

Financial Report for 2010/11

Grants

During the year grants made have included those to; the Conservation Group, St Catherine's Hospice, Royal British Legion (Poppy Day wreath) and the Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club. Local Groups are encouraged to apply for grants. Application forms can be obtained from the website or Parish office.

Income

Grants Received	2022
Precept Received	48000
Interest Received	34
John Pears RMA	1685
John Pears Cleaning contract	1008
Goods for resale	106
Community events	
Sports event income	333
Christmas Market income	428
Total Income	53616

Expenditure

Staffing	18747
Clerks & Councillors Travel	390
Consultancy & Training	468
Chairman's Allowance	1
Civic Entertainment	58
Office Costs	7453
Insurance	698
Subscriptions	769
Website and Publicity	297
Audit	799
Train Passes	420
Shopping Bus	1549
Village Centre grant	2020
Sect 137 Grants	650
Office Equipment	797
Loan repayment	2700
Village Centre Development	7547
Street Lighting Mtnc	1434
Garden & Properties Mtce.	1964
Dog Bins	414
Bus Shelters	0
Street Furniture	558
Street Lighting supply	526
War Memorial	15
John Pears General	46
John Pears Cleaning Mat'l	223
Staffing John Pears	1078
Summer Fair	70
Goods for resale	239
Sports event	188
Christmas Market	90
Total Expenditure	52207

- Quality Council Status**

The Council successfully applied for reaccreditation of this scheme in March 2011 and will continue to work to the high standards required in the future.

Cllr Don Sinclair

Chairman of Ashurst Wood Parish Council May 2010—April 2011

Ashurst Wood



Parish Council

Annual report

No 7

2011

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

May 2010– April 2011



QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

- CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

As this is my last message of this current Council I thought I would write about the work that your elected but volunteer councillors do on your behalf. The Council held 25 main and committee meetings this year. Councillors also represented the village at meetings held by other local authorities. They were required to attend training sessions to keep abreast of the latest developments in local government. In addition they have also represented the Council at various organisations in the village.

As I write this message the temperature outside is nudging 80° F (26°C) it is therefore easy to forget the disruption caused by the heavy falls of snow in December. Following much discussion with the highways authority and our insurers the Parish Council has drawn up a winter management plan and is in the process of entering into an agreement with a local contractor to clear the roads with a snowplough fitted to a tractor in the event of heavy snowfalls in the future.

I was very sorry to lose the wise counsel of Alan Del Mar who resigned from the Council in March for personal reasons; he was a founding member of the Council and served as Chairman for a number of years. I sincerely thank him for his hard work over the last 11 years. I also thank Paul Bridgland and Mike Box who have decided not to stand for re-election.

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

Don Sinclair

- OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

The Council has been represented on various outside committees and groups including, Ashurst Wood Village Centre Management Committee, Ashurst Wood Youth Club, Summer Fair Committee, Mid Sussex Association of Local Councils, Ashurst Wood Conservation Group, Neighbourhood Watch, St Dunstan's Management Committee and Community Pre-School Committee.

- SUBSCRIPTIONS AND AFFILIATIONS**

The Council subscribed to various organisations who provide information, training and support including Sussex Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and East Grinstead Council for Voluntary Service.

- SPEED WATCH**

A new co-ordinator was appointed and training undertaken by volunteers. Speedwatch monitoring took place in several locations during 2010. The main problem with speeding was shown to be along Hammerwood Road from Maypole Road towards Cansiron Road (in both directions). Unfortunately, due to insufficient volunteers the co-ordinator has decided this initiative cannot continue. If anyone wishes to volunteer to keep the scheme going, please contact the Clerk.

- COMMUNICATIONS**

The Council continues to update its website and the statistics provided show this is a well used site. Monthly newsletters are available by subscription and four paper newsletters plus the last annual report were delivered by local groups to all the homes in the village.

- **JOHN PEARS FIELD AND PAVILION**

The Pavilion hosts the Ashurst Wood Youth Club and the community tennis club continues to use the pavilion on Sundays in the season and for coaching. The venue is used for children's parties and meetings. Bookings can be made via the Parish Council office or website.

- **ASHURST WOOD YOUTH CLUB**

The Council, with the support of the County Councillor lobbied to keep the Youth Club in Ashurst Wood open and has agreed to fund a worker to run the group with the community committee. The new worker will continue to be supervised by officers from the County Youth Service and volunteers will be needed to cover the second person necessary to be present at all sessions. The Club hopes to re-open early in May 2011.

- **SUMMER SPORTS TASTER DAY**

In August 2010 the second of these events took place but this year was a joint venture with Forest Row a wide variety of sports were offered over two days. In 2011 the plan is to have independent events in both villages which will be open to children from both Ashurst Wood and Forest Row but run on separate weeks.

- **CHRISTMAS MARKET**

The second of these markets was held in December 2010 and despite very heavy snow and freezing conditions many villagers and village organisations came along and gave their support. The event was 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, Junior Football Club and the Village Centre Trustees. This year also saw the "switch on" of the new Christmas lights purchased from the Market surplus in 2009 together with a tree donated by a local business, it is hope this will continue as an annual event Thanks to everyone involved.

- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

The Council has actively considered providing real-time information at bus stops but this is currently too costly, the website has been kept up to date with bus and train timetable information, consultations have been considered and responded to as appropriate. For the future the new council will have to carefully watch the effects of government cuts on services provided by county councils.

- **VILLAGE CENTRE**

Plans were drawn up for an extension to the Village Centre to provide an office and small meeting room, together with improving existing facilities and providing storage for Council and conservation Group. The plans were shown at the 2010 Annual Village meeting, and residents were informed that a planning application would be submitted which would be followed by a search for funding and public consultation. However, once a detailed cost estimate was received and taking into account public views, Councillors voted against submitting the planning application. It will be for the new Council to review the scheme.

- **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Planning Committee meets to consider and make recommendations on all planning applications made for work on properties within the parish. Councillors take into account matters including parking provision, whether the proposed design is in keeping with the property and surrounding area and whether it is unneighbourly. The final decision is made by MSDC as planning authority.

The Committee met 17 times and reviewed 29 applications during the past year. The majority of applications were not contentious and involved extensions and alterations to dwelling houses or work to protected trees. The Committee did not object in principle to the redevelopment of the Maypole Inn but had some concerns regarding car-parking and other matters. Permission was granted with conditions which met some of those concerns. An application to build a new house on a small site in Phoenix Lane was opposed by the Council and rejected by the Inspector on appeal. Councillors attended a Public Inquiry relating to an appeal against an Enforcement Notice requiring the removal of a mobile home from the old nursery site in Cansiron Lane. Although the appeal was allowed, the Inspector confirmed that the presence of the mobile home on the site breached relevant planning policies and gave temporary permission for the occupant to remain for a maximum period of 2 years on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances.

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The Council has been working with English Rural Housing Association, The Rural Housing Enabler from Action in Rural Sussex and Mid Sussex District Council on a proposal for an affordable housing development for local people on land in Hammerwood Road which was once tennis courts for Ashurst Wood Abbey School and has also been used for off-road driving.

The development would consist of twelve homes – six houses and six flats – which would be available in perpetuity for rent or shared ownership only by people with a local connection.

Residents were able to view preliminary plans, ask questions and make comments at a well-attended public consultation event on the 10th February. Councillors took account of feedback from this event as well as residents' views expressed at Council meetings, in writing and by less formal means and voted to support the proposal in principle. Residents will be able to view more detailed plans and reports and make further comments once a planning application is submitted by the Housing Association.

For more details see the Council website or contact the office.

- **PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The Committee met 6 times in the last year some of the practical issues it dealt with included the improvements to the War Memorial steps, a more fitting litter bin has been installed adjacent to the War Memorial Bus Shelter. A Winter Management Plan was completed which resulted in the purchase of a machine to assist the Handyman salting the pavements, two snow shovels and an agreement with West Sussex County Council and a local contractor to clear the roads in the village in the future.

Continued efforts were made to find suitable and available land for allotments, negotiations did commence on a site, but were unfortunately unsuccessful.

Following a grant from Mid Sussex District Council a walks leaflet is being produced and will be on sale at a subsidised cost from the Council in May 2011. With thanks to Mr Arthur Hunt for providing the source material.

The Parish Council continued to meet with the Football Clubs, Police and Mid Sussex District Council to consider the parking issues that have arisen and following a request from a resident the scheme for restrictions was reluctantly agreed as the only real solution. This scheme, when advertised by the Highway Authority, received two objections which were considered. The Football Clubs were in agreement and supported the scheme as an important aid to road safety.

- **YOUR COUNCILLORS FOR 2010-11 WERE:**

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	

- **COUNCILLORS FOR 2011-12 ARE**

Ian Arnott 822555	Margaret Bussell 823253	Jenny Forbes 822769
Karen Lindsay 824831	David Loveday 824658	Brian Phillips 824154
Jonathan Samways 32222	Don Sinclair 824317	Derek Wailes 07747 006670

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Public Services Planning Finance and Administration. Accommodation

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**