

PARISH OF GREAT MISSENDEN WITH BALLINGER AND LITTLE HAMPDEN

Minutes of the PCC meeting at the Church on Tuesday 24th January 2023

Present

The Rev'd Malcolm Chalmers	MC	Graeme Petrie-Brown	GPB
Rosemary Ladd	RL	Guy Priestley	GP
Laurence Clark	LC	John Jeapes	JJ
Sally Clark	SC	Stephen Tanno	ST
Jamie Gairdner	JG	Helen Biggerstaff	HB
Philippa Howells	PH	Christopher Figg	CF
David Harris	DH	Chris Nickless	CN
Wendy Harris	WH		

By invitation (non-voting) - Martyn Green MG, Val Withams VW, Helen Clark HC

1. **Apologies and recognition of the Chair**

Apologies received from Sue O'Farrell, Anne Ellis and Harriet Lyons
The Rev'd Malcolm Chalmers was recognised as Chair.

2. **Confirmation that the meeting was quorate**

The meeting was declared quorate, there being 15 members present.

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 8th November were approved.

4. **Matters arising**

Noted that Margaret Gordon had moved away and was therefore no longer a member of the PCC. Thanks were recorded to Margaret for her service to the Church in many capacities.

Move of the Church Office - MC reported that several locations had been visited and as a result the offer of a room in St Andrews Bookshop in the High Street had been deemed the most suitable. The move would take place around the end of January after some minor structural alterations had been effected including carpeting and heating issues.

PH suggested that a formal lease should be considered and that insurance should be investigated.

VW reported that it was suggested that a paid assistant should be employed to assist Harriet Lemon in the office to generally assist and to cover HL's absences.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

6. Fabric Report

SC reported as follows:

General maintenance has been ongoing. Richard Hawkins and Alan Mustoe have dealt with some matters at the church, for which I am grateful. The leak above the organ has been attended to, and gutters and hoppers cleared. An artisan locksmith has forged 3 new keys for the oldest doors, and checked all the other locks.

On consultation with MC, the first half hour of the meeting on the 4th February will be devoted to a Presentation on the church heating problems and possible solutions. The Archdeacon of Buckingham, Guy Elsmore, will be present, and will address the meeting after the Presentation followed by a question and answer session. The rest of the time will be under the auspices of MC.

7. Oldham Hall

The hall has had a new gas boiler fitted, which has the ability to convert to hydrogen when the technology has caught up.

SC reported that I am taking this opportunity to announce that in a year's time I will be stepping down from the position of Hon Chairperson at the hall after 16 years. Andrew Edwards has also said he wants to stand down from the position of booking clerk for the hall, having been in that post far longer than I have. I am very grateful for all the work he has carried out over the years and I feel some sort of recognition should be given to him.

A new approach to the booking arrangements is now being worked out, and HC reported that it was proposed to establish an on-line booking system and that Katie Dunne (nee Shuster) had volunteered to co-ordinate this. The costs of setting up this system would be £250 for Katie Dunne, £150 to install a keysafe at the Hall.

8. Finance

MG reported on the current situation. The final draft outcome is that for P&P the income was £109514 and the deficit taking account of Ballinger and Little Hampden is likely to be -£4500 The full year income projection for StP&P is £99,475 and the deficit c£27K

Liquid funds at the end of the year total £215k in the three churches, the restricted portion being c£162K

For full year 2023 the PCC should try to achieve £110K income

St Mary's Ballinger had incurred a cost of £16,500 for repairs and refurbishment.

It was **agreed** that this should be covered by the Watson Cottages Fund, ensuring that unrestricted funds will last a reasonable way into 2024..

9. **Little Hampden Wall Paintings**

CF reported that the wall paintings at Little Hampden Church had been inspected by Stephen Rickerby of Rickerby and Shedeke, Wallpainting Experts. They were considered to be of National importance and it was recommended that a condition survey and technical examination of the paintings should be carried out with recommendations for further preservation all of which would cost £1800. CF had applied for a grant from the Cathedral and Church Building Division and had obtained the sum of £1300. CF asked for approval from the PCC to use Little Hampden funds to fill the shortfall. This was **agreed** unanimously.

10. **Safeguarding**

Alan Mustoe produced the following report.

With respect to our Parish Policy notices on our notice boards (in three churches and hall) we now posted/dispatched new Diocesan contact details.

With respect to PCC members obtaining their DBS certificates nearly everyone has obtained their DBS.

With respect to PCC members completing their Basic course (another Diocesan requirement) nearly everyone has completed the course.

In addition to the PCC members 2 Sunday School leaders have obtained their DBS as has our bell ringing captain.

We have provided three opportunities to complete basic safeguarding courses on the following Friday 6th January at 13:00 hrs Saturday 7th January at 10:00 hrs, Tuesday 17th January at 19:30 hrs.

34 people have completed the Basic Course in the Oldham Hall and 9 have completed it online.

There are still some people who have roles within our church who are required to obtain a DBS certificate and / or complete the safeguarding courses that the diocese requires. There is also a need for further clarity in establishing what roles are being undertaken.

The Dashboard, which the PCC agreed to use to help us live up to our safeguarding responsibilities, has been set up. We hope to be able to report further on this matter at the next PCC.

MC has given the go-ahead to purchase 100 pocket guides on safeguarding that were shown at one of the safeguarding courses. The cost is approximately £32 and they will be offered to our congregations.

A report of alleged historic abuse has been given to our Parish Safeguarding Officer. The matter was reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office and they

have advised us that whilst no further action need be taken the police have been informed and a crime report number established.

11. **Outreach**

Everyone has been sent a copy of the CTF feedback with ideas and suggestions for next year.

SO'F reported as follows

OTW - still maintaining our link with the OTW

Looking a different ways to support people in need in the area via the foodbank at Holy Trinity and with the school.

A Community Fridge is being set up in Prestwood and we have the opportunity to become a member enabling us to keep in touch but with no commitment.

Crafts at the Library are operating 2.30-4.30 with lots of enthusiasm but at present no children.

Events booked for this year:

Jazz evening with supper - 13th May

Orlando Joplin has been invited back on 3rd September

The Science Festival in October (not confirmed)

Christmas Tree Festival in December

Unfortunately an event for the patronal has fallen through but we are still trying to find something else - so please let us know any ideas

We are starting to plan for Cream Teas and hope to have a completed rota in place by the middle of March.

Pancake party Tuesday 21st February

12. **Children and Young People**

PH reported that Chloe Lewis would like to step down from leading MAP as she had been doing it for some time. It had been decided to cut down MAP activities to just one Sunday (the first) a month but new leaders were needed.

New ways of involving children in the Church were urgently needed.

13. **Future PCC meetings and APCM**

The next PCC meeting will be on Tuesday 21st March in the Church.

Consideration should be given to changing the dates to enable PCC meetings to be held in the Oldham Hall which would be a more suitable venue.

APCM date is 25th April.

Harriet Lemon has asked for the following dates to be recorded for collating the **Annual Report** -

Individual reports to be with Harriet between 27th and 31st March

Report collated between 3rd and 7th April

Report electronically circulated 14th April
APCM 25th April

14. AOB

The structure of the Parish support Group was briefly discussed but deferred until a further meeting.

The subject of dogs coming into Church in the light of Anna Withams serious phobia was also deferred.

The meeting closed with prayer at 9pm.