

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday 16th November 2021 at 7.30 pm (held in Church House)

Present

Clergy: Keith Johnson, Helen Peters, Tracey Jones (TJ)
Lay Reader: David Tester
Churchwardens: Frank Hawkins
Elected: Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley, Antony Rippon, Ben Sharp, Christopher Tyrer,
Mike Hill joined the meeting at 7.45 pm
Secretary: Susan Brice

1. Keith welcomed everyone and opened in prayer

2. Apologies

Julia Grant and Clare Godfrey.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th September 2021 and of the extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 7th October 2021

Both sets of minutes were passed without amendments.

4. Matters arising not on the agenda

• Safeguarding

It was suggested that there should be a photo of Roger Grant in the church porch next to the safeguarding policy. Susan said she would check this with Roger. Helen agreed to be children's advocate, a role previously held by Bex.

Helen told the meeting about the course 'Living in Love & Faith' that she would be involved with, working with St James', Downley.

Brian reported that the repair of Disraeli's grave would cost in the region of seven and a half thousand pounds. It was to be confirmed as to whether grants would be forthcoming for this work.

• Mission

David reviewed his document, sent out previously. He offered this as a background to reviewing the church's level of giving. David asked everyone to consider our response to our present fortunate financial situation. As we have been blessed, we should bless others. The Cables in Jaffa are working in a sister church in the Bible lands which is in desperate need. How could we help? David proposed that £3000 should be given to St Peter's Jaffa. Frank seconded this and the vote was unanimous. Brian commented that this money would come from restricted funds, the purpose of which was mission and outreach.

It was agreed that the level of our giving would be discussed at the PCC meeting on 8th March, 2022.

• Youth Worker

Helen commented that the money we were currently saving from no longer paying Bex should be put aside and Brian assured her that this was being done.

Keith told the committee about the discipleship programme, associated with New Wine, that could possibly provide us with a new youth worker. Charlotte Lawson (All Saints, Marlow) has been invited to speak to the PCC meeting in January. The

system is that the parish provides living accommodation (usually with a church family) and the young person is paid pocket money and given time to study, alongside working with the children and youth of the church. Keith asked that at this time people just consider this possibility.

5. Treasurer's Report

Brian talked through the financial report that had been circulated and answered questions.

He told the meeting that the parish share is rising to £81,257, one of the highest in the deanery. Discussion ensued about how this extra money should be raised. Brian commented that the standing order giving was consistent and dependable.

There was much talk about how the congregation should be told about the finances relating to the Bell Tower. When should they be told? What should they be told? There were no definitive conclusions reached but there was agreement on the need for transparency.

Mike asked about the morality of applying for and receiving large amounts of money through grants and he wondered whether there were others who were more deserving. The PCC felt that they wanted the treasurer to continue to apply for grants, understanding that some of the applications would be unsuccessful. It was remarked that we were helping to support those churches that were less well off than ourselves by continuing to pay our full parish share.

It was agreed that wedding and funeral fees would be discussed under any other business at the meeting on 30th November.

Brian proposed that the 2022 budget be accepted by the PCC and this was seconded by Helen. The vote was unanimous and Frank thanked Brian for his work.

6. PCC policy review update

Keith asked how members were getting on with their policy reviews.

Mike said that little needed changing in the Complaints and Whistleblowing Policy and proposed that it be adopted.

Christopher seconded this and the vote was unanimous.

Ben asked that the Data Protection and Privacy Policy and the Finance Policy, both be carried over to the meeting on 30th November.

Helen said that she would circulate the Conflict-of-Interest Policy.

Antony commented that there would only be a couple of small amendments to the Health and Safety Policy.

7. Communications

Keith wanted to share with the meeting that he didn't always feel that the PCC communicated well with the congregation. He commented that the response to the subject of live-streaming has been tremendous.

- **Communication Group's proposals for the welcome screen and notice board**

It was noted that the mission board would need to be moved from behind the font and that a faculty would be needed in order for this to happen.

The question of security was raised but members were told the screen would be firmly fixed through the wall.

Quite where the mission board would be moved to was not finally decided.

A proposal was put forward on behalf of Jane Tyrer that a welcome board would be installed in church, behind the font, at eye level.

Frank proposed, Antony seconded and this was passed. 10 people voted in favour. There was 1 abstention.

Communication Group's proposal for the notice board by the gate to be glass fronted. The request was for approval in principle. At this point Keith thanked Ben Brice for the quality of the posters on the notice boards in the porch and at the bottom of the drive.

Keith, on behalf of Jane Tyrer, proposed that the Communications Group be allowed to get quotes for the board. The vote in favour was unanimous.

- **Commonwealth war graves**

In her absence, Julia requested a resolution from the committee that would allow her to arrange for a notice to be placed on the railings in front of the notice board. It was noted that no money was involved.

A question was raised as to whether the railings actually belonged to the church or the National Trust. It was agreed that Julia should talk to the National Trust and the issue would be revisited on 30th November.

Frank proposed that the resolution be agreed subject to a favourable discussion with the Trust. Antony seconded this and the vote was unanimous.

8. AOB

- **Live-Streaming - The way forward**

Keith paid tribute to the technical team who were able to provide streamed services so very quickly at the beginning of the first lockdown. When the church building was closed, live-streaming provided connection and comfort to the community. Since Easter Day when the church reopened Keith described the situation as a 'mixedeconomy.'

The vast majority of comments and responses from the congregations had been hugely in favour of continuing with live-streaming. The musicians from all services had not really been consulted, nor had their opinions been taken into account.

Keith said that he saw the purpose of streaming services as being mission.

Antony commented that for him, streaming showed a flexible, modern and accommodating church.

Views were offered on both sides of the argument and Frank said that he recognised that the situation had caused some people great hurt. Members wanted it noted that they understood that the way live-streaming had been dealt with had indeed created much upset and a difficult and fraught situation.

Keith told the committee that he had decided that the Christmas Day services would not be streamed but the service of 9 lessons and carols would be.

Ben offered apologies to the PCC from the technical team. He then stated that there were possible safeguarding issues that needed addressing. Ben proposed that live-streaming should be suspended at this time and Brian seconded this. 9 people voted in favour. There was 1 abstention and 1 vote against.

Thinking about the next meeting, Helen agreed to be responsible for refreshments.

Keith asked David to close the meeting in prayer.

The meeting ended at 10.22 pm.

ACTIONS

- **Susan to contact Roger regarding photos.**
- **Julia to contact the National Trust about the use of the railings.**
- **Members to review policies if this has not yet been done.**

Susan Brice (PCC Secretary)

17th November 2021