

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

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

Present

Clergy:	Keith Johnson
Lay Reader:	David Tester
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

1. Opening Worship

Keith opened in prayer using Psalms 91 and 100. He reflected on the nature of good and evil and our need to pray for God's love and protection.

2. Apologies

Helen Peters

3. Minutes of the meetings held on 21st September and 10th October.

Both sets of minutes were agreed without amendment.

4. Matters arising not on the agenda

There were no matters arising from either meeting.

5. Progress reports from Vision Working Groups

Community Group

It was reported that the application for diocesan funding had been sent in by email and by hard copy, (for the children's minister.) In this instance it was pointed out that the term 'children' includes all those under 18.

Frank noted that there was no guarantee of money at this point but we should hear from the diocese by the end of this year.

It was agreed that there would be a need for volunteer teams to be trained and developed alongside the appointed Children's Minister.

Buildings and Facilities Working Group

Keith told the PCC that the group last met on 26th September and had outlined a possible new church extension, which was then displayed on the screen.

Discussion took place regarding disabled access and how a first-floor room might be utilised, thinking about the needs of the toddler group in particular. The idea of a new purpose-built church was put forward as a way of better serving the community but there was quite a strong feeling that we needed to come forward with short-and medium-term plans for creating better facilities in the church as it is now.

The necessity to remove the leylandii tree in the churchyard was considered and then it was agreed to try and include it in future building plans as this would be more financially economical.

Frank expressed a need to now bring the two vision groups together in order to move forward. It was agreed that this should happen after Christmas.

Keith asked how the PCC would like the Buildings Group to advance with their plans. It was decided that each group should create a statement of need. Antony and Ben said that this statement would emanate from prioritised outcomes.

6. Treasurer's Report and Standing Committee

Brian told the committee that the bankers orders are running below our needs, with standing orders £5,000 less than last year. One-off donations have been helpful over the last 12 months. There have also been bequests from Jean Evans and John and Gloria Holmes. There have also been fewer weddings and funerals.

It was noted that we are not sending money to support the restoration of St Peter's Anglican Church in Jaffa, due to that project being on hold. Our regular giving to the Cables via CMS does continue.

There was discussion about ways of encouraging people to give to the church. Antony suggested saying to congregations that if they were unable to give monetarily, they might consider offering their time.

The PCC agreed to all charitable donations being undertaken by David and the Mission Support Group. We give 10% of the expected outcome of the year. Thus, this includes standing orders and yellow envelopes.

Brian referred to previous discussion about the setting up of a Friends of Hughenden Church group. Frank agreed but commented that we needed to find someone who was prepared to set it up and oversee it.

The PCC approved the replacement of the bearings of the church bells.

The 2024 budget was put before the PCC. It was proposed by Antony, seconded by Arthur and then was accepted unanimously.

In offering the Standing Committee minutes to the PCC, Frank suggested acquiring a mobile card device for the church.

The request by Christopher Tyrer for permission to plant a mature tree in either the MU Garden or the churchyard was granted by the Standing Committee and the PCC.

Thanks were offered to Ben Sharp who is stepping down from the Standing Committee.

There will be a Gift Day on Sunday 3rd December 2023. Discussion took place about giving more notice of Gift Days and it was agreed that the Standing Committee would decide on the date of the next one at their upcoming meeting in the new year.

Frank informed the PCC that the lighting will be completed in November.

Commenting on the ceiling plaster problems within the church, various solutions had been offered and a quote of approximately £15,000 had been given for work on the whole ceiling including the North Aisle.

7. Accident on Church Path

Frank confirmed that a report had been written for this accident and also that Ben Sharp had written a report for the accident concerning ceiling plaster falling on Andy Collard.

It was wondered whether the congregations knew where the first aid boxes were and where the fire extinguishers were placed. Some discussion took place as to how we could improve this situation.

8. Fire Safety Report

Thanks were given to Mike who had written a report of the fire in the North Chapel during the Flower Festival at the end of August.

A small subcommittee had been formed consisting of Keith, Frank, Antony and Andrew which met on 26th October.

A Fire Risk Assessment had been created. It was agreed that candles and matches would not generally be made available. Battery tea lights were considered as a possible alternative.

The assessment was put forward by Antony and was voted upon. There were 12 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

Ben suggested the fire plan be added to the policies on the church website and then periodically reviewed.

Thanks were given particularly to Andrew and Antony.

9. Vicar's Matters

Keith told the PCC that the church had been asked to provide a grotto, presents for children and a Father Christmas at the Hughenden Christmas Fair. He had said that this would not be possible as it was far too short notice.

Paul Bancroft from Frontiers had been in touch with Keith about several gravestones at Emma Grace House in Naphill. The question was asked as to whether these gravestones could be moved to the Hughenden churchyard to facilitate the selling of this deconsecrated chapel. Keith said he had asked the Archdeacon for advice.

10. Churchwardens' Matters

Julia said that the report from the Quinquennial Inspection would be available in a few weeks.

Julia went on to say the instructions for sidespeople had been rewritten and she was mindful of the fact that there might be too many responsibilities involved.

An energy audit had been applied for.

A successful eco. group meeting had been held in Church House, involving groups from several churches. Funding might be on offer for future projects.

11. PCC subgroups

Thanks were offered to Clare for her work on the social and outreach committee. She is now stepping down.

12. Deanery and Diocesan Synod

Notes have been circulated.

13. Parish Safeguarding

There was concern over some particular wording but there was a unanimous vote in favour of adopting the Safeguarding Policy which had been previously circulated to the PCC.

Keith wanted to encourage the committee to read the: Seven Minute Briefing Rev. Michael Hall Learning Review.

The Standing Committee would consider a bench half way up the church path in their January meeting.

14. Electoral Roll

Nothing to report.

15. AOB

Clare commented on the great lack of volunteers, particularly for the post 11.00 am service coffee rota. Janet agreed to personally ask people to be involved.

Keith finished in prayer and the meeting closed at 10.24 pm.

Susan Brice (Secretary)

11th November 2023