



SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Council Elections 2023

Local Council elections were on the 4th May. Five former Councillors were nominated for places on Ashurst Wood Village Council and were duly elected unopposed. Applications to fill the four remaining places were invited, and four applicants (including one former Councillor) were co-opted at the Council's meeting on the 16th May.

Your current Village Councillors are:

Jenny Forbes (Chair), Janet Haite (Vice Chair), David Loveday, Bob Spoor, Alice Tyrell, Brian Phillips, Jo Granger, Sharon Broad and Bryan Keward.
Councillors' email addresses are on the website, or they can be contacted through the Clerk.

There were also elections for Mid Sussex District Council and John Belsey was re-elected as representative for the Ashurst Wood and East Grinstead South ward.

Annual Village Meeting

The Annual Village Meeting was held on the 25th May. Residents who attended were able to meet the new Councillors and hear guest speaker, Abigail Jago, talk about the Queen Victoria Hospital.

Report a Problem with Roads or Pavements



A reminder that there is a new online form for reporting problems to West Sussex County Council Highways. Please go to www.westsussex.gov.uk click on Roads and Travel and then click 'make an enquiry or report a problem with road or pavement.' This is the place to report a large number of matters, including blocked drains and gullies, problems with roads and cycle paths (including potholes), pavements, public footpaths, verges, trees, hedges, weeds and grass cutting etc.

Road Safety Update



As a result of responses to last year's Road Safety Survey, the Village Council applied for a Community Highways Scheme to introduce a 20mph zone in the village. Representatives of the Council recently met with officers from West Sussex Highways, who advised that their own speed survey confirmed that Ashurst Wood does meet the criteria for a 20mph limit. The application will now go before a Moderation meeting in August/September where a decision will be made as to whether it should proceed to the next stage. If so, there will be further work required including more public consultation

Blooming Marvellous Competition

Thank you to everyone who decorated their homes to help celebrate the King's coronation. The winning house was in Woods Hill Close and all three winners have been notified and received their gift vouchers.

VACANCY: VILLAGE HANDYMAN/WOMAN

The Village Council requires a handyman/woman for 5 hours a week.

The handyman/woman will need to be able to provide a professional caretaker and maintenance service to the village. The successful candidate will be responsible for monitoring, maintaining and cleaning Village Council property, identifying and reporting highways issues and ensure the overall tidiness of the village. In addition, they are key for delivering the Winter Management Plan, helping clear snow from key paths around the village.

The successful applicant will have experience of carrying out minor maintenance tasks, be able to work independently and use their own initiative, as well as having good communication skills. Application forms and a FULL job description are available from the clerk; clerk@ashurstwood-vc.gov.uk Responses by 26th July 2023

Wealden House Planning Update



The application by Ashgrove Homes to demolish the former EDF building and the Wealden House Life Improvement Centre in Lewes Road and replace them with 35 houses and 15

apartments was approved by the MSDC Planning Committee on the 1st June. No affordable housing will be included as the developer's viability report was accepted (although this will be reviewed later in the process). The development will include a new pedestrian island on the A22, EV charging points and financial contributions towards local infrastructure.

Mid Sussex Play Days On Tour



This popular event for families and children aged 10 years or under returns to John Pears Field on Thursday 24th August from 1pm - 3pm. The event is free and activities will include music, art, circus skills and sports. More information is available from the Clerk or at <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/leisure-sport/whats-on-in-mid-sussex/mid-sussex-play-days/>

Annual Return for 2022-2023

The Annual Return for the year ending 31st March 2023 has been submitted to the External Auditor. A summary of the income and expenditure for the year is set out below and the full unaudited return is available to inspect at the Council's office by prior appointment. It can be also viewed on the finance page of the Council's website.

Notes to the Accounts

Staff:

The Council employs a Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer/Assistant Clerk, Youth Leader, Assistant Youth Worker, Cleaner and Village Handyman. Staff costs include PAYE, pensions and National Insurance payments.

Grants: were awarded to:

4 Sight Vision
Ashurst Wood Historians
Ashurst Wood Bonfire Society
The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
Forest Row Community Fridge Foodbank
Ashurst Wood Short Mat Bowls Club
Sussex Community Responders
Air Ambulance for Kent, Surrey & Sussex.

Community Equipment:

includes repairs to the games wall base at John Pears.

Cash and Investments:

Current Account - £5,450
Public Sector Deposit Fund - £39,025

Value of fixed assets: £838,345

Loans:

Total borrowings

(Council office and meeting room): £123,237

Balances and reserves at start of year: £70,253

Balances and reserves at end of year: £45,719

	£
INCOME	
Precept	70000.00
John Pears Management Agreement	1517.00
PV Feed-in tariff	2182.00
Events income (Jubilee event, Christmas Market)	4315.00
Interest	823.00
Total income	78837.00
EXPENDITURE	
Staff costs	44390.00
Loan repayments	9364.00
Office costs and equipment	4544.00
Street Furniture	0.00
Utilities and grounds maintenance	566.00
Street lighting maintenance	1421.00
Street lighting supply	694.00
Insurance	997.00
Subscriptions	1392.00
Grants awarded	2125.00
FRPC Burial ground contribution	400.00
Travel, training, entertainment	471.00
Building maintenance	285.00
Garden and properties maintenance	269.00
Events costs	6138.00
Website and Publicity	874.00
Audit	691.00
Dog Bin collections	1152.00
PROJECT: Outdoor gym equipment	20196.00
Community Equipment	6999.00
Youth Club expenses	158.00
John Pears games wall rent	246.00
Total expenditure	103372.00