



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

held on **Tuesday 19th September 2023**
at 7.00pm in St Mary's Hall

Present: Sean Semple (Chairman), Anne Morris, Gerald Altree, Janet Cooper, Paul Cummings, Freda Davies, Philip Dazeley, Julian Hallett, Rachel Lewis, Peter Reynolds, Mark Sanderson, Rosie Winyard, Tiffany Jackson and Roy Milnes

1 Opening prayers

Sean opened the meeting with prayers

2 Closed Churchyard

Councillor Rob Taylor sent his apologies and a note to say that:

- a. path by the tower is to be restored this autumn and
- b. an eco working group has been formed to look at ways to improve our environment in Ross, and so the church grounds will no doubt be discussed. He will keep the PCC updated.

3 Youth Report

- i. to welcome Tyron as our Youth Representative and receive his report
Tyron first mentioned that Youth Choir was going well. He then spoke about LEAF over the last year and his hopes for the new plans to meet up once a month after church on a Sunday. He felt this would be good for those who wanted to find out more about faith but that some of those who just came on a Wednesday with no interest in church and faith would not come. He was asked to come again in November and report back on what the young people thought about the new set up.
- ii. to consider the future of the Wednesday Youth Group, LEAF and work with teens
The new plan would allow our young people to meet and explore their faith in a safe place. We would not be providing a general youth club but there is other provision in the town for this.

4 Apologies

to receive and accept apologies for absence
Apologies were received and accepted from Bryan Jones, Paul Eward, Melanie Mellor and Caroline Pascoe. Mike Donovan was absent.

5 Safeguarding

- i. to receive an update and take any necessary action on any safeguarding matter

Proposed: Rosie Winyard Seconded: Freda Davies unanimous

It was resolved to accept the Safeguarding Action Plan

- ii. to add the Ross Cancer Support Group as a user of St Mary's Hall
- iii. to confirm Dice and Decks as a user of St Mary's Hall

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Peter Reynolds unanimous

It was resolved to add the Ross Cancer Support Group and Dice and Decks to the list of authorised activities taking place on church premises.

6 Minutes of the last meeting

- i to approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2023
The minutes of 21st June were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- ii to note any matters arising from the minutes which do not appear elsewhere on the agenda
 - a. **Fairtrade** It was noted that all food and drink items used in the kitchen are fairtrade and eco-friendly but difficulties in finding suitable cleaning products so far has meant that not all products are eco-friendly
 - b. **Defibrillator** This is now operational
 - c. **Bike rack** Some work has been done but no recommendations were ready. It was noted that any bike rack will require a faculty. Inspiring Love will continue to investigate.

7 Standing Committee decisions on behalf of the PCC

to ratify decisions made by the Standing Committee since the last meeting

- i. to accept a quote for £485 to repair and stabilise the wall in the open churchyard which runs alongside the carpark

Proposed: Janet Cooper Seconded: Julian Hallett unanimous

It was resolved to ratify the above decision.

It was noted that this work has now been done.

- ii. to give the Penyard Singers a 50% discount on one rehearsal a month held in the church when the hall is in use by another group

Proposed: Paul Cummings Seconded: Mark Sanderson unanimous

It was resolved to ratify the above decision

- iii. to request a quote for replacing all the lights due to the failure of a dozen lights since January, in order to reduce costs of hiring a scaffolding tower more frequently.

The quote had been received and circulated.

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Paul Cummings unanimous

It was resolved to accept a quote to renew all the existing light fittings at a cost of £11,122.80 including VAT.

8 PCC decisions made through an email vote

to note the following decisions made via email

- i Agreed by the PCC by email and confirmed by the PCC secretary on 7th August 2023
To resolve to support the nomination of Melanie Mellor as Local Worship Leader and Local Pastoral Visitor and the nomination of Anne Morris as Local Missioner
- ii Agreed by the PCC by email and confirmed by the PCC secretary on 17th August 2023
To resolve to support a Faculty Application to receive the processional cross from the church of St Michael and all Angels, Brampton Abbots to the church of St Mary the Virgin, Ross-on-Wye
- iii Agreed by the PCC by email and confirmed by the PCC Secretary on 26th August 2023
To appoint Anne Morris as Inspiring Faith in Schools Portfolio Leader, to include becoming a member of the Life-Link Chaplaincy Project Development Group
- iv Agreed by the PCC by email and confirmed by the PCC secretary on 11th September 2023
To resolve to support the nomination of Margaret Bickerton as Local Pastoral Visitor

These decisions were noted

9 Rector's Report

The Rector had nothing to report.

10 Life-link Chaplain

to receive an update on the bid to employ a Life-link chaplain

Following a gruelling interview by the Diocese, Mark and Caroline were pleased to say that they now had the green light to proceed to Stage 2 of the application process. Further information needs to be submitted by 7th November after which, if successful, the PCC is committed to the project. Meanwhile, we need to look at the finances as sufficient funds are not currently forthcoming from the rest of the Deanery.

11 Finance Report

i to receive a report from the Treasurer and take any necessary action

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Paul Cummings unanimous

It was resolved to transfer £10,000 from the General Account to the Fabric Fund.

ii to accept a recommendation from the Director of Music regarding remuneration for the organist

Proposed: Roy Milnes Seconded: Rosie Winyard unanimous

It was resolved to increase the PCC's total financial contribution to music to £8,700 from September 2023 (to be reviewed in November for 2024) in order to bring the organist's salary in line with that of the Director of Music.

12 Inspiring Portfolios

i **Inspiring Faith in Schools** - to thank Anne Morris for accepting this role.

Anne was thanked. So far she has not had any involvement but has received a suggestion that the church host a uniform hub in the summer to help families with second hand school uniform.

ii **Inspiring Hope**

a to consider a "Warm Space" for this coming Autumn/Winter

Paul explained how the "Warm Space" had worked last winter on a Thursday in the hall with five regular users who enjoy tea and coffee, cake and soup and the provision of films (science fiction and often violent!). Their circumstances precluded other members of the public joining. There was difficulty in recruiting helpers due to the nature of the users as many regular church members did not feel they had the necessary expertise for this role. Issues such as safeguarding would need to be addressed if we continue with this. Paul will consult with the safeguarding officer and report back to the Standing Committee so they can make a decision before the next meeting.

b to note arrangements for Remembrance (previously circulated)

The arrangements which are the same as last year were noted.

13 St Mary's Church - churchyard and building

i to receive a report from churchwardens on the state of quinquennial repairs

The report had been circulated but no discussion or decisions were made

ii to receive progress reports on Faculty Applications

a. Brampton Processional Cross – waiting for action from Brampton Abbotts PCC

b. Screen and Projector – This is likely to be approved shortly. The installation is being arranged and the cost has come entirely from grants and the Friends.

iii to receive a report on plans to enlarge the nave altar platform

£5000 has been given towards the cost of this project. In order to continue the PCC needs to agree it is something it wants and the church architect will need to be consulted. A faculty will need to be applied for.

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Roy Milnes unanimous

It was resolved to consider the best way to enlarge the nave altar platform by consulting the church architect and then applying for a faculty.

- iv to receive a report on the churchyard management plan
 - A clear strategy on the management of the churchyard can be found on the website.
 - The Probation Service is offering additional time over the coming months including work on footpaths. The number of Churchyard Angels has increased with plenty of publicity on social media.
 - More research has been undertaken regarding the possible closure of the open churchyard. According to the Ministry of Justice, the area was properly opened in spite of previous concerns. Consultation will need to be carried out before any decision can be made both with Funeral Directors who hold the plans of the churchyard and then with the public.

14 St Mary's Hall

To receive a report from the Hall Committee.

Turning Point are now paying rent as agreed but we are still waiting for the lease to be signed as they are waiting for confirmation from the Diocese of proof of ownership.

15 Code of Conduct for PCC members

to adopt and sign a Code of Conduct for PCC Members as recommended by Hereford Diocese

Proposed: Peter Reynolds Seconded: Julian Hallett unanimous

It was resolved to adopt the Code of Conduct as recommended by Hereford Diocese

Each member signed a copy of the Code of Conduct for the records. Those absent will be asked to sign a copy as soon as possible.

16 Fun, Food and Funds Committee

i to note that catering is now being managed by the former Social and Fundraising Committee

ii to note success of the following summer activities:

Safari Supper – 8th July – 36 participants and £325 profit

August Walk and Lunch on Garway Hill enjoyed by 15 walkers

h.Art – September 2nd -10th 1,251 people and £2,770 profit

ii to note upcoming events:

Concert with Drybrook band and choirs - 30th September, 7pm

Come and Sing and Sup for Harvest (Evensong and Harvest Supper) – 8th October

Tea for All Souls Service – 29th October

Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Draw – 25th -28th November

These were noted and it was noted that forms are now available for Christmas Tree applications on the website and in the church.

17 Health & Safety

i to receive a verbal report from the Health & Safety Officer and take any necessary actions
There was nothing to report.

ii to appoint Jane Rothery as First Aid Officer

Proposed: Mark Sanderson Seconded: Freda Davies unanimous

It was resolved to appoint Jane Rothery as First Aid Officer

18 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 7pm in St Mary's Hall

The meeting closed with Tiffany pronouncing the Blessing at 8.44pm



21.11.2023