

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7.30 pm in Church House

Present

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

Roger Grant was present for part of the meeting.

1. Opening Worship

Keith opened in prayer using Matthew chapter 9.

2. Apologies

David Tester

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2023

The minutes were approved without amendment and were signed by the Vicar.

4. Matters Arising not on the agenda

Julia told the PCC that the disabled parking signs were now available from the National Trust but the provision of the other signs was still ongoing.

With regard to the January break in, Keith told the PCC that the matter was still to be concluded as the burglary indictment continued to be disputed.

A Quinquennial Inspector has been engaged with the cost of the inspection being met by the Deanery.

Helen remarked that a new gazebo would be needed next summer and it was agreed that this should be purchased in January.

Regarding the actions listed in the July minutes, it was commented that the heat loss audit was in hand and relevant safety issues would be discussed.

5. Parish Safeguarding

Roger Grant, the Safeguarding Officer, was at the meeting to give this presentation. He left straight afterwards.

Roger commented that safeguarding was everyone's responsibility, not just his and that how safe and healthy the culture of our church was could be said to be Gospel work.

Roger had previously sent out an exercise to the PCC for them to consider. Based on this there were 3 discussion groups formed that reported back to the PCC after 10 minutes talking time. These thoughts and views would be used by Roger to form a report, detailing where we are currently with this work.

Keith commented that leadership and approachability were vital in this situation.

Roger pointed out that the Safeguarding policy will have to be reviewed at the next PCC meeting in November.

Keith thanked Roger for his work on safeguarding.

6. Youth and Children's Worker

Frank led the PCC through the considerable work done by a small group to put together material that will be used to make a funding application to the diocese towards the cost of employing a full time Youth and Families Minister. This document will also be utilised when writing the job description for the above post.

James Wood, the diocesan youth advisor, is happy that this work will be useful and is on the right lines. Frank shared with the PCC that the application for funding has to be submitted by 31st October. Bearing this in mind, copies of the relevant document will be sent to every PCC member and they are all invited to send comments and questions to Frank.

An extra PCC meeting will take place on Tuesday 10th October for the Committee to agree the application. This will be at 7.30 pm in Church House.

A spreadsheet was put up on the screen showing the financial implications of this appointment. A grant of £61,000 will be required.

The additional cost to the PCC over 3 years will be £34,000. This is over and above money already allowed for this work.

Keith thanked the group for putting this document together.

7. Progress reports from Vision Working Groups

Helen had nothing to report.

Keith said the next meeting of his buildings and facilities group would be on Tuesday 26th September. He was aware that a firmer idea of what was planned, building wise, was needed before diocesan help could be sought.

8. Treasurers Report

Brian reported that whilst the income from standing orders and yellow envelopes was down, the amount of cash coming in was greater than expected.

As things stood, the parish share will not be covered by the standing orders.

However, our current financial position puts us in a good position to apply for grants.

Standing Committee

Frank reported that the lighting will hopefully be completed whilst the church is closed.

Quotes have been sought for exterior decoration of Church House.

The National Trust has agreed to a trench being dug which will allow power to be taken to the area of the notice board at the bottom of the drive. This will facilitate the installation of a defibrillator.

The Standing Committee felt that the creation of a Friends Group that could have a simple, straightforward foundation and involve the community would be a valuable asset to the church.

Frank commented that the Standing Committee would discuss ways in which the congregation could be encouraged to give monetarily.

9. Vicar's Matters

Keith asked Helen to comment on her forthcoming sabbatical, April to June 2024. Helen said that this period of time would include rest as well as walking another stretch of the Welsh Coastal Pathway, a 15-day silent retreat at a Jesuit Centre and Ignatius spiritual exercises. She also planned to do some writing on the position of same sex relationships within the Church of England.

Helen commented that her husband Richard would also be stepping back at that time to visit other churches and follow an interest in Christians in politics.

Helen said that she would be taking the already arranged wedding in May 2024.

The PCC agreed to give Helen £500 towards the costs of the sabbatical. This was proposed by Frank and seconded by Brian. The PCC agreed unanimously.

10. Churchwardens' Matters

Julia reported that she had held an Eco Church and Gardening meeting. She said there had been anxiety over the small number of people now involved in the mowing. It was suggested that there be a gardening morning on Saturday 14th October, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm, possibly followed by a barbecue.

11. PCC Subgroups

i. Mission

Keith said he was speaking for David Tester, who was unwell.

Prayer was needed for the Cables and their current situation in Jaffa. David had previously sent out information to the PCC regarding any communication with the Cables.

The Mission Group asked for PCC agreement to their choice of Christmas charities:

- Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Wycombe Homeless Connection
- One Can Trust

The committee gave unanimous agreement.

ii. Social and Outreach

Antony commented that the group needs more people who are willing to lead an event. There are many who are happy to support and help.

The summer barbecue was very successful, catering for about 70 people.

The quiz night is coming up and the planning for Burns Night is well underway.

12. Deanery and Diocesan Report

Diocesan Synod has not met since the last meeting.

Deanery Synod

The Synod met at Holy Trinity, Lane End on 18th July 2023 when the theme was 'Next Generation.' This is one of 5 priorities in the Deanery Plan and it was introduced by the Area Dean Dave Bull who explained that we aimed to encourage the next generation to maturity in Christ. Guest speakers included youth workers from Loudwater and St. Andrew's Churches.

Keith went onto to say that Anthony Searle had been appointed the team leader at All Saints, High Wycombe, Fiona Ellingham to Little Marlow and Andy Storch to the Hambleden Valley team.

Lastly Keith informed the PCC that the diocese has created a new system for calculating the parish share. The Deanery Treasurer Nigel Peach will be talking to treasurers soon.

13. Electoral Roll

Nothing to report

14. AOB

The fire in the North Chapel was discussed and a small group was formed to decide if our policies and assessments need to be altered.

Keith asked Mike to close in prayer and the meeting was closed at 9.57 pm

Susan Brice (PCC secretary)

22nd September 2023