

Dedham Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 9th March 2023

At 7.30 p.m. in the Assembly Rooms

Present: Peter Wilson (PW), Vee Druitt (VD), John Reed (JR), Sharon Sarson (SS), Liz Reed (LR), Lynne Al-Sad (LAS), Paul Brebner (PB), Helen Sims (HS).

In Attendance: Rev. Phillip Young (PY)

1. Apologies for absence were received from Akshay John, Gabbie Watson, Richard Hopkins and Linda Redlich.

PY opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2023 were approved unamended. Proposed by VD and seconded by SS. The meeting also approved the Standing Committee minute of 17th January with regard to the continued payment of salary to the Director of Music whilst on sick leave for up to a period of 8 weeks.

Matters Arising:

- (i) PY confirmed that Instagram was up and running with 55 on the site.
 - (ii) VD had nothing further to report on the frontals renovation.
 - (iii) The gas boiler was now working effectively now the thermostatic issues had been addressed.
 - (iv) A meeting had been held with a stained glass window contractor, and we await a report/quotation, before seeking further quotes, and attendant stone masonry quotations.
3. Finance: JR reported that the Examiner had signed off the Financial Accounts for 2022, without any comments, and following their circulation to the PCC members, JR invited questions on any issues regarding the financial performance in 2022.
JR drew attention to the loss on revaluing the Church Investments at 31st December, which had realised a loss of £30,914 in a difficult year for investment markets. This write-down only affects the Restricted Funds, and is against a background of gains during 2019/21 of £80k

3/Finance cont'd:

The cash in General Reserve closed at £20,470, a little higher than expected, and after the late uplift of £2,500 paid towards Parish Share, bringing the total PS to £50,500 for the year.

The large increase on overall Church funds to a total of £542,218 was largely due to the ring fenced Organ Appeal Fund of £202,643 held at 31st December.

A proposal to approve the Final Accounts for 2022 was made by SS and seconded by PB, and carried unanimously, along with thanks to the finance team.

4. APCM: The ChurchWardens reminded the Committee that the APCM was scheduled for Sunday 16th April at 11 a.m.

All Annual Reports (apart from Finance) that were required for inclusion, should have been submitted to Deb Turner by 1st March.

Akshay John had asked to step down, but all other PCC members were likely to stand again. JR would notify those members whose 3 year membership expired this April, and would require a re-election proposal form to be submitted before the APCM to Deb T.

PW said that there was a vacancy for a Parish representative to stand on the Deanery Synod Committee. PY indicated how important it was for Dedham to have a representative on that Committee.

PW and VD declared their willingness to continue as ChurchWardens, and the PCC members thanked them both for all their hard work and commitment throughout this current year. PY thanked all members of the PCC for their help and support this year.

5. Organ Update: PW announced that a revised Organ Committee had been formed, and had met under the Chairmanship of David Druitt. With the Glasgow Organ currently stored and insured in Kidderminster, the Committee were moving ahead with fund raising initiatives. In answer to a question, PW stated that the Friends of Dedham had indicated some time ago that they would not be offering a donation to the Organ fund, but had recently helped with providing contact details of the Friends, who would now be approached on an individual basis

6. Youth and Children's work group: PY outlined a 5 point plan to enhance our commitment to support Y & C's with a Council to oversee and help grow all their activities. Potential candidates to be put forward. The PCC were supportive of this initiative.
7. Safeguarding: VD reported that there had been no SG incidents since our last meeting, and that 10 people had received their Safeguarding certification. Deb T. had made good progress with the administration of certification. HS raised the issue of the status of her Flower Team ladies, and was referred to Christina V/Deb T for clarification.

8. Any Other Business:
 - (i) ALP's: VD asked for the PCC's formal approval that Richard Hopkins, Anne Marie Partrick and Susan Carne could all be approved as an ALP at our services. This approval was unanimously given.

 - (ii) Church Services Rota: VD stated that not everyone in the congregation was happy about the new 3 month trial arrangement, particularly the loss of the Matins service. The discussion that followed, revealed just how difficult it was to meet all the needs of every worshipper, and that timing of the services was challenging, given the needs of the Ministers to fit the calls on their time into a wide range of locations. Ardleigh PCC had decided to trial most of their services at 9.30 for 3 months, which gives Dedham a potential timing problem. Several ideas were put forward, but in the end, it was decided that VD would talk to those disappointed at losing the Matins service, and that a review would take place at the end of the 3 month trial.

 - (iii) LAS asked if prior to each Service commencing, an announcement to be made for the congregation to stand before the Choir and Minister processes, along with an opening hymn. PY to consider.

 - (iv) LR asked if Luke Marshall could utilise the services of the Parish Magazine co-ordinator to deliver a leaflet regarding the Green Energy project. VD agreed to arrange for these to be included in the magazine delivery.

DATE of NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 16th MAY at DUCHY BARN at 7.30

