

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Thursday 8th October 2020 (meeting held via zoom)

Minutes of special meeting to appoint new officers and discuss Bell Tower project

Present

Ministers:	Rev. Keith Johnson, Associate Minister Helen Peters
Churchwardens:	Julia Grant, Frank Hawkins
Elected:	James Gamon, Clare Godfrey, Mike Hill, Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley, Antony Rippon, Ben Sharp, Matthew Skillen, David Tester, Christopher Tyrer
Guest:	Richard Peters
Secretary:	Susan Brice

1. Keith opened the meeting in prayer at 7.30 pm.

2. Apologies for absence

The secretary had received no apologies but Frank Hawkins offered an apology from Liz Moseley. The Vicar received an apology from TJ.

3. Appointment of officers

- Susan Brice was appointed as PCC secretary but was not co-opted onto the council.
- Brian Morley was appointed as treasurer, (thanks were noted to all those who volunteered for this post.)
- Clare Godfrey was appointed as Vice Chair, proposed by Arthur Johnson and seconded by Frank Hawkins.
- Arthur Johnson was appointed as Parish Electoral Roll Officer, proposed by Christopher Tyrer and seconded by Frank Hawkins.
- Liz Moseley was co-opted onto the PCC without voting rights, proposed by Frank Hawkins and seconded by Ben Sharp.
- The constituent members of the Standing and Finance committee were unanimously agreed upon: Rev. Keith Johnson, Churchwardens: Julia Grant and Frank Hawkins Brian Morley, Ben Sharp and Christopher Tyrer.

It was requested that terms of reference for the Standing and Finance committee be put together by said committee and submitted to the PCC. This was noted as an action.

It was also requested that the agenda might be more detailed in future.

4. Bell Tower Project

Richard Peters then led the PCC through his report on the Bell Tower project (copies of which had previously been distributed to members.) Richard began by thanking Brian Clark, Nick Devlin and Christopher Tyrer for all the diligence and hard work that they had put into this project. Before questions were asked, thanks was also offered to Richard for taking on the responsibility of finding a way forward for the repair of the Bell Tower and also for producing such a cogent report.

Discussion took place about the interim faculty and the conditions imposed by the DAC. Concern was shown about penalties for not completing the work within the timescale but it was agreed

that as long as the principle of 'best endeavours' was always applied, the PCC should not be unduly worried. To meet the DAC timescale the work would take place during the summer of 2021, but the DAC knows that this cannot be guaranteed.

Despite some concerns there was agreement to retain the architects presently involved.

Regarding VAT it was said that the PCC could reclaim VAT on fees until March 2021. However the church can only do this once we are committed to a contract and we need to have sufficient monetary funds before we can enter into any contract.

Discussion took place regarding applications to large grant funders including the National Lottery. Richard stated that the PCC can apply as soon as we have DAC approval, which is expected shortly but we cannot start work and then apply, as we would be seen as self funders. Richard agreed to be responsible for investigating a National Lottery application with regard to the parameters and questions it provides relating to vision.

The point was then made that the vision of the church is vital to this procedure. Some vigorous discussion took place as to what timescale was realistic for the vision group to formulate and define their ideas.

The Vision Group is chaired by Rev Keith Johnson and is comprised of: Churchwardens: Julia Grant and Frank Hawkins; Anne Dean, Clare Godfrey, Guy Mannerings, Helen Peters, Richard Peters, Tony Sackville, Charlotte Tester.

It was agreed that this group should aim to have concrete ideas by the end of 2020.

Frank Hawkins will set up a fundraising group and thought will be given to the possibility of separating building and fabric giving from community and outreach giving, to hopefully remove any tensions over fundraising.

The following proposals in Richard's report were voted on separately and all were passed unanimously.

5. Keith reiterated his and the PCC's thanks to Richard and then David Tester closed in prayer. The meeting ended at 9.24 pm.

ACTIONS

- **Ablett's latest invoice is paid in full as a gesture of goodwill, on the understanding that outstanding actions will be completed at no additional charge when we are ready to proceed. We agree to change to a RIBA professional services contract if/when a contract is awarded.**
- **We go out to tender after DAC approval has been granted.**
- **The Vision Group is tasked to develop their ideas as quickly as practical with proposals presented before the end of 2020.**
- **A dedicated fundraising team is formed immediately, reviewing the work to date and preparing a fundraising plan to launch in February 2021.**
- **Separate restricted funds are created such that people may choose to give according to their disposition to heritage and/or outreach/community related giving.**

The next full PCC meeting is on Tuesday 17th November at 7.30 pm.

Susan Brice

10th October 2020