

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 22nd June 2021 at 6.00pm (held via Zoom)

Present

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

Clare Godfrey, as vice chair, led the meeting.

1. Opening Prayer

Clare opened the meeting in prayer

2. Apologies

Antony Rippon, Helen Peters

3. Vision Group update

Richard said that a community survey card would be distributed to the parish in the same way as the 2020 Christmas card. It was planned to get this out to the relevant schools before the end of term and to individual homes during July and August.

September and October would be used as time to review the feedback.

It was noted that the wording of the card was purposely very open and had been extremely carefully considered. It would be unhelpful to put ideas into people's heads or to offer something that we could not in reality deliver.

At this point in the autumn this particular vision group would be disbanded and another constituted with the remit of bringing ideas to fruition.

4. Review of general maintenance items

Frank commented that Alan Jaycock and James Gamon had done excellent work producing a maintenance schedule for the church building and grounds and indeed some of the jobs had already been completed.

The problem of the large Biffa waste bin at the bottom of the drive was discussed at some length and James showed the committee his computer-generated design for concealing the bin.

Questions were raised about the details of the design but the PCC did agree to give the Standing Committee permission to move ahead with this project. It was stated that this work would require a faculty but it was decided to order the necessary materials now in preparation.

The resolution to go forward with this undertaking was proposed by Christopher and seconded by Ben. The proposal was passed with one abstention.

James commented that documents and all maintenance programmes should be kept in the church safe rather than in various people's homes. Keith added that they should also be kept digitally in the cloud.

The tap in the Church House toilet was again discussed. It has for several years sprayed water over the floor. Frank said Lionel will talk to Arthur and look at the tap.

5. Belltower report

The report on the Belltower project had been circulated to the PCC and Richard was happy to answer any questions about it.

The ballpark figure of £220,000 would be the amount required if we handed the whole enterprise over to be professionally project managed. However, the total sum would be reduced to £110,000, or possibly even less, if we undertook to take more responsibility for the project management ourselves.

The acceptance of this latter proposal, as detailed in the report, was proposed by Arthur and seconded by Clare. The committee voted unanimously in favour.

6. Finance

Despite a loss of £21,270 due to Covid restrictions etc. Brian told the committee that the finances of the church were in a strong position, due to a large extent to the constancy of the congregational giving via standing order and direct debit.

He noted that the cost of the streaming equipment was paid for largely by grants plus some generous personal donations. Very little had come out of church funds.

Brian was about to put in grant applications for a considerable part of the £110,000 needed for the Belltower restoration. However, the congregation would also be asked to contribute as it would not be advisable to use up our financial reserves.

People would be given clear choices as to what they wished to contribute to, buildings or outreach although financial giving to unrestricted funds is always preferable. It was understood that people's sensitivities to these particular issues should be acknowledged and accepted.

A question was asked as to whether big heritage groups expected matched funding if they offered a grant. The answer was that yes, they did.

Clare asked TJ to close in prayer and the meeting ended at 7.07pm.

ACTIONS

- **Vision Group to facilitate distribution of community survey card to schools and homes in the parish during July and August.**
- **James to order the necessary building materials for the concealing of the Biffa bin.**
- **Standing committee to apply for a faculty so that the bin project can proceed.**
- **Frank to ask Lionel to meet with Arthur and discuss the tap in Church House toilet.**
- **Brian to apply for grants in preparation for the Belltower restoration.**

Susan Brice
23rd June 2021