



**Minutes of the Ashurst Wood Annual Village Meeting** held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 7.30 pm at the Village Centre.

**Present:** Parish Council Councillors, the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and 75 members of the public. Also in attendance: Mims Davies, Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex

**7.30pm:** Cllr Jenny Forbes, Chair of Ashurst Wood Village Council, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. **Minutes of the last Annual Village Meeting - held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 – had previously been approved and signed.**
2. Introductions by the Chairman of the Village Council
3. Apologies: County Councillor Jacquie Russell & District Councillor John Belsey
4. Council Report:
  - Councils Activities
  - Financial Report 2019 - 2022
  - Future Projects
  - Elections 2023
5. Presentations:
  - Life in Parliament – Mims Davies MP, Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex
  - Defibrillators – Joanna Crerar – South East Coast Ambulance Service
  - Ashurst Wood Bonfire Society – Graham Keenor, Chairman of the Bonfire Society
6. Question and answer session:

Donna Saunders of Chapel Lane, has organised a petition against the firework display and formation of the bonfire society. Her main points against the event were:

  - The community had not been asked in advance
  - Concerns about the possible distress to pets, horses, wildlife and those with mental health problems
  - Concerns over how the grass would be repaired
  - No evidence that the organised display would stop back garden displays
  - Neither the Rec or John Pears were suitable locations

Cllr Forbes replied that fireworks would happen anyway and that neighbours are not told in advance of a display, where-as residents have advanced notification about the event.

Another resident of Woods Hill Lane enquired about the workmen with vehicles and a lattice telescopic telephone mast seen in the field behind the butchers – were the

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Council aware? Cllr Forbes replied that the phone mast originally sited at Wealden House would be moved and a new site needed. However, the Council was not aware of a new application. Mims Davies, MP asked that her office be contacted in the event an application was made.

Rodabe Rudin of Dirty Lane asked if a popular path leading between the Old Cellars & Thornhill could be improved because the incline up to the stile was difficult to negotiate especially if the ground was muddy. This means that the less able bodied were excluded from using the path. She noted that the footpath is in East Sussex but asked if the Village Council could liaise with East Sussex and Forest Row Parish Council to get the path improved.

Cllr Forbes agreed that the path was difficult in the wet and agreed that the Council would try to seek improvements.

Mims Davies, MP again asked to be kept informed and that she would help if she could.

A resident from Woods Hill Lane, asked about the ideas to improve the roads as mentioned in Cllr Phillips talk on future projects. He thought that £10,000 quoted for a roundabout was reasonable and he would like to see one on the A22/

Hammerwood Road junction. He also complained about parking on footpaths and said he had seen mothers with pushchairs having to walk into the road to get round cars on the path.

Cllr Phillips replied that £10,000 would be the cost of a mini-roundabout within the village, but that one on the A22 would be much more costly. Cllr Phillips also said that Richard Speller, of West Sussex Highways had said that the amount of traffic coming out of Ashurst Wood did not warrant holding up traffic on the A22 and the accident record was not serious enough. Cllr Forbes said she hoped that people would be community minded and park sensibly. Another resident said that it was illegal to park on pavements and suggested that residents used Operation Crackdown to upload photographic evidence of offenders – it usually takes 3 photos of the same vehicle for the driver to receive a fine.

Another resident from Hammerwood Road asked Joanna Crerar for advice about using a defibrillator. Jo said check ABC; if the patient was breathing, put them in the recovery position and call 999; if not breathing, ask someone to dial 999 and start chest compressions. If another person is present, send them to collect the defibrillator. Anything you can do in an emergency can help the patient as something is better than nothing.

Dick from Maypole Road asked what location method the emergency services use and Jo replied that they use What3Words and recommended that everyone downloads the app.

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*All presentations can be viewed on the Village Council website. Copies are also available from the Council's office.*

Signed: ..... Date: .....