

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 9th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in Church House

Present

Clergy: Keith Johnson, Helen Peters
Lay Reader: David Tester
Churchwardens: Julia Grant, Frank Hawkins
Elected: Janet Booth, Clare Godfrey, Mike Hill, Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley,
Antony Rippon, Ben Sharp, Mark Sherrington
Secretary: Susan Brice

1. Opening worship

Keith opened in prayer

2. Apologies

Christopher Tyrer

3. Minutes of the meetings held on 19th January and on 23rd February

The minutes were accepted with two amendments.

4. Matters arising not on the agenda

Frank told the committee about the church lighting, commenting that we now have a faculty and so can complete the project of installing new LED lighting with a control box that would need to go in the vestry. This will be a flexible system which is currently going into many churches. Locally, Holy Trinity Prestwood and St Mary's Princes Risborough are examples that could be visited. It is thought that the installation could happen in April, although there still seems to be some problems with suppliers. Helen commented that it would be best to aim for after Easter, to avoid work going on in Holy Week. Frank said he thought the whole undertaking would come in at under £24,000.

Keith said that the General Synod had amended the local fees that had been previously set last summer, making them lower in light of the cost-of-living situation. Arthur and Keith will meet to discuss this.

Helen told the members that St Michael and All Angels will run the bar at Hughenden Village Day on 15th July this year. Antony asked if we were also going to be involved in Napfest on 10th June. Keith said he would consider this.

Julia told the meeting that Eco meetings, including a walk around the churchyard, had been successfully taking place. A quiet area was being considered, possibly behind the

yew tree. Frank asked if the garden could be nearer the entrance to the churchyard to encourage more visitors. Julia said this would be discussed at the next meeting of the eco group. Helen asked for a feasibility study to take place to show the heat loss in the church. Frank said he would move forward with this suggestion.

It was commented that a qualified accountant was presently going through the accounts and a certified examiner would be able to be announced at the APCM. Frank also commented that a skills audit of the whole church family would be beneficial.

(9. This item was inserted early to allow Ben Sharp to leave straight afterwards.)

Please see Ben's report on filming within the church grounds.

Ben said he had investigated this as an extra source of income during difficult financial times. It was agreed that in any situation, church services and church groups would come first. There was a need to discuss with the National Trust with regard to car parking and access. Ben proposed that the Communications Group be asked to develop wording and images for the website and other suitable film industry databases, promoting the Church, Church House and grounds as a filming location. The PCC agreed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Brian said that £3,048 had been raised and dispersed for charities over Christmas.

The new projector work was completed and paid for by contributions.

After the break in and vandalism, an insurance claim was put in for the damage done to the Church House roof. This has now been repaired.

Brian commented that the parish share had risen to £81,465 and we should be aiming to pay this through regular giving.

A discussion took place about when to ask new people to commit to regular giving through direct debits. A welcome pack created by the Communications Group was considered and Keith confirmed that he would talk about 'giving' at the combined service and the APCM.

Brian told the PCC that there was £78,000 in the current account.

6. Vision Update

(See terms of reference that have already been circulated.)

The committee thought that outcomes and mid- and long-term objectives should be made clear to new members of the two groups. It was important that people should not feel constrained by financial implications. It was agreed that the Eco group should be part of the Buildings and Facilities group. The Community group should be concerned with church in the community and the community within the church. It was important to be present and to serve.

It was proposed from the chair that the terms of reference be accepted and Helen and Keith be able to make choices with regard to the members of their group. This was agreed unanimously.

7. Vicar's Matters

Keith talked about the earthquake areas of Turkey and Syria and what our financial response should be. It was suggested that the church give £1000 to a charity that can specifically target Syria: Embrace the Middle East. Helen proposed this donation be made and Mark was the seconder. The vote was unanimous.

8. Churchwardens' Matters

Julia informed the PCC that the National Trust would soon provide new car parking notices. Mark said the silver posts in the car parking were a problem and asked if they could be removed. Julia said this was unlikely to happen as she thought the original overhead barrier would be replaced when planning issues were resolved. Julia said she would talk further to the National Trust.

Frank informed the committee about the situation after the break in to the North Room. Claims have been submitted for £15,000 for the church and £2,100 for Church House. The loss adjuster has visited. The items in the North Room were not covered as the burglar alarm was not working and so we were not compliant with the insurance policy. The insurers have agreed to pay half the cost of a new carpet. The brass cross has been repaired at our expense. Frank told the members that we will now pay a small amount extra on our insurance policy in order to function without an alarm.

3 out of 7 of the floodlights were damaged and will now have LED replacements.

It was noted that our policy has a £250 excess on each property.

It was agreed that the curtains in the North Room would be taken down and not replaced.

Frank commented that in future the Churchwardens and the treasurer need to be clear about the contents of our insurance policy so that we can ensure we are compliant.

It was agreed that there should be an urgent meeting with the clergy, Churchwardens and Arthur to discuss ways to ensure his safety.

The matter of the defibrillator was considered further with the suggestion that it be placed at the bottom of the drive near the noticeboard. A source of electricity would have to be acquired it was noted. Frank agreed to do some costings and report back at the May meeting.

The damaged stained glass in the nave window needs a faculty in order to be repaired. It was suggested that at the time of assessment we try to find out about the heat loss that occurs through each stained-glass window.

9. (Already covered earlier in the minutes.)

10. Proposed purchase of Marquee Tent

The information regarding this was circulated on 15th February. There was one strong disagreement and all the other comments were in favour.

It was agreed that the Toddler Group would use this tent as would the Friendship Group and possibly the MU. However, others thought it might inhibit the flexibility of the MU garden and change the nature of the space.

Janet Booth agreed to talk to the MU committee about this and the subject would be revisited at the May meeting.

11. PCC subgroups

Antony referred to his report about ladder safety, for which Keith thanked him.

He commented that we need to approach ladder safety with the same seriousness as is required of employers. There are questions to be considered: Do we need a list of those competent to use a ladder? Should there be an age limit for users? Do we need people to attend a relevant course?

The PCC agreed to implement numbers 1-5 of Antony's report and to take note of numbers 6-8.

The temperature of the second grill in the north aisle should be assessed and a different home for the tall flower stands should be considered.

There were no further PCC subgroup reports.

12. Deanery and Diocesan Synods

The secretary apologised that the Deanery report had not been sent out and assured Mike that this would quickly happen.

Keith was looking at the Diocesan synod work and said that there was discussion about the project titled: 'Living in love and faith.' He also told the PCC that the terms of reference for Christ Church Cathedral Oxford would be looked at after a particularly difficult and turbulent time in the life of the cathedral.

13. Parish Safeguarding

There was nothing to report.

14. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is now closed until after the forthcoming APCM. It was noted that there was an encouraging number of new people now on the roll.

15. AOB

None.

Keith closed the meeting at 10.27 pm

ACTIONS:

- **Keith and Arthur will meet to discuss the amendment of local fees.**
- **Keith will decide upon our involvement in Napfest in June.**
- **Frank will find a way to move forward with an assessment and feasibility study regarding heat loss in the church.**
- **The Standing Committee will consider ways to give to the Church and ways of approaching people on this subject.**
- **Keith to talk to Jane T regarding possible welcome pack and material for advertising church as possible filming location.**
- **Churchwardens to check insurance policy, thinking about the availability of candles and matches when the church is empty.**
- **Frank will cost the electricity supply for the defibrillator and report to the May meeting.**
- **The Clergy, Churchwardens and Arthur will meet urgently to discuss safety issues.**
- **Janet will talk to the MU committee about the MU garden and the proposed marquee.**

Susan Brice (PCC Secretary)

11th March 2023