

# Hughenden Parochial Church Council

*Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm (held via Zoom)*

## Present

Clergy: Keith Johnson, Helen Peters, Tracey Jones (TJ)  
Churchwardens: Julia Grant, Frank Hawkins  
Elected: James Gamon, Clare Godfrey, Mike Hill, Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley,  
Antony Rippon, Ben Sharp, David Tester, Christopher Tyrer  
Secretary: Susan Brice

## **1. Opening Prayer**

Keith opened with prayer, particularly thinking about the church family being there for each other in good times and in bad. We then listened to a recording of In Christ Alone.

## **2. Apologies**

Matt Skillen gave his apologies to Keith.

## **3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

The minutes were approved and will be posted on the website.

## **4. Matters Arising Not on the Agenda**

Julia said she had talked to Mike Dean about National Trust liaison and would take over from him after lockdown.

It was noted that the process of getting charitable status for the church had been successfully achieved.

The subject of the printer would be on the agenda of the next Standing and Finance meeting, although it was said that the costs associated with it were no longer considered to be a problem.

There have been 2 Zoom services on Sunday at 6.00 pm. Approximately 20 people took part in the first one and 12-15 at the second. There was discussion about the success or otherwise of this venture. Keith said that St Michael's at 10 will remain in its current form as many people accessed the service later in the week.

A vote was taken by the PCC on whether services with booked congregations should begin again on Easter Sunday. There were 13 votes in favour and 1 against.

Keith assured the PCC that the Bishop was aware and supportive of our actions.

Concerns were voiced about the Good Friday walk but Keith clarified the situation and assured the PCC that health and safety was being taken into account. Helen and TJ will organise the walk and Keith will be responsible for the activities and the environment within the church.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Brian stated that the church's finances were in a reasonable state, mainly due to standing order giving that had continued throughout the pandemic.

Ben Sharp had been able to access 2 grants that provided funds for the streaming equipment. There had also been donations given to support this project.

Brian told the PCC that the church had been overpaying for electricity for the last couple of years and also that the forecast for printer prices looked better for this year than last. Both of these points are advantageous to our present finances as we can recoup the overpaid money.

For the Standing and Finance committee, Frank reported on the great work done by Alan Jaycock and James Gamon on creating a maintenance schedule, thus assessing needs, prioritising, and providing clear information.

Frank said he would send out the minutes of the last Standing and Finance meeting.

## **6. The Belltower**

Richard Peters joined the meeting at 8.20 pm.

He told the PCC that a faculty had been granted, giving approval for the work on the Belltower. It is not necessary to complete the work until July 2025, although we would not intend to leave it that long

It is possible to get a rebate of approximately £4000 if a contract for part of the whole project is in place quickly.

Richard suggested the provision of safe access as the work that should be undertaken first. The contract could be offered to Derek Brown who would be asked to provide a detailed design based on the architect's specification. This work would fulfil the requirements of health and safety as well as allowing us to reclaim VAT on professional fees.

A question was asked about the necessity of having to go out to tender but it was asserted that this was at the discretion of the PCC.

It was then proposed from the Chair that the Standing and Finance committee be given permission to spend up to £10,000 on Health and Safety works for the Belltower and to enlist the services of Derek Brown.

The vote in favour of the proposal was unanimous.

## **7. Vision group update**

Richard said that there had been several meetings and also a lot of feedback about the possible vision of the church. It was planned to get this out into the community after Easter. TJ commented that maybe this should not be until after 17<sup>th</sup> May when the government's restrictions will be relaxed.

Richard left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

## **8. New Mission Link**

David Tester talked about the proposed new link for the church, working with the CMS.

(Full information and details had previously been circulated to the PCC.)

In answer to queries, David said that the PCC were not committed to any particular level of financial aid, although he was thinking of between £500 - £700 a year. A 3 or 4 year involvement seemed probable.

The PCC thanked David and voted unanimously to move forward with the new link. Keith commented that it was exciting to be involved from the beginning.

## **9. Vicar's Matters**

Keith told the meeting that the 'Time to Talk' project, aiming to support the mental health of men was running successfully and he thanked Antony for his involvement. As well as meeting on Zoom, one to one time is being encouraged to make deeper discussion easier.

Numbers have settled at about 12-14.

## **10. Churchwardens' matters**

Julia said she needed to discuss with Keith the requirements for sidespeople and car parking attendants for Easter and beyond.

Frank told the PCC that he had agreed with High Leigh Conference Centre that the deposit that had been paid would be carried over. 50 places are available at the moment for 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

It was agreed that Mark Sherrington would be asked to strim in the churchyard again, as last year. Frank said he would arrange this.

Frank and Antony agreed to put together another social outreach calendar. Antony expressed the need for more people to be involved who were prepared to be 'doers.'

It was commented that some people will find it hard to return to social events.

## **11. Parish safeguarding**

The diocese is putting further resources into safeguarding.

Roger Grant and Keith will meet shortly to fill in the required diocesan form for the parish.

Keith noted that the Church of England must not become complacent about this issue.

## **12. Electoral Roll**

Arthur reported that there had been no deletions or additions.

## **13. AOB**

The APCM will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and this is compliant with diocesan rules.

The next PCC meeting will be on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

Helen closed in prayer and the meeting was closed at 9.05 pm.

## **ACTIONS**

- **Frank will send out minutes of the last Standing and Finance committee meeting.**
- **The Standing and Finance Committee will move forward with the Health and Safety project in the Belltower and enlist Derek Brown to do the necessary work.**
- **Frank will ensure Mark Sherrington is booked for strimming work in the churchyard.**
- **Antony and Frank will work on putting together a new social and outreach calendar.**
- **Roger and Keith will meet to address the diocesan safeguarding form.**

Susan Brice  
17<sup>th</sup> March 2021