

# Assington Parish Council

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

Telephone: 01449674727 Email: [assingtonpc@yahoo.com](mailto:assingtonpc@yahoo.com)

**Minutes of a Meeting held 7.30pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Assington Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors Simon Thorogood (Chair), Andrew Hill (Vice Chair), Councillors Helen Wallace, Tony Howcroft, Kevin White

**In attendance:** CCllr James Finch, DCllr Lee Parker Christine Hargan (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

22/0301 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Stacey

22/0302 **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensation**

None

22/0303 **Minutes** of the previous meeting

The minutes were amended 22/0104 Friends Community Farm replaced Care Farm. Resolved to agree the amended minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January and the minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 signed by the Chair.

22/0304 **Public Forum**

Meadowland in the parish is for sale on David Burr's Website, £150k for 18 acres which comprises of 3 fields behind Warner Rise. If the Parish raised through crowd funding, or other means they could be kept as grazing. To be discussed in Questions to the Chair Planning Application DC/22/01613, the applicant explained the application, that this was a variation of the original application of 8 properties which had been approved, and subsequently reduced to 4 which was also approved. Now circumstances have changed and total site is proposed to have 6 dwellings, which will be used by family. The current application is for a 2 bed bungalow for in laws, he explained that there would be a further application for a similar property. Cllr Hill suggested a covenant on the property so that in the future the property would be sold to people in the village. The applicant agreed.

22/0305 **Planning**

a. Consider planning applications

DC/22/00617 Brownsmiths Dorking Tye Assington Suffolk CO8 5JY

Householder Application - Erection of a single storey/one and a half storey extension to the existing dwelling to form garage and workshop with a one bedroom annex above the garage area (following demolition of existing outbuilding)  
Resolved Support

b. Consider Planning appeal

Planning appeal no AP/21/00110 - Land East Of Assington Barns , The Street, Assington, CO10 5LW

Objection nothing has changed. No intention of altering comments/removing the objection

c. Consider any planning application received since the agenda was posted requiring a response before the next scheduled meeting DC/22/01613 Full Application of 1No single storey 2 bedroom detached dwelling and garage (Plot A)(alternative scheme to previously approved). Land South Of 'The Nook' The Street Assington CO10 5LW

This is the first of two applications within original site which will be a total of 6 properties inside the Neighbourhood Plan. The 8 houses were originally granted permission within the site for 2-3 bedroomed properties the NP Supports application because it complies with the type of housing needed in the village.

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DC/22/01624 Full Planning Application - Erection of 1No two storey, 3 bedroom detached dwelling and garage (Plot B) Land South Of 'The Nook' The Street Assington CO10 5LW

Resolved to support both applications

**a. Status of Planning applications**

Attached in Appendix

**22/0306 Clerk's Report**

- i. Agree actions on Correspondence and emails circulated to the Councillors by the Clerk,  
None that were not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

**22/0307 Actions from the Clerk's Report**

Included in the actions log, attached in appendix

**22/0308 Finance**

- a. From the RFO Report authorise payments made / to be made and note income received since the November meeting.  
It was resolved to make payments as per the attached schedule.

The clerk reported that all payments agreed at the previous meeting had been made

Review Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statements and the Statement of Accounts vs Budget

The finance report was received and accepted. The Clerk will work with Cllr Howcroft regarding banking in line with resolution in November 2021.

**22/0309 Review: Standing Orders, Risk Management, Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Transparency Code and Policy booklet.**

Resolved to accept the reviewed documents

- b. To consider updating the Financial Regulations to the 2019 NALC Model of Financial Controls APC Financial-Regulations 2022

The Clerk drew attention to the updated regulations relating to internet banking and pointed out two clauses that did not apply as the Parish Council is not a charity, nor does it hold equipment stores. Resolved to accept the revised Financial Regulations

- c. To consider adopting draft Internet Banking Policy

The new policy outlines the current internet banking protocols.

Resolved to adopt

- d. To re-appoint our auditor

Resolved to reappoint Rev White

**22/0310 Highways Update**

Due to the narrow roads potholes appear and the road edge crumbles where people pull over to allow other vehicles to pass. Clerk to email CCllr Finch re condition of highway and verges on edges of village.

**22/0311 Quiet Lanes, Suffolk**

SCC wants the signs collected from Ipswich. Resolved that Cllr Hill would contact them to arrange delivery.

**22/0312 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

No report was available

**22/0313 Bramford to Twinstead Tee**

The Parish Council's response to the consultation has been submitted, recorded thanks to Cllr Howcroft

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22/0314      **Renewal of Allotment Association Agreement**

Resolved to renew the Agreement for a term of five years from 1 April 2022 at an annual rental of £360. The draft agreement was signed by both Chairmen and witnessed by the Clerk.

**22/01/15      Questions to the Chair**

**Purchase of meadowland.** Councillors acknowledged the value of 'amenity land' and felt that the prospect of development on the land was relatively low risk now that the neighbourhood plan is in place. They discussed the potential use of CIL money to aid the purchase but noted that the PC did not have sufficient funding to purchase the land independently and that any CIL funding gained in the coming years is likely to be modest. Therefore any major expenditure must be weighed against other possible projects in the future.

Resolved that If the community were to raise substantial funds the PC would consider making a donation from CIL funds, or indeed applying for District level CIL funding.

**Football club** whilst supporting the efforts of the community, alterations to the village hall to professional football league standards are not under the remit of the Parish Council. Any approach for funding needs to come from the Village Charity. Clerk to email the Charity and Mark Watts


**Next scheduled APC meeting will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30pm.**

The meeting was closed at 9.33pm

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Dated

## Appendices

	Action	Who	complete
	Pay vendors		
	Enter planning comments	Clerk	
	Acquire further two copies of Neighbourhood Plan. Ongoing they have been requested. To be chased.	HW	
	Acquire quotes for Jubilee Garden drawings received quotes ongoing difficulty in gaining permission from Highways so that this can be progressed	Cllr Hill	
	Review Donations. Rolled over to May meeting. Clerk to brief councillors on donation policy prior to meeting.	Clerk	On-going
	Document Review Clerk to update policy booklet and to post updated documents on the website.	Clerk	
	Contact SCC re delivery of Quiet Lanes signs	AH	
	Allotment Agreement provide copy of agreement to AA Chair and file copy	Clerk	
	Football club, email to A V Charity and Mark Watts, any approach for funding needs to come from the charity	Clerk	

### 22/0304 Report from James Finch Suffolk County Councillor Council welcomes renewed Government efforts to reduce impact of offshore wind on Suffolk Communities

**It was announced on 8<sup>th</sup> February that the Government recognises Suffolk's communities need to see tangible and substantive benefits from the Offshore Transmission Network Review.**

Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council have welcomed the renewed effort, announced by the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on 31 January, to try to ensure that Suffolk communities benefit from coordinated connections of offshore wind before 2030.

As part of a webinar on the Offshore Transmission Network Review, it was announced that BEIS officials would be initiating a program of activity working with offshore wind developers, inter-connectors, and the onshore transmission owner, facilitated by the trade body Renewable UK, to explore more ambitious regional coordination with a specific focus on East Anglia.

It was acknowledged during the webinar, that proposals currently put forward by developers identifying early opportunities for coordination, particularly in East Anglia, could go further.

This work will run in parallel with the Holistic Network Design (HND), expected to be published in June 2022, which will set out the required onshore network reinforcements and how the connections of future offshore wind projects coming through the seabed leasing process will be coordinated.

#### ➤ **Good news for Suffolk - Government gives the green light to negotiate a County Deal**

In August last year Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders of all the Suffolk Local authorities made efforts to secure from the Government a devolution deal for Suffolk. At the same time as the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper, we heard the news that Suffolk was successfully chosen as one of nine areas across the country to have been given the opportunity of negotiating a new County Deal.

One of the questions still to be answered is "what would a deal mean for Suffolk? Our commitment is that this deal will mean more local decision making led by the County Council in conjunction with all the authorities in the interests of Suffolk residents. But, to clarify we do not have a deal yet, and we have many more months of negotiations and discussions with Government ahead of us before we can look to finalise an actual deal.

#### ➤ **Residents urged to support Suffolk spectacular**

Suffolk is set to stage a host of exciting Jubilee celebrations during 2022 – bringing the county's communities together to mark this momentous milestone.

Her Majesty The Queen will become the first ever British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, on Sunday 6 February, after 70 years of service.

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Signed

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Dated

The unprecedented anniversary will be celebrated throughout the year, with a four-day UK bank holiday taking place from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June to enable people to commemorate the occasion.

Plans are already in place for a Festival of Suffolk – the county’s biggest ever community event. This year-long spectacular will incorporate much-loved existing events, such as the Suffolk Show, alongside dedicated Jubilee celebrations, including a race day and torch relay. Details on the latest line-up can be found at: [www.festivalofsuffolk.org/](http://www.festivalofsuffolk.org/)

**Road Closures ?** - To help facilitate this, Suffolk County Council has set up a dedicated webpage: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlatinumJubileeEvent](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlatinumJubileeEvent) and will waive its fees for any road closures for events on this day, as well as providing free assistance with traffic management for all applications received **before 11pm on Sunday 27 March**.

➤ **The COVID-19 rates in Suffolk and the Stour Valley**

**I have decided to stop regular monitoring and circulating the COVID19 / Omicron incidence and severity** in the County and locally as this is now falling. I might regret this statement !! **Please note it has not gone away** even though statutory control measures have been reduced. However we are all encouraged to take appropriate measures for protection of ourselves and others as we personally think appropriate. For those who would like access to data which is still being updated this is available on the **Suffolk Coronawatch website** [here](https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch) - <https://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch>

➤ **Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service swoops into “The Big Hoot”**

Suffolk Fostering and Adoption Service has been announced as a proud sponsor for Suffolk’s biggest ever mass participation public art event – **‘The Big Hoot’ 2022**. This is the third art trail brought to Ipswich by St Elizabeth Hospice in partnership with creative producers Wild in Art, following the success of Pigs Gone Wild 2016 and Elmer’s Big Parade Suffolk 2019.

As part of the Big Hoot 2022, 50 ornately decorated owl sculptures, featuring designs celebrating all things Suffolk, will be scattered throughout Ipswich showcasing the wealth of artistic talent of the county and beyond, as part of the biggest free art event in Suffolk which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors to the town.

**Suffolk Fostering and Adoption’s owl, named ‘Big Hoot-Little Hoot’ will represent the care that foster carers and adopters provide to children in the local community. The owl which features a baby owl nestling safely under the wings of its parent, will be painted by artist, Sandra Reynolds and perfectly depicts the loving and nurturing nature of foster carers and adoptive parents caring for Suffolk children.** For me I am delighted that this is being sponsored by Suffolk County Council Fostering and Adoption Service as it will provide another very visual way in Ipswich of highlighting the importance of fostering and adopting throughout the county.

➤ **Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions for the Stour Valley**

A Foster Carer Recruitment Event is held the **1st Wednesday of every month**, and an Adoption Event is on the **1st Thursday all 7:00pm** in your home.

To book a place please email [Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Gwatkin@suffolk.gov.uk).

**My Priorities**

*Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk’s Strength all underpinned*

**22/0308 Finance Report**

Payments to be made

£565.91 Clerk salary 47 hours and 8 weeks working from home allowance weekly average 5.8 hours

£76.70 Clerk expenses to March 2022

£55.20 Heartbeat Trust one set of adult pads

£60 Parish online

£16.27 WAVE

£27.00 SALC Provision of payroll

£60 CAS – Provision of One Suffolk website

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Signed

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Dated

£466.74 Suffolk County Council Street Lighting

**Resolved** to pay

Income/Expenditure February – March 2022

Date	Ref:	Details	Expenditure	Income
03/02/2022	35	Anglian Water/WAVE	<b>£31.36</b>	
03/02/2022	36	Chilton Parish Council - contribution to CiLCA	<b>£50.00</b>	
03/02/2022	37	David Bracey Playingfield Inspection	<b>£120.00</b>	
03/02/2022	38	Clerk Salary	<b>£626.56</b>	
01/03/2022	39	PKF Littlejohn	<b>£288.00</b>	
21/02/2022	Inc	Babergh District Council Grant for Jubilee		<b>£500.00</b>
08/03/2022	inc	Bank interest		<b>£2.13</b>

Bank Reconciliation to Date				
	2020/21		2021-22	
	Budget	To year end	Budget	YTD
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Balance Brought Forward from year end accounts</b>		<b>38,996.28</b>		<b>68,540.49</b>
Grants	331.40	5,395.40	331.40	988.40
Bank Interest	10.00	13.51	10.00	8.44
Other = Donations, rebanked cheques Judicial review a	360.00	430.84	360.00	4,095.21
CIL	0.00	27,216.03	0.00	27,719.33
Precept		10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
VAT Repayment	0.00	1,426.41	0.00	3,685.33
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£701.40</b>	<b>£83,478.47</b>	<b>£10,701.40</b>	<b>£115,037.20</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	2,900.00	3,368.63	2,900.00	4,048.21
Admin	1,550.00	441.44	1,550.00	1,087.61
Subscriptions				193.29
Donations	600.00	700.00	600.00	950.00
Street Lighting	375.00	0.00	375.00	378.09
CIL	0.00	423.00	0.00	10,864.70
Insurance	350.00	329.28	350.00	426.24
Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	440.00
Grass Cutting (P3 Scheme)	360.00	288.00	360.00	360.00
Licensed Footpaths	175.00	108.00	175.00	135.00
Contingency	500.00	171.00	500.00	0.00
Maintenance	630.00	563.48	630.00	435.20
Judicial Review				5,950.00
Allotments / Conservation	655.00	169.35	655.00	220.36
Neighbourhood Plan	1,500.00	6,266.48	1,500.00	1,355.00
Unbanked cheques from previous year		1,118.45		
VAT Paid	0.00	990.87	0.00	2,724.12
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£9,595.00</b>	<b>£14,937.98</b>	<b>£9,595.00</b>	<b>£29,567.82</b>
<b>Totals Income - Expenditure</b>		<b>£68,540.49</b>		<b>£85,469.38</b>
<b>Barclays Community Account at</b>	<b>31 March 2021</b>	<b>£100.00</b>	<b>23 March 2022</b>	<b>£100.00</b>
<b>Barclays Business Premium at</b>	<b>31 March 2021</b>	<b>£68,440.49</b>	<b>23 March 2022</b>	<b>£85,369.38</b>

Bank account balance at 23 March 2022

Signed

Dated

<u>COMMUNITY</u>		£100.00			
⋮	20 - 83 - 50 10123706 Barclays Bank UK PLC	Available balance ⓘ (£100.00 last night's balance) ⓘ	↻ Single payment	↔ Transfer	⋮ More
> Show recent transactions					
<u>Business Premium ME</u>		£85,369.38			
⋮	20 - 83 - 50 50123749 Barclays Bank UK PLC	Available balance ⓘ (£85,369.38 last night's balance) ⓘ	↻ Single payment	↔ Transfer	⋮ More
> Show recent transactions					

End of report

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