

Parish of Great Missenden with Ballinger and Little Hampden

Minutes of the PCC meeting held in the Church of St Peter and St Paul
Tuesday 19th September 2017

Present (PCC Member):

Rosie Harper	RH	Elizabeth Lowson	EL
Martyn Green	MGr	David Harris	DH
Sally Clark	SC	Katherine Shuster	KS
Vicky Preece	VP	Sophia Okonkwo	SO
Guy Priestley	GP Secretary		

Present (Deanery Synod):

Brenda Harris	BH	Chris Nickless	CN
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Present (Churchwardens):

Ken Harratt	KH	Val Withams	VW
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Apologies: Clive Bowen; Philippa Howells; Christopher Figg; Helen Clark; Margaret Gordon; Wendy Harris; Julia Sands

[RH called the meeting to order at 8.00pm and held Communion. She reminded all present of the PCC's spiritual importance – it does God's work, rather than being merely an administrative body]

1. Recognition of Chair and Apologies

The meeting noted that RH was Chair; and accepted the above apologies.

2. Quorum

GP confirmed the meeting was quorate, with 11 present.

3. The Minutes of the meetings on 13th June and 20th August were agreed, subject to changing the term 'Parish Safeguarding guidelines' to 'Parish safeguarding policy' in the minutes of 13th June (per DH).

RH made the change manually and signed both sets.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 The Committee noted and ratified the composition of the Standing Committee. **Closed**

4.2 VW and MG confirmed the monies had been received from the underwriters in respect of the damaged Carrington Pew screen. However, the funds would not be applied until the final repair had been effected and the resultant cost crystallised. £8k of the £16k received had been spent to date. Carried forward. **Action: SC**

4.3 The work on the Little Hampden bells had been completed. MGr would reclaim VAT. **Action: MGr**

4.4 VW spoke on behalf of WH. The council would only instal dog-waste bins if the church paid for installation and subsequent waste-removal. RH asked if the issue was urgent. It was agreed that it was not sufficiently urgent to justify the substantial cost involved – although not ideal, dog walkers could continue to use the general waste bins. The Committee resolved to close the issue. **Closed**

4.5 The changes arising from the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) were extensive. RH proposed this point be carried forward. Agreed. **Action: RH/HC**

4.6 Roof sensors: SC advised that Brian Rose would visit on 28th September to instal and replace roof sensors. She expected that insurance would cover the cost when the claim was subsequently lodged.

CCTV: the Diocese had approved CCTV cameras. VW confirmed the Diocese had approved interim faculties for the CCTV and replacement clerestory windows. She had formally applied for a full faculty, which the Diocese was considering.

SC advised that she had also applied to Sweet Charity for a donation towards these costs.

Clerestory windows: VW advised that scaffolding would be installed on Monday and Tuesday (25th & 26th September) It would be in place for up to 3 weeks whilst the work was completed.

SC noted that there would also be external scaffolding for the lead piping work on the tower.

Carried forward: VW

Other: KH noted that a number of the congregation wanted more external lights; and perhaps a cost-effective trigger alarm that would send a text alert to nominated individuals if the sensors were triggered. He understood it would cost about £100, and would need to be mounted somewhere high like the bell tower to optimise the signal.

SC thought it a useful suggestion, but was concerned that false alarms from eg squirrels or cobwebs might prove problematic. CN mentioned the prevalence of bats. DH concurred, and agreed to consult the DAC team (who might know of other churches which had adopted this solution).

Action: KH

RH reminded all members of the importance of proper prior planning and groundwork for all building and fabric work. The proper permissions had to be obtained – another parish had recently encountered serious problems through failure to obtain planning permission for a project.

4.8 SC advised that the church had entered the mural competition but without success. The Committee thanked PH for her efforts. **Closed**

4.9 Safeguarding Policy and Diocesan Guidelines (DH)

Carried forward.

4.10 Youth Work updates to admin framework (PH/DH/KS)

Carried forward.

4.11 VP Sales of tickets to the Harvest Dinner and Quiz were healthy. **Closed**

5. Treasurer's Report

MG spoke to the paper circulated. He expected we would make budget this year; but regular income for 2018 would be approximately £1,500 down due to the death of a congregant.

RH stressed the need for increased income from fund raising. We must be imaginative and try to find new, individual, high-profile events that would repay the investment of time and costs. The PTA fireworks event was a good example of this.

The committee discussed several options.

- BH proposed a Murder Mystery in February 2018.
- Another idea was a dinner/dance in the Lighthouse tent on the weekend before Lighthouse, perhaps a Great Missenden Summer Ball, run jointly with the school PTA.

KS was concerned that the Lighthouse committee might see their hiring the marquee to us as unfair to the other Churches. Also, the hiring of a marquee this year for a wedding that weekend put extra pressures on the volunteer Lighthouse site team. It was proposed that we talk to the committee to gauge their feelings. MG felt that the approach should come from the PCC rather than asking KS to do it, thereby avoiding perceived conflict of interest since she sits on both bodies. **Action: Not allocated**

- KH noted that Wendover Church had been re-configured to flexible use, allowing an excellent entertainment space when not used for worship. Might we make use of their space?

- GP suggested a Son et Lumiere and was informed that the Church had run one in 2016. It was very successful in terms of drawing in an audience but was heavy on planning, and the costs for sound and lighting made it difficult to raise a generous profit.

SO suggested the PCC try to work more with the PTA generally.

6. St Mary's Ballinger

RH expressed her thanks and admiration for the drive and enthusiasm of the St Mary's congregation. She thought the proposal was definitely along the right lines, but would require refinement and structure before formal approval. MG agreed – a church near Thame had done something similar, very successfully. GP also supported, citing Holy Apostles Cheltenham, which had done it partially but with a great result.

The PCC agreed, and suggested AE consult the DAC to introduce the necessary structure. This should address amongst other issues:

- The quality of the new chairs. VW felt that the proposed Costco chairs may prove too flimsy for the Registry to approve, and that Health & Safety rules may require them to be capable of joining together to ensure safety if a quick exit became necessary. VW noted that when All Saints did a similar thing, the new chairs cost about £56 each.

The supplier would probably be able to discuss these issues with them and recommend an appropriate model. VW suggested they also consult other churches that had converted.

- Formal floor-plan and lighting plan should be drafted for the DAC, who will need to know the benefits of changing pews for chairs, including reasons for only partial replacement.

MGr suggested they seek sponsorship of individual chairs; and seek buyers for the pews, which are usually in great demand. BH suggested they consider replacing all the pews, rather than partially.

It was agreed that RH would liaise with Anne and Maggi to take this forward.

Action: RH

7. Fabric

It was agreed that current issues had been covered in previous agenda items.

MGo asked if the PCC should consider re-convening the Fabric Committee to help relieve the strain on Val and Sally, who seemed to be doing most of the heavy lifting.

This suggestion was well-received: DH felt it would offer a good way to bring occasional worshippers from the ranks of the PTA closer to the church. He had received a lot of positive feedback on the 2016 Christmas Tree festival, with people interested in helping.

BH suggested we approach Steve Tanno in the first instance. SC suggested using the RAF Cadets, who were often willing and able to do community work.

KH agreed to take this idea forward, with VW and SC providing expertise and the Fabric Committee providing practical help. **Action: KH**

8. Youth and Safeguarding

DH updated the Committee and distributed a briefing note (attached). A revised Registration Form and Register of Attendance had been implemented in all Junior Church groups.

DH proposed the PCC add EL to the formal Safeguarding Policy as Children's Advocate. **Carried**

A training session for everyone would be held on 7th November 2017. Members should mark their diaries accordingly.

9. AOB

9.1 Ecclesiastical

SC advised the Committee that Ecclesiastical Insurance planned to celebrate their 130th anniversary by donating £130 to any church for each member of their congregation who took out a home cover policy with them

The committee discussed whether the church could benefit from this promotion. GP advised that the FCA was strict on the matter of unregulated persons giving advice. The church and members of the PCC should exercise caution not to endorse or influence individuals to use any particular supplier's product. MG agreed.

It was agreed to post the Ecclesiastical offer on the notice board and distribute it with a suitable disclaimer. **Action: SC**

9.2 Sidesmen

CN asked that all present remind sidesmen of the importance of welcoming congregants – a warm welcome made a huge difference to how people perceived the church. All agreed.

RH called the meeting to a close at 9.05 pm with the Grace.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 24th October

Signed.....

Date 24th October 2017