



**A Meeting of the Parish Council held in  
the Village Hall, Northiam at  
7-00 pm Thurs 9th JANUARY 2020**

## DRAFT MINUTES

### 1) APOLOGIES:

Cllr Biggs

### 2) ATTENDEES:

Cty Cllr Davies (AD); Dist Cllr Mooney (MM); Cllrs Sargent (PS), Farmer (PF), Harding (JH), Johnson (DJ), Pratt (DP), Maltby (RM), Wontner-Smith (AWS); Conservation Soc'y & approx 40 members of the public

### 3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none

**4) ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS** - To consider such other items as the Chairman decides are urgent and due notice of which has been given to the Clerk by 9:00am on the day of the meeting:  
see Items 16 & 17 below.

### 5) REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: - Maximum of 15 minutes

A question was asked whether NPC knew what was happening with the Muddy Duck, unfortunately we were unable to provide any meaningful explanation.

**6) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 12th December 2019** were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman

### 7) REPORTS BY PARISH, COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

**PS** It was confirmed that the order for the Library portacabin has been placed and that delivery should take place by the end of February.

**RM** confirmed the next film show will be this coming weekend.

**DJ** reiterated the fly tipping problem at the surgery car park

**JH** reported on her attendance at the Rother Association of Local Council's meeting.

**MM** advised that RDC has reversed previous decisions and will now be building houses to increase housing stock.

### 8) PLANNING:

a. **RR/2019/2515/P** - Little Forge - Garage conversion and timber cladding - **No objections**

### 9) ALL PLANNING DECISIONS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS:

### 10) OTHER PLANNING MATTERS :

Clerk to contact RDC as we are still not receiving notices of planning decisions

**Action Clerk**

### 11) VILLAGE MATTERS:

a) Blue Cross - Completion of the purchase of the site is due to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> January. **PS** proposed that the site name revert to its original title of St Francis Fields, seconded by PF and unanimously agreed. He also proposed that we hold open days for villagers to visit the site, possibly the first and/or the second weekend in February. Initial works to be done will include a full audit of safety issues and boundary fences, repairs to the bungalows and stables, together with selling off surplus items that will not be required. Once we have held the open weekends then drawing up plans for the future will commence.

b) Horns Cross consultation - **PS** reported the results of the consultation which had 400 responses, almost all of them supportive and proposed that we ask ESCC to perform an audit at our expense which was unanimously supported

### 12) CORRESPONDENCE OTHER THAN THAT ALREADY CIRCULATED:

Clerk advised that a thank you letter for the £500 donation had been received from St Mary's Church and that a request to use the Playing Field had been received from The Bonfire Society for their Midsummer Festival and the Village Hall for a Boot Fair in August, which was unanimously agreed. He read out a congratulatory letter received from Beckley P C regarding the acquisition of St Francis' Fields.

**PS** advised that he had just received an email from Huw Merriman MP congratulating the Parish Council on acquiring the Blue Cross site.

**13) FINANCE:**

All financial information has been previously circulated to all Councillors & is available on the web site.

**14) FINANCE, OTHER MATTERS:**

- a) Precept for 2020 – 21 at £100,000:00 as recommended by Finance sub-committee. **PS** explained that we would spread the additional monies collected three years ago over the next four years to reduce the precept increase. Therefore, the increase to the precept for this year would be about £47 for a Band D property. This was formally proposed by PS & seconded by DP, supported by all.

**15) CHEQUES FOR SIGNATURE:**

**16) Q & A re Blue Cross site**

Various questions were asked by residents. **PS** recommended that all residents should visit the site on one of the open weekends.

**17) IN CAMERA IN Jenkins Room** – Dist Cllr Mooney to report on meeting with Dr. Leonard



**E & O E**

**RAY HARRINGTON-LOWE - PARISH CLERK**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**