trust

£27.00 SALC – provision of payroll services

£60.00 Community Action Suffolk provision of Web Hosting Do you wish to renew?

£578.50 BD Hurren

The following is expected in early December but not yet received

Similar amount to above, authorize up to £600 Invoice from Bryn Hurren for additional Noticeboard

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What earmarked reserves are there Action me to find what reserves there should be.

Clear definition ear marked reserves

Anomaly with reserves. Need to keep precept down

Movement of

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Signed

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