



March 2022 | Parish Council News

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2021/22 Parish Council Finances and Grant Scheme

Throughout this financial year, the Parish Council has been focused on ensuring that facilities and services such as play parks, community buildings, open spaces, public toilets, etc., for which we are responsible, have remained available for all, subject to any COVID-19 restrictions. Latterly, users have been returning in numbers to both the Village Centre and the Court Bushes Community Hub. We have been able to continue with much of the programme for the year that was highlighted in the July 2021 edition of Hurst Life. A small snapshot of that work follows, with fuller coverage in our year-end report in May:

- Phase 1 of the new play facilities at the Reeds Lane Recreation Ground has been delivered. Phase 2 will follow once we have resolved the drainage issues with the help of WSCC.
- South Lane, Pitt Lane and the access road to Court Bushes Community Hub have been resurfaced.
- Working with the Sayers Common Village Shop, there were Christmas lights for the first time on the main road in Sayers Common.
- Repairs to the leaded windows in the South Avenue Cemetery Chapel are soon to be completed.
- A new decking area has been installed outside the club lounge at Court Bushes.



New Play Equipment at Reeds Lane



Resurfacing South Lane and Pitt Lane



New Decking at Court Bushes



Volunteers Weeding Ancient Woodland

- With the Hurstpierpoint Society, the Hurstpierpoint Heritage Trail has been launched and we have entered into a 25-year licence to manage Ladies Walk.
- Working with the Woodland Trust and our magnificent band of volunteers, a start has been made to actively manage the ancient woodland on the edge of Bramble Park.
- Upgrades to the lighting, the provision of WiFi and some audio-visual equipment has been completed at the Village Centre.

Community Grants

We have also been able to make the following grants:

Organisation	Grant Request	Grant Approved	Date Grant Approved
Hurst Festival	Support for the free events on Super Sunday	£2,500	Apr 2021
Victim Support	Supporting victims and volunteers	£300	Apr 2021
Melting Pot Cafe	COVID-19 Restart costs	£360	Jul 2022
Sussex Clubs for Young People	For the continued running of the youth provision in Hurstpierpoint at Court Bushes	£500	Aug 2021
Know Dementia	Support for the Memory Moments Café for the year April 2021- March 2022	£500	Aug 2021
Age UK	Support around 30 local older people	£500	Oct 2021
1st Hurstpierpoint Girls Brigade	To purchase an annual Zoom licence	£144	Jan 2022
Life Centre	Lifesaving trauma counselling service	£200	Jan 2022

Health & Wellbeing Grants

The Community Engagement Committee has taken into account the likely impact of COVID-19 on our residents. A major concern has been the potential impact on our young people, so a grant of £1,000 was made in April 2021 for counselling sessions in support of those who attend Downlands School. Also, whilst health and wellbeing is not within the direct remit of the Parish Council, we are working towards enabling certain NHS services to be more accessible to our residents, for example appointments with the Community Midwife. Please contact us for details of how to apply for a grant.

Council Tax

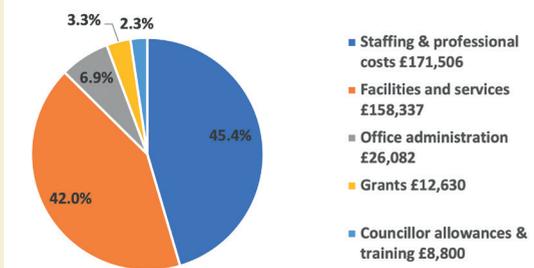
As this edition is received, the annual Council Tax bill will be arriving as well. For 2022/23, the Parish Council Tax for a typical Band D property will rise by 3.95%, or 6.4p per week. This, together with other income from rents, hiring fees, allotments, and cemetery fees, is expected to cover the ongoing day to day operations and maintenance requirements. Whilst our auditors continue to note that our General Reserve is below that for a Parish Council of our size, we have again agreed to not rebuild those reserves at this time so as to limit the increase. We also took the opportunity to repay the outstanding Public Works Loan Board loan for the streetlights that were replaced in 2017/18/19. This will reduce our outgoings in future years by £10,204 per annum. Thus, the rise aims to prevent any further depletion of the General Reserve, a reduction in the outputs of the Parish Council, or the closure of a key asset. Any rise will not be appreciated, but as with all we are once again facing significant cost increases that are in excess of inflation. The following is an expenditure budget summary for next year with a total of £377,355 (excluding the Village Centre, which is accounted for within the Village Centre Charity):

Meetings this month

Please check the Parish Council Notice Boards, or our website to confirm the meeting location. Members of the public are welcome to attend, and all commence at 7.30pm.

- Thursday 3rd Mar Planning & Environment Committee
- Thursday 10th Mar Community Engagement Committee
- Thursday 17th Mar Finance & Governance Committee
- Thursday 24th Mar Full Council
- Thursday 31st Mar Planning & Environment Committee

Expenditure 2022/23



Expenditure Budget 2022/2023

Community Governance Review

A very important matter we have touched on recently will be coming to the fore this month. Mid Sussex District Council has been asked to carry out a review of the parish council arrangements for the Hurstpierpoint, Goddards Green and Sayers Common area. This is called a community governance review and all households are being written to and asked for their views on how your parish council (this is not related to churches) is best defined for the future.

Here is a reminder of some of the services this parish council manages on your behalf - the Village Centre and Court Bushes Community Hub, 50 Acres of Hurst Meadows and two ancient woodlands, Reeds Lane Recreation Ground and play areas, South Avenue Cemetery and Chapel, both the Village Garden on the High Street and the Village Green with the war memorial, the Albourne Road allotments, two sets of public toilets, four bus shelters, street lights, Christmas lights, litter and dog waste bins, a community grant scheme and volunteering opportunities. Further information on all these services can be found on our website: Hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

The review is being undertaken in response to a petition received from some electors. They are requesting a new parish council should be created for Sayers Common, which would also include Goddards Green and other areas as shown on the plan.

The closing date for responses is 15th April 2022. Draft proposals will then be published by 3rd June for a further two-month consultation period until 1st August. Final decisions will be made by 28th September 2022 and be implemented by May 2023.

