

# Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30 pm in Church House

## Present

Clergy: Helen Peters, Tracey Jones (TJ)  
Lay Reader: David Tester  
Churchwardens: Julia Grant, Frank Hawkins  
Elected: Janet Booth, Clare Godfrey (Lay Chair for this meeting), Arthur Johnson,  
Brian Morley, Antony Rippon, Mark Sherrington (arrived at 7.50 pm)  
Secretary: Susan Brice

### **1. Opening Worship**

Prayers were offered by Helen and Clare

### **2. Apologies**

Mike Hill, Ben Sharp, Christopher Tyrer

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

There were 2 amendments to the original minutes. A further paragraph that will be inserted in the Treasurer's Report and more details regarding the new bench in the churchyard will be added. The revised minutes will then be given to Clare (as lay chair) to sign.

### **4. Matters Arising not on the agenda**

Frank told the PCC that the Churchwardens had discussed the wooden bench in the churchyard with the Freemasons and they were waiting for a useful response. If this was not forthcoming then the bench would be removed. If it were to remain then TJ pointed out that a faculty would be needed.

Helen requested that this matter waited until Keith had returned.

### **5. Request for motorised wheelchair**

Helen reported that the matter of making the slope up to church accessible for older people had been discussed with the pastoral team, particularly with Penny Austin with regard to members of the Friendship Morning.

Brian Clarke had researched the sort of vehicles that were available and might be suitable. Helen said that Friendship morning would be consulted and would be able try out a vehicle before any decisions were made.

Standing Committee had considered the need to remove one pew at the back of the north aisle in order to store and charge any such chair/vehicle.

It was noted that a lock would be required and that the problem of entry to the church needed to be resolved first.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

Brian reported that at present there was £44,123 in the current account and £188,950 in the savings account. £16,570 had been reclaimed in VAT from the Belltower project.

A discussion took place regarding heating costs and electricity bills. Brian commented that oil is not the same problem cost wise as gas. He told the PCC that the internal lighting would cost £22,600 and that external lighting would not be replaced at this time.

The cost of a new part time youth worker is expected to be £8,000. The Standing Committee had been looking at ways to mitigate a £47,000 potential deficit next year with the aim of becoming financially self-sufficient.

The Parish Share was discussed and it was noted that Brian expected this to increase in 2023. However, there was general agreement that it should be paid in full to support poorer churches. Receiving sufficient funds through standing orders to cover the Parish Share would be the aim.

Helen commented that the Eco Group would like a heat survey of the church done, particularly as the Oxford Diocese wishes to be net zero by 2030.

## **7. Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee has been monitoring finance. It was noted that LED lighting had not been acceptable for external lighting. The internal lighting project could be completed by Christmas. The PCC voted unanimously that this work be undertaken.

Thanks were expressed to Helen and TJ for all their work during the Vicar's sabbatical and also for the services on the Sunday following the Queen's death.

Frank reported that he had completed the report to the Charity Commission.

## **8. Vision**

Helen told the PCC that she had not had the time to move forward with this work due to the extra responsibilities of the sabbatical.

## **9. High Leigh weekend**

Frank reported that 54 people including 10 children were going on the High Leigh weekend. He said he was planning to arrange activities on-site rather than requiring people to drive out.

## **10. Alpha**

Frank said that there were 6 candidates for the course so far.

## **11. Churchwardens' matters**

Julia Grant proposed the installation of swift boxes in the Belltower as part of the church's environmental initiatives. The PCC were supportive and voted unanimously in favour. They asked her to detail the work and make the necessary faculty application.

Frank Hawkins has had a request from Richard Peters to address the disabled access into the church. The threshold step into the church is so worn that the ramp lines up only at the

edges. There was one instance where the ramp slipped and there was a risk of his mother being tipped out of her electric wheelchair.

Richard has discussed this with the contractors who undertook the belltower works; we can replace the threshold stone and replace the existing cracked paving on the approach. The new paving would be laid on the incline such that there is no step. The PCC was supportive. Frank made the proposal and Brian seconded it. The committee voted unanimously in favour. They asked Frank to detail the works with Richard and to make the necessary faculty application.

Julia commented that the Parish Council had funds for which we could apply. Frank had told the PCC that the cost would be in the region of £6,000. Helen said that, 'accessibility is justice not charity.'

Julia said that there was interest from the village community in linking up with the Friendship Morning.

It was said that new signs were needed for the car park and it had been agreed with the National Trust that disabled signs could be displayed.

## **12. Clergy Matters**

TJ told the PCC that contact had been made with Hughenden Gardens Village to run a communion service once a month. As this is in the parish of All Saints, High Wycombe permission was sought and received from the clergy there.

TJ also reported on her Pilgrim Project: Welcoming A Stranger. She asked for PCC permission to have the new prayer leaflet printed and it was agreed unanimously to do a print run of 500.

Permission was also given to buy up to 100 china mugs to be used for coffee after the 11.00 am services on Sundays and Tuesdays. These would replace disposable cups.

Helen notified the committee that an advert had been completed for a part time youth worker, working 12 hours a week. There was a unanimous vote in favour of advertising this post.

## **13. Electoral Roll**

There was nothing to report.

## **14. AOB**

Julia said that not enough people had yet undertaken the safeguarding courses.

David told the PCC about the chosen Christmas Charities. (See the mission report circulated to members.) The committee unanimously voted in favour of the 5 charities who will receive money from the Christmas collections. Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal, Ebenezer Childrens Centre in Uganda, Wycombe Homeless Connection, Wycombe Womens Aid, Ukraine 2 Chiltern.

Discussion took place about how people can give but decisions will be left until Keith returns.

Clare asked TJ to close in prayer.

The meeting finished at 9.22 pm.

## **ACTIONS**

- **Standing Committee to move ahead with internal lighting project, with the aim for completion by Christmas.**
- **Julia to detail work for swift boxes in the belltower and to make the necessary faculty application.**
- **Frank to detail work regarding the entrance step of the church and to liaise with Richard Peters regarding the necessary faculty application.**
- **TJ to buy 100 mugs to replace disposable cups.**
- **Helen to place job advert regarding part-time Youth Worker.**

Susan Brice (PCC Secretary)

14<sup>th</sup> September 2022