

Minutes of the Dedham Parochial Church Council

Held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at the Duchy Barn

Present: Peter Wilson (Chairman) (PW), Sharon Sarson (SS), John Reed (JR), Lynne Al-Sad (LAS), Adrain Beckingsale (AB), Roger Berry (RB), Gabbie Watson (GW)

1. Apologies from Helen Sims, John Saxon

In Attendance: Rev. Phillip Young (PY)

PW opened the meeting with a prayer, and PY gave a reading from Philippians

2. The Minutes of the last meeting held on the 14th January 2025 were approved after JR confirmed two minor changes had been made regarding the Windows project and the Muniment Room.
3. There were no Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda.
4. Safeguarding: PW was pleased to announce that Roger Berry had confirmed his willingness to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer, and JR agreed to check on the Public Liability coverage aspect.
5. Finance Report: JR had previously circulated the Quarter 4 Management Accounts, and subsequently the Final Accounts for 2024 to be incorporated into the Annual Report. Discussion took place on Giving, and the Parish Share, and other finance issues, following which, a resolution to adopt the 2024 Accounts was proposed by AB and seconded by PW, and the vote was unanimously in favour.

JR indicated that the first Quarter of 2025 was going reasonably well, and the results would be available at the next PCC meeting in May. PW thanked JR and Sara Marshall for their work in managing the 2024 finances.

6. Fabric update:

- (i) Organ: PW confirmed that the project was virtually complete, and that the planning for the concert and Service on the 10th May was well advanced.
- (ii) Stained Glass Windows: PW gave details of a follow up meeting with Auravision and the Architect, and a revised programme that had been drawn up, with three Phases. These were initially for window work only, and Auravision were asked to submit quotations, which if in line with the funds available would be confirmed at a meeting in July, followed by work commencing in the Autumn of 2025. The need to seek Grants and obtain more donations was vital, so that the project was able to move forward fully funded.

7. Housekeeping and Security: The PCC was unanimous in wishing Gabbie Watson every good wish, and prayerful support, following news of her impending major operation. Paula Watkins had agreed to cover the Church cleaning in her absence, and a rota was being finalised to manage the opening and closing procedures.

8. Muniment Room: AB reported that some progress was being made in resolving the issues, and a meeting in April would hopefully identify the best way forward, including the costs involved.

9. Eco Church: AB confirmed that the Silver Award had now been received, and he was looking at how we might attempt to achieve a Gold award. Once investigated, the results would be presented to the PCC for consideration. Dr Bourne, of the Parish Council, had established an Eco-friendly group which AB and the PCC thought could be useful and help us to achieve the Gold standard.

10. APCM Reports submission: PW urged everyone who had to provide Deb Turner with a report, to ensure that they met the deadlines. PW felt that the Annual Report itself needed some reorganisation of its order/content, and JR agreed to help DT with the format.

11. PCC Organisation/Structure: (a) PW asked the PCC to formalise the appointment of JR as PCC Secretary. Whilst he had been carrying out the duties of PCC Secretary for some time, it was necessary to have this approved, so that the entry in the Diocesan Register made earlier in the Church year, was properly ratified. SS proposed, and PW seconded the appointment, and the PCC membership gave unanimous approval.
(b) The Churchwardens were anxious that all key sub-committees from the start of the next Church year, should be made up of members of the PCC or those who were on the new Electoral Roll to be adopted before the 2025 APCM.

PY as an ex-officio member of the PCC and all sub-committees, supported adopting this protocol. A Resolution was proposed by PW and seconded by AB, and carried unanimously.

12. Any Other Business:

(i) The Children & Families Worker: This had been omitted from the Agenda, but the latest report from Claire Arculus demonstrated how much progress has been made right across the board, in the last 9 months. The PCC was really sorry that Claire had decided in a letter to the Churchwardens to tender her resignation with effect from the end of June 2025.

Some aspects would continue with the volunteers carrying on their work, but the PCC felt that it was important to begin the recruitment of a replacement C & FW as soon as possible, based on a 2 day per week appointment, and that PY should go ahead ASAP. At the next meeting of Delt, the issue of funding would be raised by the Trustees, particularly as the Delt had originally agreed a 3 year commitment.

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- (ii) PW updated the meeting with the PCC's current view of the debate surrounding PLF, and confirmed that he had written to Phillip and John, expressing the view of the PCC members that to avoid conflict and a split within our own Church, it was felt that we would make no formal decision as to our viewpoint on PLF, and deal with any approach from the public or congregation should it arise in the near future on a case by case basis.

- (iii) PY paid tribute to Peter Wilson, at this, his last PCC meeting before stepping down from a position that he had fulfilled with immense energy and passion through a sometimes difficult period in our Church history. The PCC fully endorsed these sentiments and Peter thanked everyone who had served with him, particularly his fellow Churchwardens, Suzanne, Vee and Sharon.

The meeting closed with a prayer from Rev'd Phillip

Date of Next Meeting: to be confirmed after the APCM on 13th April

