

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 4th May 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, Andrew Cole, Clare Godfrey, Arthur Johnson,
Brian Morley, Ben Sharp
Secretary: Susan Brice

1. Opening Worship

Keith and Helen opened with prayer and an informal communion.

2. Apologies

Mike Hill, Anthony Rippon, Mark Sherrington

3. Appointments

PCC Treasurer: Brian Morley

PCC Secretary: Susan Brice

Standing Committee:

Chair: Frank Hawkins

Julia Grant, Clare Godfrey, Keith Johnson, Brian Morley, Ben Sharp

Electoral Roll and Assistant Treasurer: Arthur Johnson

Parish Safeguarding: Roger Grant

PCC Deputy Chair: Clare Godfrey

An early meeting after the APCM of 2024 is needed to make appointments.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th March 2023

The minutes were approved without amendments.

5. Matters arising not on the agenda.

Helen told the PCC that Lucy Rippon was happy to take the lead in representing the church at Napfest in June.

The MU were happy about the acquiring of a marquee for the MU garden but they were concerned about the protecting and storing of the marquee. It was commented that the toddler group was thriving but it was decided to leave further decisions to the vision groups.

The Communications group has produced the required work needed to advertise the church as a possible film location.

6. Treasurer's Report including Standing Committee minutes

Brian said that a small amount of people have increased their standing orders and he commented that the welcome pack will show the congregation how to give.

There have been three legacies given to the restricted funds for the organ, the bells and the MU overseas fund.

£29,000 had been received through gift aid.

In expenditure, £1,000 was sent to Embrace the Middle East, the salaries of the parish administrator, the organist and the vergers were increased and £12,600 of lighting equipment was purchased.

Brian told the PCC that there was £85,000 in the current account at present.

Standing Committee

Frank said that the kitchen window had been repaired in Church Cottage and all the guttering replaced. DAC approval was needed for the stained-glass window artist who would deal with the damaged window in the nave.

The PCC was told that the church would be closed on 25th and 26th May. This will allow the new carpet to be laid in the North Room and the new lighting to be installed. Derek Brown is repairing the door between the North Room and the North Chapel. The outside lights are to be replaced, three of them being paid for through insurance. Lionel will be asked to investigate getting power to the noticeboard area ready to be used for the defibrillator.

The Standing Committee had considered the thoughts of Sylvia Clark regarding the state of the two toilets. There are some things which will be purchased immediately and others which will form part of the Vision group discussions. Keith will respond to Sylvia.

The Church House door will be repaired and painted.

The Standing Committee will get a quote for having new locks for the North Room doors.

Regarding the new noticeboard at the bottom of the drive, Frank proposed that the project go ahead and Ben seconded this. The vote was unanimous. Derek Brown will undertake the work which will cost £1,692.

7. Vicar's Matters

Much discussion took place regarding our need for a new youth and children's worker. There had been no applicants for the previous advertisement and questions were asked as to whether the job description needed to be re-worked, whether more hours and money should be offered and whether we were sure exactly what we wanted a youth worker to do. Should their role be mainly outreach and community work or are we looking for someone to work more within the church?

It was commented that there were lots of children in Bubbles and also in the toddler group, but not in church. The worry is that the church will not grow if we are unable to find and employ the right person.

Keith said that he and Helen would meet to pray and discuss this matter and Ben agreed to meet with Helen to look at the job description if she wished.

8. Churchwardens' Matters

Julia reported that she and Geoff Lovell had met with the National Trust with regard to the car park. Boards showing that a wedding or funeral is taking place will be available soon. Julia said that there would be an Eco report at the next PCC meeting.

There was discussion about an environment policy. There is such a policy on display in the porch and on the website but Julia said she would look into the need for it to be updated. Julia went on to talk about the trees in the graveyard and whether work needed to be done on any of them.

9. Church House toilet (proposal from Sylvia Clark)

The discussion about the church toilets had taken place within the Treasurer's and Standing Committee's report.

10. PCC subgroups

Napfest will be added to the Social and Outreach list.

11. PCC members responsibilities

Keith agreed to list these responsibilities and talk to each member before it was finalised.

(Clare Godfrey left at 9.40 pm)

12. Parish Safeguarding

It was agreed to see if this policy needed updating.

13. Electoral Roll

One new entry was noted.

14. AOB

Keith wanted to share that he and Helen had been to Deanery Synod at All Saints, Marlow. He noted that sharing the fire had been exciting and encouraging to all who were there.

Helen commented that she had visited Mary Harris on her 100th birthday.

Keith commended the Wycombe Deanery website to the meeting.

Helen agreed to do refreshments at the July meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.42 pm

ACTIONS:

Carried over from the last minutes

- **Keith and Arthur will meet to discuss the amendment of local fees.**
- **Frank will find a way to move forward with an assessment and feasibility study regarding heat loss in the church.**
- **Keith to talk to Jane Tyrer about a possible welcome pack.**
- **The Clergy, Churchwardens and Arthur will meet urgently to discuss safety issues.**

From the May meeting

- **Keith will respond to Sylvia regarding her proposals about the church toilets.**
- **Frank will get a locksmith quote for work on the two North Room doors.**
- **Keith and Helen will meet regarding the youth worker.**
- **Keith will move forward with PCC member responsibilities.**

Susan Brice (PCC secretary)

6th May 2023