Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) Kingdom Life Assembly, Seahaven Community BID for Meeching Hall in collaboration with Friends of Meeching Hall (FOMH) CIO (Charity Number 1219235) - MEECHING HALL BID SUPPORTING STATEMENT

RCCG is an Episcopalian Christian Church organisation with nearly 10M members worldwide. Led by Pastor David Olu the Seahaven Congregation has been gathering every Sunday at Meeching Hall for worship in the past 2+ years. Members comprise 60 residents in the BN9 area and 50 living in Seaford. Meeching Hall has become a local spiritual centre for RCCG and the congregation has been praying for the opportunity to make this their home in the Seahaven area. Their UK Board backs the bid and has endorsed the collaboration with FOMH CIO.

FOMH members met in March 2026 after the Feb 26 NTC decision to sell, and voted the Association (founded in 2022) should apply to become a Charity and fundraise – this was achieved 12 August 2026. FOMH registered Meeching Hall as an Asset of Community Value in August 2023, and triggered a 6-month Moratorium under the Localism 2011 Act 'Right to Bid' to allow time for community bids to be put forward. FOMH first made contact with Pastor David in July when they became aware of the RCCG bid. Knowing the councillors' preference to vote for retaining community use, the FOMH committee decided that it made sense to collaborate and together make a stronger bid.

What this collaboration brings to the table:

- RCCG are in a robust financial position and have put in a bid over £200K
- RCCG were founded in 1951 and have a solid infrastructure in place
- RCCG own buildings elsewhere in the UK and understand what is involved
- RCCG see themselves as part of the local community and want to make the Hall available for use by other community groups
- FOMH have set up a website www.meechinghall.com which can be used to promote Meeching Hall, advertise slots available and take bookings
- FOMH have published a Business Plan including a list of appropriate Grants to improve and maintain the building. Trustees offer their expertise & bidwriting skills
- FOMH will use their Social Media platforms to promote this collaboration and ask their supporters to back it
- FOMH will put any money they have fundraised towards Meeching Hall
- FOMH have a well-developed local network and strong links to community groups

Numbers of local people who will benefit:

The RCCG congregation (110 people). Groups keen to come back and use Meeching Hall resident in BN9: AA (12-17 people); MAD Drama (30 members and audiences in the 100's); Ignite Theatre (15 regular actors and audiences in the 100's); Pilates (10); Dance (14). BN9 groups who would like to come: Norcross Dancers (60 children and their families); Hospitable Environment (events 80-100); Swing Swing Swing band rehearsals (25) plus events such as a ceilidh hosted by Dockside Barrel Scrapers (100).

Meeching Hall is a vital community resource serving current AND future need (1750 new housing units are planned) for Newhaven residents of all ages. Providing opportunities for young people to join in structured activities will be a priority. C**ouncillors, please vote for this community bid.**