

Financial Report for 2009/10

Grants

During the year grants have been made to many organisations involved with the village including the new Guiding group, Local Groups are encouraged to apply for grants. Application forms can be obtained from the website or Parish office.

Income

Grants Received	£1,685
Loan income	£22,975
Precept Received	£36,400
Interest Received	£203
John Pears RMA	£1,458
John Pears Cleaning contract	£2,000
Community events	
Summer Fair income	£7,030 **
Sports event income	£316
Christmas Market income	£426
Total Income	£72,493

Expenditure

Staffing	£18,733
Clerks & Councillors Travel	£281
Consultancy & Training	£620
Chairmans Allowance	£66
Civic Entertainment	£101
Office Costs	£6,202
Insurance	£880
Subscriptions	£708
Website and Publicity	£554
Audit	£549
Train Passes	£235
Shopping Bus grants	£1,543
	£5,583
Sect 137	
Grants	£621
Office Equipment	£55
Village Centre Purchase	£67,793
Loan repayment	£1,350
Street Lighting Mtce	£724
Garden & Properties Mtce.	£1,531
Dog Bins	£414
Bus Shelters	£5,270
Street Furniture	£931
Street Lighting supply	£797
War Memorial	£7
John Pears General	£64
John Pears Cleaning Mat'l	£210
Staffing John Pears	£844
Summer Fair	£3,481
Sports event	£210
Christmas Market	£107
Total Expenditure	£120,464

Total Expenditure less income: £47,971 * funded from reserves.

• PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Parish Council has continued to liaise with Metrobus and others about the bus service in the village, and has recently updated the Transport webpage and our "Bus Times with Train Connections" summary timetable. A copy is enclosed with this report. We have also carried out further improvements to bus shelters during the year, including provision of perching seats, and are evaluating the provision of real-time information at bus stops. For further information or to comment or raise any points that we could help with, please contact the Parish Council Office.

Cllr Don Sinclair

Chairman of Ashurst Wood Parish Council May 2009—April 2010

Ashurst Wood



Parish Council

Annual report

No 6

2010

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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• CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Looking back over 2009 although things have been difficult and at times frustrating there have been many successes. I will not dwell on the difficulties other than to say that they relate to the large amount of snow that fell during the coldest winter for some years and the Parish Council office being temporarily relocated in the vestry of the church during the building works at St Dunstan's.

The major success was the completion of the purchase of the Village Centre from the Diocese of Chichester which had owned the land since 1929. This secures the future of this excellent and well run facility for the community and ensures the continued support of the Parish Council going forward.

I congratulate the Trustees of the Village Centre in achieving the Hallmark 2 and 3 awards, one of only a very few village halls in the whole country to attain this accolade. Full details of the excellent report they received are available on the Parish Council website. Well done!

Once again Ashurst Wood was runner up in the Calor Village of the Year, but unlike last year we were second in the whole of East and West Sussex and not just in our category. This was a great achievement reflecting the good community spirit of our village.

I would like to thank all the volunteers from the community, the Trustees of the Village Centre, the organisers of the very successful Summer Fair, my fellow Parish Councillors, our handyman, Dick Tyrrell, our caretaker, Sue Pollard, the Parish Clerk, Susan Wellerd and the recent addition to the staff, the Assistant Clerk, Rebecca Roberts for all the hard work during the year in helping to keep Ashurst Wood the great place it is in which to live.

Don Sinclair

• SUMMER FAIR

On 20 June the first major Summer Fair for 12 years was held in Ashurst Wood. The weather was fine, the crowds flocked in and everyone had a great time. There was a wonderful community spirit with people meeting old friends, making new acquaintances and generally enjoying themselves.

The organising committee were delighted with the way it went. The success was due in no small part to the willing help that was forthcoming from so many people. The Committee made the preparations and did the organising but a lot was down to the help from so many people who pulled together and did their bit.

The Fair raised around £5000 for the three main beneficiaries – the Primary School, St Dunstan's Church and the Community Pre-School.

The consensus amongst the organising committee was to hold another fair in 2011 – 2 July has been earmarked as the date so put it in your forward planner now! If you would like to be involved in the organisation of this event please do contact Keith (details as below).

Keith Stacey

on behalf of the Steering Committee

(tel: 323880 or email: keith@keithandwendy.net)

• **JOHN PEARS FIELD AND PAVILION**

The Pavilion hosted a Pre-school until the middle of 2009 and the closure of this means there is more availability for use by individuals and groups. The new Guiding Group meets there fortnightly and the successful community tennis club uses the pavilion on Sundays in the season and for coaching. The venue has continued to be used for children's parties and meetings. Bookings can be made via the Parish Council office or website.

• **POWER OF WELLBEING**

During 2009 the Council worked towards satisfying the criteria to adopt the Power of Wellbeing and this process included training for Councillors and Clerk. It also had to publish a Statement of intent in respect of Community involvement, this is available on the website or from the office. The Council now has wider powers to help the local community and has a legal obligation to publish when it intends to use the power. This has not happened to date.

• **WEBSITE**

The website was upgraded in 2009 and is now easier to navigate and clearer to see. The site is regularly updated and contains an integrated bus and train timetable for journeys from Ashurst Wood to London. Local groups can publicise events and information regarding the Tennis Club, Village Centre, Historians and Youth Club are available. www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

• **SUMMER SPORTS TASTER DAY**

This was a new initiative in 2009—47 local children attended, participating in a selection of sports both at John Pears and Ashurst Wood Primary School. The Council was fortunate to recruit voluntary support from local sports clubs and the event was considered to be successful enough that it is to be repeated in 2010 on 11th & 12 August.

• **CHRISTMAS MARKET**

Another new event promoted by the Parish Council and involved working with the village Primary School, its PTFA, the Community Pre-School, Church, local groups including the Conservation Group and the Village Centre Trustees. This was also a success with many different sectors of the Community, including businesses getting together. Thanks to everyone involved and especially to the children and the teaching staff who organised the singing which made it feel so festive.

• **YOUTH CONSULTATION**

The Parish Council used the opportunity of the Summer Fair to undertake a Youth Consultation to ask local youngsters their opinions of the play areas currently available and what they liked to do in the Village. It went on to ask for their ideas on improving existing facilities or any new ideas to make the Village a better place for young people. A 'graffiti wall' was displayed where the young people over 7 could add drawings, words and stickers whilst the under 7's drew pictures. Adults were also invited to take part in a short survey. A Lottery Grant enabled to funding for all the materials and 3 prizes in each of the 3 age groups. The responses have been collated and the Council is using them to inform future consultations and plans. Full details of the questions and results are available at the Parish Office.

• **SPEED WATCH**

A new co-ordinator has been appointed and training will now take place by mid 2010.

YOUR COUNCILLORS ARE:

Chairman:	Don Sinclair, 824317	Vice Chair:	Jenny Forbes, 822769
Councillors:	Ian Arnott, 822555	Alan Del Mar, 823196	Michael Box, 822664
	Paul Bridgland, 822068	Karen Lindsay, 824831	Brian Phillips, 824154
	Jonathan Samways, 322226		

• **MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY**

This time last year we reported that the South East Plan had just been adopted, confirming the requirement for 17,100 new houses in the District by 2026. We were expecting to see the final draft of the Core Strategy (the main planning document for the District) in November. Quite a lot has happened since then. In December, the District Council deferred consideration of the Core Strategy "pending further consideration". The proposed relief road at East Grinstead is now no longer financially viable, meaning the number of new houses there will have to be reduced from the intended 2500. Improvements to infrastructure, including waste water treatment plants, will not be completed in the near future, making it impossible to plan for the housing numbers required.

The new Government has recently announced that the South East Plan will be abolished and that decision-making powers on housing and planning will be returned to local councils. Legislation will be needed to bring these changes into effect. In the meantime, we understand that the District Council is continuing to work on the Core Strategy and we are hoping to meet with them for further updates very soon.

• **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Plans for a proposed development of eight affordable homes at Box Farm, Maypole Road, were made public in April 2009. Subsequently, the landowner decided to withdraw from the scheme and the project was therefore cancelled. The Rural Exception Site Policy permits the building of houses in areas where market housing is not allowed, provided they are only made available to people with a local connection. The Parish Council continues to work with other bodies to try and find suitable land on which to build much-needed affordable housing in the village.

• **PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The Public Services Committee has seen through the installation of Cycle Racks at various sites within the village, it has also had the War Memorial Bus Shelter refurbished, using a local craftsman. It is still hoping to negotiate a right of way from Ashurst Wood to Forest Row by means of a footway from John Pears Field through to the top of Wall Hill and is in contact with both East and West Sussex as well as Forest Row Parish Council to help the process.

As regards finding a suitable site for allotments this is proving to be problematic but negotiations continue with a local landowner/agent. The Council is acutely aware of the need for allotments and of its legal obligation to provide these, it is sadly running out of ideas as to where they might be located. If anyone knows of an appropriate site (*with* a willing owner !) the Council would love to hear about it. In the coming year the committee will be looking at the possibility of providing " Village Gateways" as a means of influencing traffic speed.

• **VILLAGE PLAN**

Actions defined by the Village Plan continue to making good progress. Of the total of eighteen projects, eleven of them are well established, in particular the most important one "Communications". The quarterly Newsletter is complemented by a monthly E-mail Newsletter and also notices in the church Parish Magazine and Observer newspaper. It is very pleasing to see the success of both the Summer Fair and the Christmas Market, plus the excellent Sports and Fun day for the younger members of our community. Five of the projects (Housing, Speeding, Parking, Pedestrians and Cycling) have started and are making various degrees of progress. The remaining two (Mobile Library and Business List) have yet to start.

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Public Services	Planning	Finance and Administration
Chairman: Alan Del Mar	Chair: Jenny Forbes	Chairman : Alan Del Mar.
Accommodation Chairman: Alan Del Mar		
PARISH CLERK Susan Wellerd St Dunstan's Church Chapel Lane Ashurst Wood RH19 3QT		
01342 823770 Email; Clerk@ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk		
Office hours; Monday Wednesday and Thursday mornings (except on the Thursday when the Parish News is printed) WEB www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk		