

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 19th January 2023 at 7.30 pm in Church House

Present

Clergy: Keith Johnson, Helen Peters
Lay Reader: David Tester
Churchwardens: -
Elected: Clare Godfrey, Mike Hill, Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley,
Antony Rippon, Ben Sharp, Christopher Tyrer
Secretary: Susan Brice

1. Opening Worship

Prayers were offered by Helen Peters

2. Apologies

Frank Hawkins, Julia Grant, Janet Booth, Mark Sherrington.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 17th November

Keith offered thanks to Helen, TJ, the Churchwardens and Clare for their support during his sabbatical and subsequent illness.

The minutes were accepted without change or amendment.

4. Matters arising not on the agenda

The PCC gave permission for another Flower Festival to be held on the August Bank Holiday weekend 2023 and also for The Stations of the Cross to be displayed in the church during Lent.

The state of ladders and stepladders belonging to the church was discussed and Antony agreed to move this forward.

Thanks were offered to Roy and Denise Barrow for their many years of decorating the Christmas tree.

5. Treasurer's Report

Brian gave thanks to Mike Morgan for his help with the accounts.

Thanks was made for the large donation from a parishioner which will possibly cover the cost of the lighting project. There has also been a sizeable donation which will pay for the new projector. There have been two generous legacies given to the church.

Brian commented that the cash collection and the offerings at gift day had both been higher than anticipated whilst the bills for electricity and heating oil were much lower than expected. The surplus at the end of the year would be in the region of £32,000.

Discussion took place about whether we should try through advertising and marketing to encourage more weddings at our church. The income from weddings was high last year (over £10,000) but looked to be much less in 2023. It was agreed that our presence at wedding fairs etc. was not appropriate.

Christopher proposed accepting the budget for 2023, Clare seconded this and the PCC were unanimously in favour.

- **Standing Committee**

It had been decided to hold off on creating a reserves policy until it was clear what funds would be required for vision projects.

Several people disagreed with this approach and the Standing Committee was asked to consider it again.

Expenses for speakers was discussed and it was agreed that £30 was a reasonable sum.

£100 is given to charities whose representatives come to speak and expenses are offered.

The PCC amended the policy written by the Standing Committee for visiting speakers.

A question had been asked about the lighting project. The PCC had approved the need for the lighting to be upgraded but it appears they have never been told or shown any plan for what is going to happen. The minutes from passed meetings show this to be so. The Standing Committee were asked to look at this again.

6. Vision Update

Keith proposed an extra PCC meeting on Thursday 23rd February at 7.30 pm to focus on Vision.

7. Vicar's Matter's

Keith said that, in a service on Sunday 29th January, there would be a special thank you to David Cornwall who has stepped down as Tower Captain after a period of 50 years.

Local fees were looked at and the 10% increase set by the diocese was accepted with the exception of the bellringers and the heating costs.

Thanks were offered to Andrew Cole and Dave Carroll for their efforts in getting the pot holes filled in on the church drive.

The Bellringers have asked for a defibrillator to be placed in the porch, as a provision under health and safety. They have offered to fund half of the cost.

It was noted that a power supply would be needed and that this would be an extra cost. The PCC agreed in principle to cover 50% of an amount in the region of £1,500. Ben Sharp agreed to contact Lionel Erasmus regarding the need for electricity in the porch.

Christopher Tyrer proposed moving ahead with this project, Ben Sharp seconded the motion and the PCC voted in favour. There was one abstention.

Helen told the PCC that there had been no applications for the advertised job of part time youth worker. She had then discussed with Wycombe Youth for Christ as to a possible way forward and had been advised to look within her own congregation. Polly and Andy Spanring have agreed to lead the youth work on a voluntary basis and Helen said that a meeting had been arranged with them to include the young people and their parents.

Helen went on to talk about the Hughenden Village Day on 15th July. Help was needed. After some discussion Antony agreed to put together a team to run the bar for the day. Christopher offered help. Helen said she would attend the meeting of the organising committee.

8. Churchwardens' Matters

Julia had circulated notes and plans about a tree survey that had been undertaken in the churchyard. She wanted PCC agreement to get quotes from tree surgeons to undertake the necessary work.

Christopher proposed that we move forward with this project and Antony seconded the motion. The PCC agreed unanimously.

9. PCC subgroups

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10. Parish Safeguarding

Roger Grant had provided Keith with a sheet to be circulated at the meeting to confirm who had completed online safeguarding training modules CO (basic awareness) and C1 (Foundation) and the date of completion.

Roger had informed the PCC that more people needed to undertake the Safer Recruitment course, particularly those who might sit on church interviewing panels. Keith said that he thought he should do this course, as well as the Churchwardens.

11. Electoral Roll

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12. AOB

Mike Hill, on behalf of the eco team, talked about the Church of England's target to be Net Zero Carbon by 2030. He thought that our response to this should be part of the PCC's vision plan. The problem of the boiler needed to be faced and seriously considered. It was agreed this should be on the agenda for the March meeting.

It was questioned as to why polystyrene cups were used for the mulled wine after the nine lessons and carols service when the church has a large amount of ceramic mugs and wine glasses. At a previous meeting the PCC had agreed not to use disposable cups at church events.

Ben finished in prayer and the meeting closed at 10.02 pm

ACTIONS

- **Keith: To send thank you card to Roy and Denise Barrow for their many years of decorating the church Christmas tree.**
- **Antony: To look into the state of the ladders and stepladders in the church and to ascertain the needs of the people who have to use them.**
- **Keith: To write a thank you note to the parishioner who had given a substantial donation to the church.**
- **Ben: To contact Lionel Erasmus regarding the installation of the defibrillator and to report back to the PCC.**
- **Keith and Helen: To sort an appropriate thank you to David Cornwall for his 50 years as Tower Captain.**
- **Frank: To find an acceptable auditor for the accounts and be able to name him/her at the APCM in March.**

Susan Brice (PCC Secretary)
20th January 2023