

Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye
Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council
Wednesday 13th July 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall

Present: The Rector, J Setchfield and J Cooper (Churchwardens), P Eward (vice-Chairman), K Vitale (Secretary), P Raddenbury (Treasurer), V Allen, K Richards, A Purvis, T Harding, A Morris, the Rev L Mathew, M Sanderson, S Edwards, and the Rev N Adley.

Cllr R Mayo for items 1-3.

1. Opening Prayers

The Rev N Adley opened with prayers.

2. Apologies

D Glover and F Davies.

3. Town Council Report

Cllr. R Mayo informed the meeting that the work on the steps had now been completed. An application has been made to remove the tree, and the tree inspector will also look at some of the other trees which may need removing. The floodlight replacement will have to be put on hold for the present due to budget restrictions, but maintenance will continue.

The large tree on the far side of the tower may need to be removed, J Setchfield to investigate. P Eward asked Cllr R Mayo that, if he had a tree inspector coming could he also look at this one and advise if the root growth is a problem and give an idea of the cost of removal. Cllr R Mayo didn't see that this would be a problem.

The Rector asked whether, if a dog is not on a lead, its owner could be challenged legally or it was more of a courtesy issue. Cllr R Mayo confirmed that it is a legal requirement for all dogs to be on leads in churchyards.

4. Declaration of any other business

Flower Festival - V Allen
Energy Contract - J Setchfield

5. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the May 2016 meeting were read and accepted with a few minor changes.

Proposed: J Cooper

Seconded: V Allen

2 abstentions, due to absence from the May meeting.

6. Matters Arising

M Sanderson informed the meeting that there had been a good response from the Church Times advert, therefore local adverts had not been placed.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Finance

The Finance Group had met earlier in the day. The PCC reviewed the latest finance report on which there is currently a deficit of £3779.

The paperwork for the Christian Education Fund, has been sent to the Rev J Hunniset for his signature, and these funds should then be available for us to access.

D Glover and Preb J Talbot-Ponsonby have requested £140 approx. for costumes for history visits to the Church. It was felt that the diocese should also contribute. The Walter Scott Charity regularly used to contribute funds for this type of thing, but have not done so for a while - P Raddenbury has written to them.

9. Rector's Business

The Church of England are concerned that Market Towns are dropping in Evangelism. The Diocese has applied for a grant for mission work. Ross and Hereford Diocese have been awarded funds to help with mission work, The Rector will put together a plan and put forward an application for the grant and what we will do with the funds.

The new curate Simon Tarlton has joined us and the Rev N Adley will be leaving at the end of July to become a Royal Army Chaplain, starting in September. Simon is still in training and can only give us 2 days a week, which leaves us with a large time deficit. The PCC expressed its thanks to the Rev Nick Adley for all he has done in his time with us.

The Archdeacon has agreed that the position of House for Duty Priest for Brampton Abbots needs to be filled.

The offering from parishes towards the diocese's new Parish Share scheme has fallen short of what is required.

The Rev L Mathew will be retiring in February 2017, and so another vacancy will arise. As he is not an incumbent we can recruit before he leaves. The Rector hopes to advertise for both vacancies soon.

A Purvis asked if we received rent for the Brampton Abbots house, The Rector said we do not as it goes directly to the Diocese. P Eward said we may be asked to contribute to any work which may need doing on the house before a House for Duty Priest moves in.

Organist interviews have been arranged, M Sanderson will be interviewing 2 candidates, both of whom appear to be very good. The Rector asked if a contract would be in place with a defined probationary period. M Sanderson was unsure and will look into it. The PCC felt a probationary period should be set.

P Eward asked if we would be giving Laurence John anything, The Rector felt that we should. M Sanderson said the choir would like to take him out. J Cooper was sure the congregation would like to make a contribution and she agreed to arrange a collection for him.

10. Benefice Away Day

K Vitale to re-send information and put on agenda for September meeting.

11. Friends of St. Mary's

P Reynolds reported that they completed the 3 Peaks Challenge, despite being the oldest team!

12. St. Mary's Hall and St. Mary's Church Developments

The Rector reported that J Setchfield has sent another faculty application to the Diocese but it keeps being returned over issues to do with the choice of chairs. The Diocesan Advisory Committee's response was read out by J Setchfield. A meeting with members of the DAC has been arranged to discuss the issue of the chairs .

A Purvis pointed out that the chair they have suggested also has chrome legs, which was one of their points raised against the chairs we had proposed.

Church Hall

K Richards distributed plans from Hook Mason, the architect, for the hall. The estimate price is £288,422.54 ex. VAT, for 3 floors, a lift and external works. The estimate has been priced for each section. The total estimate including fees and VAT is £380,717.76.

K Richardson informed the PCC that we do not need to make a decision at this meeting, but do need to decide what budget we do have available.

Basement - this has been designed to accommodate the community Larder with street and disabled access, it will have a seating area, disabled toilet facilities, catering area and a private interview room. As it is a community facility we may be entitled to a grant from outside the diocese. The Rector felt that it was important to do the basement so we could continue offering the larder and other outreach projects. P Raddenbury reminded the PCC that we did have £328,175 in restricted funds, although this is also for the Church Developments.

The estimate for the external works is for revising and replacing the existing ramp, ensuring it fully meets disabled access regulations. K Richards suggested we needed to replace the ramp urgently as it is in poor condition.

T Harding asked if we would get more use out of doing the ground floor first, as we could get some funds for renting out the hall. The Rector felt that we could be in danger of losing the Community Larder if we do not make the basement our priority.

The Rector suggested we go to the Diocese with a plan and what we want to use each area for, we could then start to see what grants are available. P Eward also felt that the basement should be done first, but suggested that there would be a conflict with the lift unless the lift shaft was included in the basement work. The Rev N Adley replied that if we needed to reduce costs we could stop building an

interview room and go back and do the stairs and lift at a later date.

J Setchfield asked if we had any projections as to how many people would use the facility over the next 5 years. The Rector thought that Preb J Talbot-Ponsonby would be able to give some figures based on the last 5 year's usage.

The PCC thanked the Hall Committee for all their hard work.

The PCC would like K Richards and other interested PCC members to investigate funding options with the diocese and other sources.

Proposed: the Rev N Adley

Seconded: K Richards

Unanimous

K Richards led a vote of thanks to the team who decorated the Hall, and the Rev N Adley for all of his help and support.

13. Deanery Synod

A Morris had attended the meeting.

14. AOB

Flower Festival - V Allen reported that the team had been working very hard, local organisations had been contacted, website updated, sponsorship has been donated and some excellent raffle prizes have been received. Okells Solicitors have offered to fund the preview evening, and this offer had been gratefully accepted. Currently, there are 7 stalls for Saturday morning, the bells will be rung and the tower will be open to view. The preview tickets will go on sale on 17th July, and a date for the tickets for the Saturday night is still to be decided. Refreshments will be available during the whole event.

V Allen said that 2 new A boards are required, they are £45 each, with a discount for 3 or more, but was unsure of the amount of discount.

This PCC authorises V Allen to purchase 2 new A Boards at £45 each or 3 if the discount is significant and with approval from the Church Wardens.

Proposed: V Allen

Seconded: S Edwards

Unanimous

The Rector thanked V Allen and the committee for all of their hard work.

J Setchfield reported that the Energy contract with British Gas runs out in October 2016. They have offered a new contract with a discount on both gas and electricity. The Parish Buying Scheme was more expensive. The Standing Committee had agreed to renew the contract with British Gas at a fixed price for 3 years.

The Rector closed the meeting at 21.37 with prayers.