



## St Francis Fields CIC Newt Ponds – Field 14

CIC 24/14

**To:** Northiam Parish Council

**Meeting Date:** 13/09/24

**Presented by:** Jacky Broad, Director SFF CIC

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**Summary:** The Council is invited to agree to the attached proposal from the Newt Conservation Partnership to establish two newt ponds in Field 14 of the SFF estate subject to receipt of an acceptable contract.

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**Background:** The Council has previously agreed to establish newt ponds in Field 14 under an agreement with the Newt Conservation partnership.

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**Detail:** Agreement to establish the ponds was originally given in June 2023 (Minute FC23/92 refers) and reconfirmed in June 2024 (Minute FC24/423). Trial pits were dug in April 2024 and have confirmed the suitability of the subsoil. The attached proposal has now been received from the Newt Conservation Partnership outlining a 10-year agreement. This proposes the creation of two shallow ponds with a combined area of some 600 m<sup>2</sup> within a managed area of 3.5 ha provided by Field 14. Field 14 would be managed as wild-flower meadow and would be suitable for grazing.

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**Finance:** The proposal would attract management fees of £250 per pond per year plus £500 per hectare per year for the surrounding 3.5 ha of land – a total of £2,250 per year or £22,500 over the 10-year period of the agreement.

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**Key dates:** Agreement subject to receipt of an acceptable contract is requested at the Council's September meeting so that work to excavate the proposed ponds can be carried out as early as possible this autumn, before the ground becomes waterlogged.

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**Other considerations:** none

**Attached:** Newt Conservation Partnership, received 05/09/24