



Ashurst Wood

Village Council

Minutes of the Ashurst Wood Annual Village Meeting held on Tuesday 25th April 2017, 7.30 pm at the Village Centre.

Present: Village Council Councillors; The Clerk, Assistant Clerk; and 84 members of the public.

Also in attendance Mid Sussex District Council Chairman Cllr Peter Reed; District Councillor John Belsey

7.30pm: Cllr Brian Phillips, Chairman to the Ashurst Wood Village Council opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Presentations were received:

1. **Minutes of the last Annual Village Meeting – 26th April 2016 were approved and signed.**
2. Introductions by Cllr Brian Phillips
3. Presentations on **Ashurst Wood Village Council** by Cllr Brian Phillips
 - Highlights of the year 2016/2017
 - Report on the financial year 2016/17

Other presentations:

- An overview of the planning process presented by Cllr Jenny Forbes, Chair of the Planning Committee
 - The Story of the Guinea Pig Club by Lucy Bailey, East Grinstead Museum
 - The Wildlife Conservation work at Cherry Garden Farm and Berry Wood by Philip Glyn
 - West Sussex County Council Highways by Richard Speller, Area Manager (Mid Sussex)
4. Projects and events overview 2017/18 by Cllr David Loveday
 5. Questions and answer session. Detailed on separate sheet.

All presentations can be viewed on the Village Council website or copies of the slides are available from the Council office.

Signed: Date:
Signed at the following Annual Village meeting

ASHURST WOOD VILLAGE MEETING – 25th April 2017
QUESTION TIME

1. Roger Hobbs, Hammerwood Road

Asked why Ashurst Wood received a higher precept than most of the local villages and why it could not be reduced.

Cllr Phillips replied if it were reduced, then the result would be a reduction in the current amenities and facilities available to the village.

2. Robert Lewin, Cansiron Lane

Enquired whether the Council could apply for the two village pubs to be registered as a community asset.

Cllr Forbes responded, advising that an application had been made to Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) some time ago.

He also asked whether it was possible to stop people using the Village Council logo on literature being distributed that was perpetrating false information.

Cllr Phillips said it was very difficult to copy right the present logo as it was the same as the village sign. However, MSDC were aware that the Council logo was being used by another group in the village who were also using a similar name. The Council was also looking at ways to resolve the problem.

Mr Lewin commented that Wealdon District Council seemed to be much stricter in turning down applications for housing development in its area due to restrictions in the vicinity of Ashdown Forest, whereas MSDC seemed to be happy to approve most developments. Cllr Forbes responded that the Village Council was aware of the discrepancies, but has to work with MSDC.

3. Neil Shoebridge, Woods Hill Lane

Asked what could be done about parking on pavements in Ashurst Wood as it was sometimes impossible to walk on the pavements.

Cllr Phillips said that the Council had been looking at the problem and suggested that where there were offending vehicles, residents could take pictures and these could be forwarded to the local PCSO. Our PCSO has stated that he would be willing to follow up on persistent offenders. Cllr Phillips also mentioned that the Council had produced 'Pavements are for People' leaflets which could be put under the windscreen wipers of cars obstructing pavements. Leaflets were available from the back of the hall or the Council office.

Richards Speller (WSCC Highways) mentioned Operation Crackdown and suggested sending photographs to the website for the police to take action.

4. David Tidswell, Hammerwood Road

Wanted to know about the Council's meetings with Fairfax with regard to their building application for the site at Dirty Lane, which had been withdrawn.

Cllr Forbes replied that two Councillors, herself and Brian Phillips, with the Clerk had met informally with the developers before the first building application had been submitted. It was not unusual for developers to ask to meet with representatives of a Council, but at no time did

Fairfax Properties meet with the whole Council. Also there had been no contact from them with regard to the latest application.

5. Alison Sanders, Cansiron Lane

Asked what was on the agenda for the planning meeting the next day.

Cllr Forbes advised that the meeting would consider the applications for four planning applications, including the resubmission of the application for 89-91 Hammerwood Road and the amended application for Dirty Lane from Fairfax Properties.

6. Rudabe Rudin, Wellfield

Observed that communities needed more people for villages to remain sustainable and therefore, appropriate and managed developments should be embraced so that villages thrive and facilities continue to be available.