

Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting

Held on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at the Duchy Barn

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

In attendance: Reverend Phillip Young (PY)

PW opened the meeting and prayers were led by Phillip Young

1. Minutes of the meeting on 16th January 2024 were approved without amendment.

2. Matters Arising:

(a) Safeguarding: There continues to be no offer of help to take on this role, and JR suggested that the upcoming APCM might provide an opportunity to explain the urgent need to a wider audience, and how important it was to fill the post.

(b) CCTV: PB confirmed that CCTV had now been installed in the Church and was working effectively. The meeting thanked PB for getting this completed.

c) Fabric Projects: PW summarised the progress made in removing the existing Organ, and the receipt of a positive Structural Survey report. This reduces the risk of additional project costs. The Autumn installation programme outlined by Nicholson's remains on track.

The Stained Glass Window (SGW) project proposal has resulted in comments from the DAC following the submission of a Faculty, and responses have been sent. However, Natural England/The Bat Conservation Trust have reported resident bats, and that there are really only two distinct periods in the next 12 months that the SGW work can be safely carried out. In conjunction with Purcell's the Architect, a programme is being put together (including costs where possible for two phases of work) to cover work on the SGW and the masonry repairs, whilst making the work compatible with the Organ installation. The recent problems experienced with the electrics is going to be shortly addressed during the required inspection.

3. Annual Accounts 2023

JR had circulated the Final Accounts for 2023 to the PCC members earlier in the month. He confirmed that the Audit Examination would be carried out shortly, and should any amendments deem necessary, members would be notified.

No issues had arisen since the last PCC meeting, and apart from Investment gains of £22,572 in the year, the figures were the same as when the Q4 Management Accounts were completed and circulated in January.

The Financial Overview on Page 2 summarised all the detail, and JR also drew attention to the non-General Funds such as the Organ Fund and the Heath Fund. HS asked if any of the Restricted Funds could be merged, and JR stated that this review exercise would continue to be carried out, but any changes would probably involve some legal expertise and cost.

It was proposed by Vee Druitt and seconded by Paul Brebner that these draft Final Accounts be approved, and the meeting unanimously agreed.

PW thanked JR for his work on completing another year as Treasurer

4. Children & Families Worker:

PW confirmed that with no applications, it had been agreed that one worker for just Dedham was now going to be sought by a new advertisement with a closing date of 30th April. PW agreed that a focussed Job Description would be circulated to the PCC.

5. Reorganisation of the Rural Parishes Group:

John Saxon had drawn up a suggested Action Plan to help the Rural group of 9 parishes work closer together, and make good use of the array of talent that existed across the parishes. The PCC and PY discussed the proposals, and were supportive of some of the content. However, there were expressions of concern regarding the variation in size of the parishes, as well as the lack of time available for key volunteers in each parish. A discussion with John at some stage might well be a way of finding positive aspects of the ideas to introduce.

6. PCC Membership:

Liz Reed, having served 3 years on the PCC, had decided to step down, but would continue to serve the Church in various capacities. PW expressed on behalf of the PCC, his thanks to Liz for all her hard work and commitment.

6 cont'd PCC

Additionally, Vee Druitt had decided to step down as Churchwarden and from the PCC. Peter thanked Vee personally for all her valuable contribution, help and support as Churchwarden, and the PCC members echoed their thanks for all Vee's hard work.

There had been an offer by one PCC member to be elected Churchwarden at the upcoming APCM, and there are two nominations for PCC membership, but due to both not being on the Electoral Roll, will have to be initially co-opted at the PCC meeting following the APCM.

The Electoral Roll (ER) has been reviewed and a notice in Church displayed to invite people to register.

7. AOB:

(i) VD drew attention to World Mission Sunday coming up, and PY agreed to announce this in Church, and in the Church Chimes.

(ii) VD had become aware of some local criticism regarding local people taking food from the Food Bank in the church porch. They are permitted to do this, so this would be made clearer to parishioners.

(iii) VD had been asked by the Fund-Raising Committee to make the PCC aware of The Dedham Stakes on the 12th April with tickets available from Jill Strangward. The Military Wives Choir Concert on the 8th June. Tickets for both via online payment only.

(iv) VD made the PCC aware that the Fire Officer is due to come and make an inspection in the near future.

(v) PB wanted the PCC to be aware that he was working on the graphics of the GoodBox to enable variable amounts to be digitally donated more simply.

(vi) VD reported that there had been the annual church inspection had been successfully carried out by the Deanery Lay Chair.

(vii) Mission Sunday-PY agreed that there should be a date set aside in the church calendar for a Mission Sunday.

After closing Prayers by PY the Meeting closed

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 14th May at the Duchy Barn at 7.30 p.m.

