The Sacred Heart Church, Wadhurst and St. Peter's Rotherfield

Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
held on Thursday 7 December 2015 in the Sacred Heart Annexe at 1930 hours

Present:	Daphne Bagshawe	Jon Elsby (Chair)
	Nick Bagshawe	Mary Jenner
	Toni Buckley	Clare Kent
	Frances Dorr	Greg O'Higgins
		Len Tudor

Apologies: Father Martin

Toni Buckley opened the meeting with a prayer.

Jon Elsby pointed out that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the three new plans proposed for restructuring of the school and to formulate some ideas on how to approach the extraordinary AGM to be held on Sunday 13 December.
He commented that Plan 7 was that preferred by both Fr Martin and the school for the following reasons:

1. The presbytery would not be attached to the church.
2. It would give the presbytery a certain amount of privacy.
3. The presbytery would be quieter as not backing onto a playground
4. The house would be somewhat larger than at present
5. It met the basic needs of the church for access to the graveyard and more spaces in the cemetery together with more spaces for parking

From the school's point of view it would satisfy health and safety and safeguarding requirements by providing separate access to the graveyard, better facilities for drop off, and would allow them to retain most of their original plans for the school.

Following discussion by PPC members it was agreed that plan 7 might be acceptable with certain modifications as follows:

1. There would need to be provision for a garage
2. The possibility of providing more green space for the Parish needed to be explored in order to allow for outdoor Parish events in future.
3. Specifications for the presbytery would need to be agreed before commencing work as it was important to consider the needs of all future Parish priests.

Daphne Bagshawe pointed out that she had received considerable feedback from parishioners regarding the school plans both positive and negative, and that many had expressed strong reservations about the proposed demolition of the presbytery. She felt it important the Bishop be made aware of the strong sense of antipathy in the parish, and to convey to him that the PPC members were not just being obstructive of the plans but merely trying to represent the needs of the parish as a whole not just now but for the future. She also pointed out that the responsibility for any decision lay with Father Martin but the EGM would provide an opportunity for parishioners to express their views prior to a final decision

Jon Elsby expressed his appreciation for Daphne Baghawe's excellent and well balanced view of the current position after the weekend Masses.

AOB:
After discussion it was agreed that the parish database should now be maintained and administered by the parish secretary.