Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

Ninfield Full Council Minutes 21st April 2022

Clirs Present:

Chair K Williamson (KW); J Cheshire (JC); S Collins (SC), K Crittell (KC) P Coleshill (PC), J Langley (JL). G Pharo (GP)

In attendance: J Scarff Clerk, 4 members of the public.

2527 KW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

To receive reports from the County and District Cllrs and any questions one these reports.

BB County Council report but had given apologies for the meeting.

PD & RC submitted a written district council but had given apologies for the meeting. Reports will be attached to the minutes.

PC asked if the newly recruited position of Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Planning Policy and Environmental Services had been advertised. KW confirmed that it had.

To receive reports from:

Schools

Ninfield C o E Primary School

The chair of Governors reported that the school were still having to manage the effects of staff absences due to covid. The decarbonisation project continued over Easter the internal walls, windows and doors have now been done. The school will be on half term for the Jubilee Celebrations and so have arranged a street party for the children and parents in the playground Friday 20th May. The school has launched a Jubilee project to raise funding for a shepherd hut to use for 1:1's for the children.

Head Start School

The representative had sent the latest newsletter, most of the building work is finished and they have just had a 3-week Easter break. The school is developing the farm and will have piglets and other animals and once it's all finished there will be an invitation to the cllrs to visit. GP asked if there are any external lights at the site. SFB confirmed that there are not, a resident has asked for the direction of any lighting to be face down and sensor activated.

Church

The previously reported upcoming issue with space in the Churchyard has been resolved and will not be a problem for several years. In response to a question, he let the meeting know that there are approximately 3 or 4 burials per year at the most. There will be a songs of praise for the Jubilee on 5pm Sunday 5th June on the recreation ground accompanied by the Hooe Band.

2528 Public Questions

Ten minutes are available for the Public to express a view or ask a question on **relevant matters on the following agenda**.

A member of the Village Society highlighted that they are planning a village litter pick 30th April 2022 from 10-12, meeting at Sparkes Pavilion.

The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

Apologies and reasons for absence in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 S 85 (1).

Apologies were received and approved from Cllrs Guard (SG) & Holland (PH) for personal reasons.

Apologies received from, District ClIr P Doodes (PD) & R Cade (RC), County ClIr B Bowdler

2530 **Disclosure of Interests**

To receive any disclosure by Members of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of the interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Revised Code of Members Conduct.

There were no interests disclosed.

2531 Exclusion of the Public

To exclude the public for a particular agenda item the following resolution must be passed. 'Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.'

There was no requirement to pass this resolution.

2532 **Minutes of previous meeting** to be agreed and signed as a true record JC Proposed, GP seconded. All agreed.

Resolved The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council 17th March 2022 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

2533 Matters for discussion.

a) To hear an update on the neighbourhood plan and agree any actions required. To consider proposed recommendations for approval

JC updated the meeting he had spoken with the consultant regarding the timetable for the next stages. After the 2021 census data is published (due May 22) it will be used to look at growth trends. The other thing needed is revised landscape evidence from WDC. The PC will be asked to approve the draft plan in June or July 22 so that the NHP can move to Regulation 14 (pre submission 6-8 week consultation) with the aim of having the plan examined around October time. The recent meeting to discuss feedback from WDC officers on the draft plan had gone well.

b) To receive for consideration a proposal for meetings for next year and agree any actions required.

KW reported that our District Cllrs have informed her that the third Thursday of the month is inconvenient for them. At the last meeting with them KW had committed to trying to move the meeting to another day if it was possible for the Parish Cllrs. The clerk will collate dates convenient for the Parish Cllrs and then seem which of those may suit the District Cllrs.

The clerk proposed that the schedule of meetings be changed for the forthcoming year. Full council would alternate with the Finance Committee. The council meetings would be set

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

around the legal requirements during the year. This would mean that there are fewer overall meetings in the year but would not delay any Parish Council business. These meetings would be supplemented by committees, The recreation Ground and Sports Pavilion Committee, Highways and traffic calming Committee and Planning Committee. The aim is to allow focus on issues highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire to be considered. KC clarified that all committee meetings would be advertised and open to the public and any cllr can attend any meeting or join any committee meeting.

KC Proposed that the clerk investigate if there is a more suitable date to hold meetings and that the proposed new schedule of meetings be implemented for the forth coming year, JL seconded, all in favour.

Resolved that the clerk investigate if there is a more suitable date to hold meetings and that the proposed new schedule of meetings be implemented for the forth coming year

c) To agree any actions required for the Annual Parish Meeting.

KC offered to talk to SG about provision of sandwiches, sausage rolls. KC said she would email out and confirm what was needed.

All the normal invites will be sent out by the clerk. The clerk will ask PH to put the sign out. JL will provide the clerk with a list of groups within the Health and Wellbeing Group who would like to speak. The clerk asked that all reports are sent to her electronically to aide the collation of the minutes.

d) To receive an update on the project to move the red telephone box and agree any actions required.

SG has met with a contractor in the village who has offered to put the concrete base in FOC. PH will provide the dimensions needed and will organise a meeting to agree exactly where the box will be sited. The clerk was asked to check with an electrician as to whether it is still connected to the electricity. The grounds maintenance company had offered to bring it from Potmans Lane to Ninfield.

JL asked if it will be refurbished. The clerk explained that BT will provide the official paints etc. GP offered to prepare it and help paint, KC offered to speak to SG to see if she already had plans. The village society also offered to help.

e) To receive details of a superfast broadband project and agree any actions required.

The clerk explained that Ashburnham Parish Council (APC) are championing a project which includes properties in Ninfield. The uptake has been low and they are concerned that residents are worried that it's a scam. The Chair of APC has asked it NPC would put a message on social media explaining that it is a genuine project to all access to better broadband.

Resolved that the clerk Put a message on the PC website and social media.

f) To receive the minutes from the Recreation Ground Committee for noting. The minutes were not available for this meeting.

g) To receive reports from Parish Councillors including those requiring actions.

SG had sent a report which the clerk read out and is attached to the end of the minutes.

SC reported on the Parish Cluster meeting, she had had difficulty accessing the virtual meeting but Chris Bending updated SC after the meeting. WDC are working on the local plan. They will not issue a draft this spring. They are lobbying Govt to reduce the number of houses that they are allocated and will wait for the expected spring update from the Govt.

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

SC asked that Ninfield are not allocated any further houses as they should be allocated where there in infrastructure.

There was a discussion about the Manchester Road site and the construction management plan. Stacey Robbins asked to be kept informed with issues.

KW reported on a meeting with the District Cllrs. PD had confirmed that she could not attend NPC meeting as it clashed with the Hooe History Society meeting.

GP discussed the meeting attended by four cllrs, hosted by Chiddlingly PC. 39 out of 42 WDC Parishes were represented, and the meeting was to discuss the overdevelopment of Wealden. At the meeting the WDC planning portfolio holder, A Newton (AN) had stated that the plan would not be issued until after the elections in 2023 and be submitted to the examiner in 2024. This seemed to be at odds with the information given at the cluster meeting.

The clerk had circulated the minutes from the meeting to the parish cllrs.

KC explained that she had asked AN if the district council were working with the other local district council like the parish councils were. This was not happening.

KC stated that the good thing is that all the parish councils are working together and sharing information. KC has volunteer to help so that the PC's can work together.

KW highlighted that a statistician at the meeting had explained that the algorithm being used by the Govt is not the problem, the problem arises from the data that is being used.

JC reported on the Black Cat radar training hosted by Sedlescombe PC. The device is available to borrow and NPC would need to apply for sites to licence through ESCC.

Finance Matters

To receive the financial reports to 31st March 2022 for noting. The reports were pre circulated & noted.

To receive the report detailing the bank balances to 31st March 2022 for noting. The reports were pre circulated It was duly noted that the balance at Unity Trust Bank is £59,041.74 as at 31st March.

To receive the schedule payment of invoices with a view to authorising the payments. KC proposed and PC seconded

Resolved that the payments be made.

2534 **Date of next meeting.**

To note the date of the next meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at the Memorial Hall 16th May 2022 at 6.30pm.

2535 **Correspondence** — to note for possible inclusion on next agenda

The clerk has had the end of year internal audit, the report will be available in time for the meeting in May. The clerk reported that she had received an email from WDC with notice of a large CIL payment being made to the PC which will require the opening of a new bank account.

KW declared the meeting closed at 20:43.

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

Appendix 1

Report from Cllr Guard.

There will be a Bumper Edition of the Parish Magazine for May, coming out around 26th April...it will have ALL details of the items below.

My fundraiser...

SATURDAY 21st MAY! Ninfield Village Memorial Hall - 'An Evening with....SAMI - UNGuarded..!'

Yes, it's 'Head above the Parapet' time! Some may say Brave...some Stupid.. but hey ho, I've been waiting for 2 years to do this Show here, and now the time has come! It's extremely nerve wracking, so listen very carefully, cos I'm only doing this ONCE!!!

You know the format, 'cos you've seen it on TV - 'An Audience with ...' So, basically, I'll tell you lots of fascinating stories, and bits of gossip/scandal from my life working in Film, TV, Theatre and Radio (over 45 years..!!): some funny tales, a bit risque sometimes, edgy occasionally too...There'll be music, some film clips, lots and lots of memorabilia to look through....and YOU can have some fun, hopefully a bloomin' good laugh, and you can ask questions too..(be nice!) Oh, and you'll have a lovely Supper before the Show - Creamy Chicken Casserole with Jacket Pots or Rice, and there will be a Vegetarian option, Courgette & Pepper Provencale.

The Licensed Bar will be open from 7pm - Prosecco, Wines, Beers etc and soft drinks....so come on...what's not to love!

Adults only. - Tickets are on sale now - £10 per person, to include Supper - why not get a table together?!

All profits after costs will go towards putting on the Platinum Jubilee Over 60s Afternoon Tea and Cabaret.

BOOK NOW!! You will be surprised.....!

Call 893699, 07970650321 email samanthaguard@btinternet.com

PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENTS

Thursday 2nd June -

The Village Society to officially open Church Woods as a Nature Reserve. 10.30am- 12 midday

Thursday 2nd June - Ninfield Village Memorial Hall

Over 60's Afternoon Tea & Cabaret - Doors open at 1.30pm and there will be drinks on arrival - Sherry, Prosecco, Wine, Beer, and of course, Tea and Coffee. A lovely spread of sandwiches, cakes and scones will be on every table, and glasses will be filled for the Loyal Toast to the Queen. A special Jubilee Cake is being created by our lovely local baking hero, Maggie Evans, and it would be great if someone who either celebrates a 70th Birthday, or a 70th Anniversary, on the day or very near to, could cut the Cake in the Hall. At 3pm there will be a Show full of comedy, music and celebratory sketches by Deja Revue, and then more time for chatter, catch up, fun and laughter!

INVITATIONS TO THIS EVENT- Will be hand delivered to all who are in the remit! Please look out for them from 5th May onwards, and please return the RSVP slip to either Carol Holland at Elm Cottage, Marlpits Lane, or to me, Sami Guard at Curlews, High Street by Friday 27th May. (you can also call me, Sami, on 893699 or email samanthaguard@btinternet.com)

If you need transport to and from the Hall, this can also be arranged for you.

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

This is a FREE event, sponsored by Sami Guard, The Ninfield Health & Wellbeing Group and Ninfield Parish Council!

THURSDAY EVENING

The Bonfire Society host a festival of Lights Parade from the Rec to the Beacon, via the Blacksmiths! BAR, BBQ on the Rec. Fancy Dress competition for children and families BEACON lighting at 9.45pm

FRIDAY 3RD JUNE
Open Village day. ..10am-4pm
Crown treasure Hunt. ..
Methodist Hall cream teas...
Memorial Hall groups displays.

7pm-10.30pm- Bar, Bbq on Rec, live music from local band 'Ricochet' 7.30pm- Working Men's Club open, decorations and 50s CDs music.

Saturdsy 4th June

THE JUBILEE VILLAGE FETE - Hosted by Ninfield Carnival Committee.

Saturday 4th June - On the Recreation Ground

The Marquees will be up, the bunting out, and everything up and running by 11.30am. Taking on the same format as last year, a Village Square feel to the Fete will have the Bar, BBQ, Tea Tent, The Raffle (1st prize £50), The Bottle Tombola, plus Crafts, Games, The China Smash, Coconut Shy, Golf Game, Muddy Boots Children's Activity Area, Anna's Pottery Throw Down, History Group, Flower Group, Horti Society lots of displays... AND the famous FUN DOG Show at 3pm! - look out for the list of classes, there could be a Canine 'Queen' fancy dress..!

Two Bands will be playing live throughout the day, 'Geri and the Atrix' and 'Ricochet'- EVENING FROM 7PM - the big Marquee will host the screening of the 'Party from the Mall' Music event in London- with all the big names getting together to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.

The Bar and BBQ will stay open til late, and everyone is invited to come and enjoy a magical, musical evening! Pray for Good Weather please!!

We are pleased to say that we will be taking Cash AND Cards at the Bar this year! Donations from any profits will be given to NHS I.C.U Conquest, and towards Ninfield's Children's Playground.

As always - these events need willing volunteers and helpers to get them off the ground, so to speak! Carol Holland and I really appreciate all the help so far from the committees and groups who have put together their contributions to the 4 day celebrations.

But !- The plea is now out for Bakers and Bottles! If you would like to make a cake, or some scones, or savouries for the Afternoon Tea on the 2nd June, and/or the Tea Tent for the Village Fete - we would be SO grateful, please let Carol or I know, and please bring them to either the Hall on Thursday 2nd June at 11am, or Sparkes Pavilion on Saturday 4th at 11am; and we are also collecting bottles, all sorts!, for the Tombola, from NOW ON...Drop off points are at Sparke Pavilion - any Monday 12 midday - 1pm, or at the Memorial Hall Wednesday evenings 6-7pm - or any time at Curlews, High Street - I promise I won't drink them!!! - (You can leave bags of smashing old China there too...!!)

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

Thank you in advance - We hope there is something for everyone in the list of events for this unique, one-off, never to be repeated Platinum Jubilee - memories will be made, snapshots of history will be created - and everything over the 4 days will be here...right on your doorstep...especially for you to enjoy ...no carbon footprint, no travel costs, no parking nightmares ...it's all here...Now, here are the contact details again- Sami 893699, 07970650321, samanthaguard@btinternet.com

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE

12pm Planting the Jubilee Tree near Queen Elizabeth Garden . Chairman Ninfield Parish Council.

Big Picnic from 12.30- bring your Lunch to the Rec!, Bar open til it runs out!, Rock Choir entertaining hopefully at 3pm, Thanksgiving Service in the Marquee at 5pm - United Churches, led by Rev Paul Frostick and Revd Tricia Williams, Music by Hooe Silver Band.

The 4 Day Event ends at 6pm...then we break it all down, and have a breakdown...! volunteers needed!!

Appendix 2

District Councillor Report to Ninfield Parish Council 20th April 2022

Update on Ukrainian emergency

Ukrainian refugee families are starting to arrive in the Wealden District Council area. At the moment it is just a trickle, but we are confident this will substantially increase over the next few weeks, as the visa application system is made simpler and the applications already submitted begin to be completed.

Encouragingly, many local community groups, mainly represented by Facebook sites, have been established. This has considerably improved the process of matching sponsors here with Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Hungary, Moldova and Ukraine itself.

It is still essential anyone proposing to be a sponsor registers with the Government portal, so there is a central register of information that can be filtered down to Local Authorities. On that aspect, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is taking the lead in helping to get matched refugees from Eastern Europe to their sponsors in the UK, along with supporting the sponsors and Ukrainian families once they are settled here. This will include assisting and working with community groups to ensure the refugees are welcomed, have access to financial support, schooling and local services.

ESCC is using East Sussex Fire & Rescue service to carry out the visits to prospective sponsors in order to check the situation of the host property. This is quite a "light touch" inspection and questionnaire, mainly designed to ensure the normal safety facilities are present and to further advise the sponsor of the availability of support and information.

Wealden District Council (WDC) will be responsible for distributing any grants or assisting in access to benefits open to the refugee families or the sponsor.

The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

The key to supporting the Ukrainian refugees and the hosts is community groups working together, sharing information and organising opportunities for refugees to meet each other. This will enable them to settle into their new environment and feel supported.

As you can imagine, this is still a quickly changing situation affected by the progress of the war in Ukraine. So, please contact us if you or your residents have any questions.

Afghan Refugee Scheme

The Afghan refugee scheme is ongoing and remains a responsibility of the WDC Housing team. We are still seeking appropriate and affordable accommodation in the Private Rented Sector within the District. The Afghan refugee families tend to comprise of a number of members, so prospective homes need to be quite large.

Household Support Grant

The Government's Household Support fund, which was extensively used during the pandemic, is expected to be re-introduced, to deal with the financial pressures of the considerable increase in living and energy costs, for those most vulnerable in our communities. These are families on a range of benefits and very tight budgets or people with disabilities.

Housing Numbers

As you are already know the Leader and Deputy Leader have met with Ministers to argue strongly for the reduction of the number of houses Wealden is expected to allow for in our Local Plan. Currently we are awaiting the promised response from Michael Gove MP

Refuse Collection Strike

As you will be aware the GMB has given Wealden the statutory length of notice of their proposed strike of refuse collectors, which they plan to start on 25th April. There has been much negotiation and discussion over the past weeks to try to avoid strike action and this will continue in the hope of coming to agreement and thus avoid a strike. Please keep an eye on the Wealden website for up to date information

We are asking householders to continue to put their bins out for collection as usual.

Community Clean Up

We were delighted with the response to the annual community clean up and pleased to be able to report that the litter collected was promptly collected by Biffa. The timing of the clean up was, as you can imagine, a concern but all was well.

Changes at Wealden

Director

Isabel Garden, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Planning Policy and Environmental Services is to retire. After an extensive nationwide recruitment exercise Chris Bending has been appointed to take her role. Please we assured his interest in the Local Plan will continue. His vacated position will be filled in due course.

Leader

Cllr Bob Standley has decided to retire from the District Council in May 2023. Acting in the best interests of Wealden and to ensure a smooth handover he made the difficult decision to stand down as Leader this May, thus giving the new Leader the opportunity to take over comfortably. Bob has been an outstanding Leader, he hands over a financially strong council, we are grateful for all he has achieved over the last 12 years in post. The new Leader will be elected at the May AGM.

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

Meeting with your Chairman and Clerk

We were pleased to be invited to meet with your Kamala and Jackie last week. The meeting proved to be very interesting and productive. We were able to update them on what we have been doing in the parish and local issues and hear their concerns.

The change of your meeting regular day has made it difficult for us to attend but that does not mean we are not as active in the parish as before. We understand that the council will consider changing to another regular day of the month on which to hold the meetings. We hope the new date will not clash regularly with the other 5 parish council in our ward! Parish Councillors are our "eyes and ears" in the community and we rely on local information from the council and also individual residents. We welcome and appreciate the interaction.

Cllrs Ray Cade and Pam Doodes
District Councillors for Herstmonceux and Pevensey Levels

Appendix 3

Members' Update - East Sussex County Council - Monthly Update March 2022

Adult Social Care

A successful first year for Hastings drugs project

A project tackling drug-related harm and crime in Hastings is celebrating positive results a year after it was first launched.

Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery), led by East Sussex County Council and Sussex Police, has been designed to address the town's high rate of drug use and deaths. The project has so far supported 70 people to access drug treatment interventions and has seen a reduction in the number of unplanned exits from treatment.

Sussex Police reported that under Project ADDER 578 drug seizures have been completed and 368 weapons have been taken off the streets, including 172 knives. As part of these operations, Sussex Police has also seized £45,719 in cash.

The police have also shut down several local county lines drug networks and disrupted 30 organised crime groups.

Hastings is one of 13 sites funded by the Home Office to deliver Project ADDER, and funding for the project is running until 2023.

New app will help residents prepare for future

East Sussex County Council is developing a new app to help residents lead a full and healthy life in older age.

The Life Transition app will support residents to prepare for significant changes in later life such as retirement, moving home, changes to health and mobility, becoming a carer, or experiencing bereavement.

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

The county council will talk to residents to better understand their needs and develop the app in response to their feedback to ensure it can offer the greatest help.

This work is part of the council's <u>Healthy Ageing through Innovation in Rural Europe</u> (HAIRE) Project and will be funded by <u>UK Research and Innovation</u> funding.

Support for Ukrainian refugees

East Sussex County Council, all Borough and District councils and the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service are working together to help, welcome and settle Ukrainian refugees as they join our communities. The <u>county council website</u> will be updated regularly as support plans are developed.

Residents are encouraged to donate what they can to national organisations including the British Red Cross, UNICEF and the Disasters Emergency Committee. More information about making donations and offering local support is available on the council website.

If residents can offer a home or spare room for at least six months to people fleeing Ukraine, they can sign up to be a 'sponsor' through the Government's <u>Homes for Ukraine scheme</u>.

Business Services

East Sussex Pension Fund wins national award

The East Sussex Pension Fund has been named Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Fund of the Year at the 2021 Local Authority Pension Fund Investments Awards.

The judging panel praised the fund, commenting, "Not only was the Fund's investment performance excellent, the judges were especially impressed by our winner's approach to governance, administration, and collaboration."

The fund was also commended in the Best Climate Change Strategy category, reflecting the work it has done to change and develop its strategy, processes and reporting in relation to climate and other environmental, social and governance risks.

The 2021 Local Authority Pension Fund Investment Awards were held this year after being postponed from last year because of the pandemic.

The East Sussex Pension Fund is part of the national Local Government Pension Scheme and is administered by East Sussex County Council. There are currently around 130 employers within the Fund and over 78,000 members.

Children's Services

New initiative supports young readers

A new remote reading programme has been launched to support struggling young readers in East Sussex. East Sussex County Council is supporting the roll-out of the scheme to help improve the reading skills of primary school pupils in Eastbourne, Hastings, and Newhaven.

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

Sixty 5 to 7-year-olds at Harbour, Ore Village and Oakwood primary schools are now receiving weekly online reading sessions with volunteers from the council and local companies. Using a web-based platform called TutorMate, the volunteers link with their 'reading buddy' for 30 minutes a week during the school day. Together, they read stories and play games that build fluency, comprehension, and phonics skills.

The scheme is being run by the charity Innovations for Learning UK and local companies supporting the scheme include Jacobs, The Body Shop, Wates Group and MetLife. Funding for the programme is being provided by the above companies, East Sussex County Council, and the Anjoli Stewart Trust.

More information about the programme is available on the <u>Innovations for Learning website</u>.

Preferred school place for most East Sussex children

Thousands of East Sussex students starting secondary school in September 2022 recently discovered they had a place at one of their preferred schools.

Of the 5,634 applications received by East Sussex County Council, almost 96% of children have secured a place at one of their three preferred schools and 87.6% have secured their first preference school.

Applicants submitting their preferences on time were more successful in getting a place at one of their preferred schools. The county council received just 134 late applications this year.

A full breakdown of admissions figures is available from the East Sussex Newsroom.

Communities, Economy and Transport

Boost to skills, careers and training in East Sussex

Work to improve skills, careers and training in the county has been given a boost thanks to a new partnership between East Sussex County Council and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

The new partnership agreement will see the county council and the DWP work collaboratively with Skills East Sussex, the county's strategic body for employment and skills, to share information, improve referrals, maximise the use of resources, and strengthen the local skills infrastructure to improve employment prospects for young people and residents living in deprived wards.

Agreed areas for partnership working include:

- developing and promoting the Careers East Sussex web platform;
- supporting Youth Hubs for young people;
- prevention work for 16 to 24-year-olds at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

Telephone 07725 843 505 Email Clerk@ninfieldpc.co.uk The Red House Lower St Ninfield East Sussex TN33 9ED

Website http://www.ninfieldpc.co.uk/community/ninfield-parish-council-15069/home

and working with the council's Employability for Supported and Temporary
 Accommodation and Refuges (ESTAR) programme to assist some of the county's most vulnerable residents.

The agreement will be reviewed annually, with six-monthly meetings between the council and the DWP to monitor and evaluate progress against agreed targets.

The ESCC and DWP Partnership Agreement can be viewed on the ESCC website.

Cllr Bob Bowdler Wealden East Division 6th April 2022