

**The Parish of St.Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye**  
**Minutes of a meeting of the Parochial Church Council**  
**Wednesday 13th September 2017 at 7.30pm in St.Mary's Hall**

Present: The Rector, J Setchfield and J Cooper (Churchwardens), P Eward (vice-Chairman), K Vitale (Secretary), P Raddenbury (Treasurer), the Rev M Bamforth, V Allen, M Sanderson, B Jones, A Morris, P Reynolds and K Richards.

**1. Opening Prayers**

The Rev Canon M Bamforth opened with prayer.

**2. Apologies**

D Glover, T Harding, Canon F Davies, the Rev Canon C Blanchard, and the Rev S Tarlton.

**3. Town Council Report**

No report from Cllr R Mayo.

J Setchfield informed the meeting that new signs for Dogs on Leads are now available and requested permission to approve them, which was given.

The wall has partly been restored and work will continue in November 2017.

The assistant Town Clerk, Mrs R Lewis, has requested copies of the PCC minutes, which the Secretary will send.

Nobody having previously offered to go on the Exterior Lighting Committee, M Sanderson and P Reynolds kindly volunteered at this meeting.

**4. Declaration of AOB**

J Cater Memorial – J Cooper

**5. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the March meeting were read and agreed.

Proposed: J Cooper

Seconded: V Allen

Abstention:1, not at the meeting

Carried Unanimously

**6. Matters Arising**

6 (Mrs Jessie Cater) P Eward had written to the Charity Commission on 20<sup>th</sup> May, and had received a reply which did not address the original question. A response has been sent.

6 (Margaret Jones' headstone) The Memorial Stone is now in position.

16 (Deanery Synod) No information on forthcoming meetings had been received, but it will be forwarded by A Morris. M Sanderson and P Eward volunteered to be parish representatives.

9 (CCTV). The DAC has approved the plans and a faculty is to be applied for.

9 (Parish share) The Rector and Treasurer are finalising the parish share form.

14 (Hall) Addaction have been contacted by the Rector. They never left the building, but stopped seeing clients in the hall but have continued using the office and are happy to be invoiced. Seeing clients in the hall proved to be difficult as it did not

meet their best working practice. However, the Rector will speak with K Richards to see if we can make changes to accommodate them.

## **7. Correspondence**

The Secretary had received an email from P Mason (Chairman of Governors at Brampton Abbotts School) requesting that the Rev Canon M Bamforth be appointed as a Governor.

Proposed: P Raddenbury

Seconded: J Setchfield

Abstention: The Rev Canon M Bamforth

Unanimous

It was also proposed that K Richards join the Board of Govenors.

Proposed: J Cooper

Seconded: P Raddenbury

Abstention: K Richards

Unanimous

An email had been received by the Secretary regarding Taster Mornings for School Ministry which she will forward to the PCC.

## **8. Finance**

In summary the estimated position at the end of August shows a deficit of £8,686. The income position looks considerably better than is really the case as we have received donations of some £7,800 for chairs. That sum and the first payment of £9,152 were not in the Budget figures.

### **Reordering work**

With work on the reordering there will be significant sums being paid out over the next few months. We had not heard from the Charity Commission at the time of writing and so we do not know how much of the work can be funded from our restricted Fabric Fund and the Jessie Cater Bequest.

At the end of the reordering work an application will be made to recover as much of the VAT as is possible. We are ineligible to claim for recovery on limited items of the work as they are outside of the scope of the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme.

### **Co-operative Bank**

The Co-operative Bank has been bought by a hedge fund and we need to see if they are going to continue with the former ethical approach of the Bank. The Treasurer suggested that we see how things develop and reconsider the position if the ethical approach is dropped or if there are signs that the Bank has been acquired to facilitate asset stripping and is to be under resourced by the purchasers.

P Raddenbury expressed his sadness to hear of the death of John Constance and would like to record his appreciation of all that he did to assist him with cheque signing. We need to appoint a new signatory and Paul Eward has kindly agreed to take this on. The following Resolution requires PCC approval:

"It was approved by the PCC at their meeting on 13 September 2017 that the existing mandates would be renewed with National Westminster Bank, the Co-operative Bank and the CCLA for all of their general bank and investment accounts and with Lloyds Bank for the Ross Team Fees account to record the removal of John Constance as a signatory and replace him with Paul Eward."

Proposed: P Raddenbury  
Seconded: M Sanderson  
Abstention: P Eward  
Unanimous

The Rector thanked P Raddenbury and the rest of the Finance Group for the excellent and often complicated work they undertake.

### **9. Rector's Business**

The Rector explained what a Bishops Marriage Order is and asked that the following request was approved.

"Ross PCC requests that Bishop Richard issues us a Bishop's Marriage Order so that parishioners from Brampton Abbots may be married either in St Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye or St Michael and All Angels, Walford."

(There is already a Bishop's Marriage Order in the benefice for parishioners of St Mary the Virgin, Ross on Wye and St Michael and All Angels, Walford.)

Proposed: M Sanderson  
Seconded: B Jones  
Unanimous

The Rev Canon M Bamforth needs to be reimbursed for his office heating, and it was suggested and agreed that it be split equally between Ross and Brampton Abbots.

The Website address needs to be changed, and the PCC was asked to consider ideas. It would also be good to start a Twitter account which will appeal to younger people, and a name also needs to be considered for this. M Sanderson expressed a concern about changing the name as it will affect the Domain name.

P Reynolds said he had received an enquiry for the Hall through the Friends Website, so it may be that people were finding it hard to find the site for St. Mary's.

The Bishop of Hereford Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is planned for late 2018.

### **10. Safeguarding**

**The** Rev. S Tarlton now has responsibility for safeguarding and is continuing to familiarise himself with it.

### **11. Health and Safety**

J Setchfield has had some difficulty in protecting the organ during the works, but it has now been sheeted.

## **12. Friends of St.Mary's**

Following last summer's events, the Friends have about £60k in their account, but £25k of that is promised for the sound system and Phase 1 window move.

P Reynolds will stand down as Chairman at Christmas but a replacement has not yet been found.

J Setchfield said he would soon know the cost of relocating the stained glass window.

The Rector has met with the PA company. Improved and smaller systems are available at the original cost. The PA company's recommendation is to fix the speakers to the pillars, but we may be better off where they are less easy to reach to avoid them being vandalised or stolen.

## **13. St.Mary's Hall and St.Mary's Church developments**

### **Hall**

Addaction have asked if the toilet at the foot of the stairs could be upgraded, and K Richards will meet them to establish their requirements.

Heating – K Richards has obtained 2 quotes, one of which did not include disposal of the old heaters. The price quoted to replace the 4 heaters in the hall and remove and dispose of the old ones was £8310 inc VAT. The quote to install new ones but not remove the existing ones was £2200 inc VAT.

One heater needs to be replaced and 3 of them are no longer efficient, J Cooper felt that we would need to replace all of them and raised a concern that they may possibly contain asbestos.

P Reynolds was aware of a specialist waste contractor who may be able to dispose of them. B Jones thought the quote was very high and possibly the company do not want the job. He also suggested we contacted the original manufacturer who would be able to tell us if they contained asbestos.

It was proposed that we ask the contractor, M Gooch, to replace the faulty heater and to test the other 3. We will remove and arrange disposal of the old heater, but will first check for asbestos, which B Jones will investigate.

Proposed: K Richards

Seconded: P Reynolds

Unanimous

K Richards informed the meeting of other repairs that will need to be carried out fairly soon.

1. Ceiling plaster in the larder rooms.
2. Wall plaster in the first floor lobby.
3. Rainwater pipe in the rear open area.

Estimates for this work are being obtained.

The Rector had contacted the Diocesan Fund Raiser, S Wharley, who said we could possibly get £135k of funds to move the Community Larder. G Francis will complete the application forms.

The Hall Committee now comprises J Cooper, K Richards, G Altree, M Mason, M Willis, T Davies and L Lewis.

## **Church**

The re-ordering started on 4<sup>th</sup> September with the relocation of the stained glass window. The heating system has been drained and radiators disconnected. Almost all the pews have been sold, thanks to M Sanderson. The chairs have been ordered and will be delivered 8<sup>th</sup> October.

J Setchfield sought approval to use the same architect for phase 2 as for phase 1. The second phase will be more straightforward than the first and the Architect's fees should not be too great.

It was proposed that J Setchfield meet with Hook Mason to draw up plans for Phase 2, but that fees for that meeting and drawings are not to exceed £3k.

Proposed: J Setchfield

Seconded: B Jones

Unanimous

A fridge for the new catering area is on order and a dishwasher will be ordered by 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Four Christenings had been carried out last Sunday, and were difficult with the pews having gone sooner than expected.

There is a wedding planned for the end of October for which the heating will need to be working. The couple have been offered St. Michael's should they prefer it.

Ross Choral Society have been notified of the current situation, but, most of the work being at the back of the Church, it shouldn't cause them any inconvenience.

During the week the Church will look untidier than at weekends, when it will have been cleaned ready for Sunday.

M Sanderson suggested we have an A Board warning visitors of the building work.

## **14. Fundraising**

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Invitations are now in the process of being delivered to businesses, organisations & schools. The 2015 posters have been updated & are ready for printing. Publicity material for magazines & newspapers is being prepared. A banner is under consideration & quotes are being obtained.

The draw tickets are being printed & will be ready for distribution to the congregation on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets for the Preview & the Saturday evening concert will be ready for sale on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

St Mary's Hall will house charity stalls on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November as part of the Town Fayre. The Friends of St Mary's will take the opportunity to sell Christmas cards during the festival.

## **15. Deanery Synod**

No report - the next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

### **16. Any Other Business**

J Cooper informed the meeting that there was no Memorial Stone for J Cater and suggested that we should arrange for one to be made at a cost of £549. Her date of birth is not known

J Cooper proposes that the PCC approve £549 for a Memorial Stone for J Cater.

Seconded: B Jones

Unanimous

P Eward said that the people dealing with her bequest will have her date of birth and he will look into it and give her the details.

The meeting closed at 9.10 with prayers from the Rector.