



Newsletter

March 2021

Contact the Council

Office address:

20-22 Maypole Road
Ashurst Wood RH19 3QN

Office hours:

Monday - Wednesday, 9am – 12.30pm
Thursday, 9am – 12 noon

Clerk: Rebecca Roberts

email: clerk@ashurstwood-vc.gov.uk

Assistant Clerk/RFO: Samantha Booker

email: assistant@ashurstwood-vc.gov.uk

phone: 01342 823770

The office is currently closed to the public

Have your say:

Mid Sussex Electoral Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission is asking for views on its electoral review of Mid Sussex District Council. It is likely that the total number of Councillors in the district will be reduced from 54 to 48, and the ward boundaries will need to be redrawn. The consultation period ends on the 31st May and draft recommendations will be published in August. For information about the review and the work of the Commission, see:

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Note: The Commission will not be reviewing parliamentary, parish or county boundaries, just the arrangements in Mid Sussex district.

Tennis



The tennis courts at John Pears will be open again from Monday 29th March. Bookings and payments must be made online using Clubspark. See the Council's website for more information and details about the benefits of joining the AW Community Tennis Club.



Council News

The horrendous coronavirus pandemic has made the last year difficult for everyone, with some suffering illness and all affected by the restrictions imposed on family, social and work lives. Now there is room for optimism as the vaccine rollout together with the government roadmap means that we can start looking forward to socialising and supporting those local businesses that have been forced to close. In the meantime, changes to the Council's operations continue to be necessary.

Office: The office has been closed to the public since the most recent lockdown began on the 4th January, but the Clerk and Assistant Clerk are working there and are available to answer your questions and receive reports about any village issues. They can be contacted by phone or email during office hours, or leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as possible. Remote meetings can also be arranged.

Meetings: The Council has been holding its meetings remotely using Zoom and will continue to do so until at least the 7th May, when the current legislation allowing remote meetings expires. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and can obtain log in details from the Clerk.

Annual Village Meeting: This is the meeting for local electors, organised by the Council each year between 1st March and 1st June; at which the Council reports to residents and general village matters are discussed. The Council recently discussed whether to hold the 2021 meeting remotely using Zoom, but decided to postpone it until a face-to-face event can be held.

Website: This is updated regularly with details about Council meetings, community information including bus and train timetables (which have been changing regularly over the past year), as well as links to general information about coronavirus and vaccinations.

Shopping Bus: It is not yet possible to run the weekly shopping bus, but we hope to resume this service later in the year.

Elections 6th May 2021

On Thursday 6th May we will go to the polls to elect our West Sussex County Councillor and a Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner.

Safety measures will be in place in the polling station at the Village Centre. Facemasks will be required, hand sanitiser and sanitised pencils will be provided (or you can bring your own), and numbers in the hall will be limited.

If you prefer not to go to the polling station, you can apply for a postal or proxy vote. Visit <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/elections-voting> for an application form. You must apply for a postal vote before 5 pm on 20th April. For a proxy vote, the deadline is 5 pm on the 27th April.

You need to be registered to vote by the 19th April (you can contact the Clerk to check if you are on the current electoral register).



Our Youth Workers are hoping to re-open the Youth Club with sessions from the end of June, once

restrictions are eased and John Pears Pavilion is available for use. The club is for children in school years 7 to 11. More information will be available soon – keep an eye on the club's Facebook page and the Council's website.

Recent Planning Matters

The appeal against the refusal for 54 flats at the Wealden House EDF site was granted by the Planning Inspector. It is not yet known when construction will begin.

An application for a 23m telecommunications monopole and equipment cabinets on the A22 close to Hectors Lane was refused on highway safety grounds. This will replace the 35m lattice tower on the Wealden House site. An amended application will be submitted shortly.

Your Ashurst Wood Village Councillors:

Jenny Forbes (Chair), Brian Phillips (Vice Chair), Yvonne Arnott, Trudy Draper, Janet Haite, James Lee, David Loveday, Bob Spoor, Alice Tyrell.

Councillor email addresses are -

firstname.surname@ashurstwood-vc.gov.uk

Your Mid Sussex District Councillor:

John Belsey

John.Belsey@midsussex.gov.uk

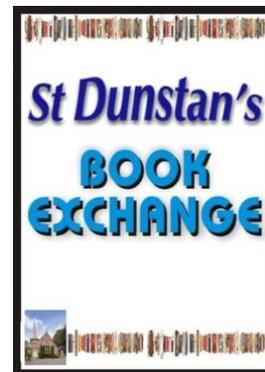
Your West Sussex County Councillor:

Jacquie Russell

Jacquie.Russell@westsussex.gov.uk

With the support of Revd Angela Martin, a book exchange has been set up in the porch at St Dunstan's Church by Charlotte Pugsley. It offers a varied selection of books for children and adults, non-fiction and fiction, as well as jigsaw puzzles. All the books are in waterproof boxes and they are accessible 24/7. Please help yourselves, remembering to maintain social distancing and use the hand sanitiser that is provided.

Thank you to all those who have donated generously. The book exchange has been very popular. Space is limited, but more children's books would be welcomed. Please limit donations to a maximum of 5 books and do not leave anything if the boxes are full. For more information, contact Charlotte on 07894 806864



Dors Patch

The Village Council is again looking for someone to maintain Dors Patch, at the junction of Hammerwood Road and Park Lane, as the current volunteers have had to step down.

The Patch is in need of some clearance and replanting and the Village Council will pay for plants, compost and other materials.

This role would suit one or more keen gardeners, or a business which wishes to showcase its work (in exchange for permission to display a small sign and/or payment of a reasonable fee). It will be necessary to remove and dispose of the garden waste. Please note that there is no water supply to the site (although access to nearby supplies might be possible).

If you are interested, please contact the Clerk.



Community Café

The Community Café at St Dunstan's Church is open for lunch every Tuesday. It has been closed because of the Covid restrictions, but it will hopefully reopen in July. Volunteers will be needed and there are vacancies for cooks, assistant cooks and waiting staff. This is a satisfying voluntary role working in the local community. The Teams are friendly and supportive and customers are appreciative of the companionable atmosphere and excellent meals provided.

All adult age groups are welcome to apply. No previous professional experience is required and induction and mentoring can be arranged. A desire to provide a good service for the local community makes it a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

For full details please phone or email Joy Munro, Café Coordinator 01342 317210 joyful.munro@btopenworld.com