

**Minutes of the Parochial Church Council Meeting of St John's Church,
Ben Rhydding, on Monday 11th July 2022 in the church lounge and on zoom**

In attendance: Rev Peter Willox, Karen Oxtoby, Janet Munro, Dawn and Charles Jenkins (on zoom), Sylvia Walker, James Wright (on zoom), Jan Copsey, Mark Gurney, Debbie Walker and Peter Debney.

Apologies: Miranda Armitage, Elspeth Holmes, Caroline Watson, Andy Rayment and Lynn Haygarth.

ACTION

1. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Peter Willox read from Colossians 1 and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from, Bill Marwick, Miranda Armitage, Elspeth Homes, Caroline Watson, Andy Rayment and Lynn Haygarth.

3. Declaration of interests

Peter said James Wright may have to declare an interest if James was still in the meeting as he was unwell.

4. Approval of the PCC minutes of 9th May 2022.

The above PCC minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Jan Copsey, seconded by Dawn Jenkins, all were in favour.

5. Any Other business

One item for Any Other Business was submitted to be discussed at item 13.

6. Vision and Mission Statements and ways forward?

Continuing the discussion from 9th May Peter ask if PCC were happy with the Vision statement ' to be a welcoming and inclusive church reaching out to the community with the love of God. ' A discussion ensued around the meaning of community, world and creation. It was decided the word 'world' was too wide a term and that community could include the local and global community. The word creation would be left out but implicit and included in any mission statement we may adopt. Peter read out the 5 marks of mission outlined by the Church of England one of which referred to creation. How do we express reaching out in the next few years and what are we doing to say we are reaching out? What can we reach out with and to whom? Evangelism, teaching, responding to human need.

Peter proposed we adopt the vision statement and the 5 marks of mission, seconded Debbie Walker, all in favour.

7. Matters Arising from PCC Minutes 09 05 2022

9.4 safeguarding training

Two people on PCC have yet to do their safeguarding training.

9.4 domestic abuse notice

Dawn has sent the Domestic Abuse statement to Jacqui to be put on the notice board.

10 invites to the Ark

There was one new person at the last Ark service. It is important to keep inviting the congregation. A discussion ensued around the wheelchair users that have not returned to church after the covid lockdowns. James is regularly in touch with one of the people discussed. The PCC recognises the need to keep in contact with the people that have not returned and that we need to be sensitive to those who still need to wear masks and who may feel ill at ease when others are not wearing them.

12.5 welcome pack

The welcome pack has been prepared by Dawn and sent to Peter for comment and the adding of the new Vision Statement.

Action Point - Dawn to re-send the welcome pack and Peter to review it.

DJ/PW

8. Reports

1. Wardens and Standing Committee (WSC) Minutes of meeting and report on chair options.

The minutes 28 06 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Peter informed PCC on the progress of the seating project. It is intended to obtain a few sample chairs and to create a display in the tower room by the end of August 2022. Andy Rayment had sent an email indicating some people did not support the plan to spend money on the project when we cannot pay our share and when church is always asking for people to increase their giving to church. The bulk of the cost may be met with legacy money as agreed by PCC, however there is no reason why we cannot ask whether people would wish to donate to the project. Peter has already sent out pastoral letters outlining the reasons for reverting back to chair seating which is very compatible with our vision statement.

A suggestion was made that we recommend parishioners visit All Saints, Ilkley and All Saints, Otley to see how the space works with their chair seating.

Communion cups

These are on order.

Belfry ladder

The old ladder has been removed but there is a delay on the new ladder and roof work.

Sylvia's email on the mowing and grass treatment regime

At the last WSC it had been decided to propose to PCC that church maintain the same mowing rota but leave the grassed area at the side next to the allotment hedge untreated. After a further discussion with Peter it was decided to only mow the grass at the allotment side once per month rather than every week to allow it to grow more naturally but to carry on mowing the rest of the lawns weekly. Whilst the grassed area next to the allotment would now be *untreated* with chemicals, the lawns on the north and west side of the church would continue to have professional weedkiller applied as necessary. But this is on the understanding that we work towards having a policy or a statement of intent on the use of chemicals across all areas of church. Peter says it would seem sensible to him to approach this globally, as it were, which would take the attention away from the aesthetics of the lawns, (which is subjective), to an understanding that where possible we will avoid using chemicals that harm the environment, whether outside or in the kitchen - rather like our approach to fairtrade, which is not about taste but about justice. A conversation on this will need to be inaugurated.

A vote was taken on leaving the East lawn to be untreated by chemicals - with a new, monthly mowing regime; and to continue treating the West and North lawns, with continuing weekly mowing. There were two against and the rest in favour.

Action Points

- Karen to contact the grounds maintenance company and the mower, Luke, regarding stopping the chemical treatment and changing the mowing regime to the strip of grass by the allotments.

KO

- Peter to initiate a conversation in church/PCC about working towards a

PW

policy/statement of intent regarding our use of chemicals in the life of our church.

Public Order

An incident had occurred during a service where a parishioner was led out by Peter to another room to prevent the further disruption of the service and to talk about their concerns. The wardens have policing authority from Parliament but this begs the question how we deal with such incidents in the absence of wardens in a service. PCC need to be vigilant and responsive to such occurrences and may need to lead a person to safety.

Action Point - Peter to discuss this with the archdeacon.

PW

Anonymous donations

St John's has been given a donation of £10K plus gift aid. Peter had suggested at the WSC that the money be used to seed fund a project/buy in expertise to stimulate outreach. Caroline had suggested a working group convene to discuss this. It was decided that Caroline W, Peter W, Charles J and Mark G form this working group.

The PCC wishes to thank the donor for their generous donation.

St John's has received an anonymous donation of £4K which will be used to part fund the belfry ladder.

The PCC also wishes to thank this donor for their generous donation.

2. Finance Committee.

A. Approve use of reserves for belfry maintenance

Charles proposed that the PCC use the £3.2K in reserves held for repairs and maintenance towards the cost of the ladder. This was seconded by Jan Copey, all were in favour.

B. Progress against budget as at 30th June 2022.

Charles' monthly budget monitoring is predicting an £8-9K deficit to the end of the year. The freewill offering for 2022 is likely to be similar to that of 2019, the big difference in income being the hall hire which might achieve £20K versus £27K in 2019. Many people have reviewed their giving this year, 45% of total giving is represented by the Parish Giving Scheme (36 family groups). A questionnaire placed in the notices on how to raise money has yielded twelve responses.

Action Point - Charles to summarise the data and discuss with the WSC then PCC.

Action Point - September 2022 agenda item

Karen mentioned the static card reader she has seen at Ripon cathedral and that the diocese are offering some card readers for free.

Action Point - Charles to investigate free card reader

We need to have multiple plates for cash giving. A generosity week is being planned in September.

CJ
KO

CJ

3. Property and maintenance

Already discussed.

4. Safeguarding

Dawn had circulated the updated safeguarding action plan prior to the meeting. Of the 4 new PCC members 2 have completed the DBS process and the training and 2 are yet to be checked and to carry of the training.

It is a requirement of the diocese that PCC members, as trustees, undertake training as part of their role and that one should not be on PCC if one has not completed the training.

Action Point - Please complete your outstanding training by 12th September and speak to Dawn if there is a problem.

PCC

Dawn asked PCC to review the activities carried out in the name of the church. The ones previously agreed were read out by Dawn and Open The Book was added to the list of activities.

Action Point - Dawn to update the activities and to liaise with Sue of Open the Book.

DJ

5. News from diocese, Deanery, Deanery Synod, CTI.

The Deanery synod meeting had discussed coming back after Covid, zoom and mission. Mark Green is to be installed as the new vicar of Kildwick, Connonley and Bradley and one vicar, Alastair is leaving.

9. A report about an area of ministry - Carbon Net Zero

Sylvia handed out her feedback report at the meeting summarising the discussions at her working group.

At this point Dawn and James (both poorly) left zoom.

The working group is taking steps to measure church's carbon footprint and is keeping a close eye on energy usage. They are recommending that PCC update the double glazing in the hall, that church be more energy efficient, that LEDs replace non LED bulbs, that hirers be encouraged to reduce their energy use and that PCC consider installing solar panels.

It was observed that the heating is sometimes on in the hall and lounge unnecessarily and hirers have to open all the windows and doors.

Karen emailed Sandy at the meeting to ensure he had the heating turned off in all areas.

It would not be prudent to let hirers alter the heat settings. Mark commented that the new smart meters should provide a baseline for monitoring energy usage.

Peter thanked Sylvia for her comprehensive report.

10. Governance - An Introduction

Action Point - Agenda item for September 2022 PCC.

KO

11. PCC approval to hire bouncy castle

The PCC approved the hire of the bouncy castle in September.

12. Items for next agenda or WSC

WSC - finance questionnaire, how to progress accountability in mission.

PCC - Governance review, talk on Messy Church, finance questionnaire report.

13. AOB

1. Lynne Wright's letter concerning her worries about the hall hire rate increase was sent to Peter and the PCC secretary this afternoon, parts of

which were read out at this meeting. Lynne cites the increase as unreasonable where other organisations may have lower rates and appear not to be increasing them going forward.

Charles, Caroline and Bill had already undertaken an exercise to compare hall hire rates which informed the rates they sent out to hall hirers in March 2022 to be valid from September 2022

Action Point - Charles to email Peter with an account of the rationale and decision-making process that led to the new rates.

CJ

Action Point - Peter to discuss this with Lynne.

PW

The meeting closed at 10.12pm with The Grace.

Meeting dates

PCC all Mondays:

12th September, 14th November, 9th January, 13th March.

WSC:

Wednesday 31st August, Wednesday 12th October, Wednesday 14th December, Wednesday 8th February