

Hughenden Parochial Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 7th March 2024 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 (Lay Chair), Mike Hill,
Arthur Johnson, Brian Morley, Ben Sharp, Mark Sherrington
Secretary: Susan Brice

1. Worship and Prayer

Clare opened in prayer.

2. Apologies

Antony Rippon

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2024

These were accepted without amendment and signed by Keith.

4. Actions from previous minutes

All the actions had been completed except for 2.

Keith said that new PCC responsibilities would be sent out after the coming APCM when there might be new PCC members.

The 2023 Gift Day total would be put into the weekly notices (10.03.24) together with the Gift Day date for 2024.

5. Matters arising not on the agenda

Roger Grant attended the meeting to provide an update on his PSO role and on our position with risk assessments. The PCC unanimously agreed to delegate responsibility to Antony to accept the necessary risk assessments. This was proposed by Frank and seconded by Mark. Thanks were given to Cliff Davies, deputy Tower Captain, for his collaborative work on this.

Mark commented that he had talked to the Fire Service and they had advised that if the church fire alarm goes off Arthur should phone 999 and not feel the need to investigate the situation himself.

It was agreed that Antony, Andrew and the Churchwardens would meet to discuss maintenance of the fire alarm system.

The PCC were told that a fire drill would happen in the near future.

6. Living in Love and Faith

Keith introduced the subject of the possibility of offering prayers within church for same sex couples and he asked for respect and tolerance as the discussion was opened up. Helen also offered her thoughts, followed by PCC members.

Several people had looked deeply into biblical passages in search of guidance on this matter and there seemed to be agreement that the New Testament teaching of love was more relevant to the church's situation today than the rigid, ancient Jewish laws of the Old Testament.

There was a tentative acceptance of this move forward, with sympathy expressed for Keith as the one on whom the final decision lies. There was more concern about the possibility of causing upset and disunity, both in Hughenden Church and also in the global Anglican Communion. Some felt that there was not, as yet, enough leadership on this, although others commended the writings of Bishops Stephen Croft and Alan Willson as being very helpful.

The discussion concluded with a feeling of agreement that everyone was considered to be a child of God and that our decisions should thus be based on inclusivity and love.

7. Treasurer's Report

This had been circulated to the PCC and there were no questions.

8. PCC Subgroups

- Mission Support Group

This report had been previously circulated and there was just one question about the giving to the Cables. David commented that through the CMS this had been substantially increased and would remain so.

- Social and Outreach Group

Frank spoke in Antony's absence. Huge thanks were offered to Julia and Roger Grant for the very successful organisation of the Burn's Night. Julia commented that £760 had been raised for church funds.

Frank said that a good range of events were planned for 2024, spread over the year.

9. Vicar's Matters

- Children and Families Minister

Keith reported that there had been 5 applications for this post, with all the candidates living overseas. 4 of the applications were not deemed to be appropriate

but the fifth candidate will be interviewed this coming week (week beginning 10th March 2024).

- **Vision Statement of Needs**

These had been circulated to the committee and Keith asked the PCC what they would like to happen now. Discussion ensued about drawing up plans, about lottery money and about drainage. Questions were asked about whether we should be aiming to do this large project in phases or in one go. Decisions were not reached but the committee was happy to go with Helen's idea of doing a space audit. Are we using the space we have in the best possible way?

Keith commented that the idea of a lottery application needed to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

- **Arthur's security**

The PCC were told that Derek Brown had installed a security light for Arthur's Cottage and a video doorbell would also be fitted shortly.

10. Churchwardens' Matters

The Standing Committee minutes were given out.

Frank read out the diocesan advice on the repairs to the nave ceiling. He then proposed that the B1 faculty application go ahead. Ben Sharp seconded this and the PCC voted in favour with one abstention.

Julia said that she had received no questions about the Quinquennial Report, (this had been circulated earlier.)

Frank said that the defibrillator project was complete and paid for.

The 2024 Gift Day had been arranged for Sunday 13th October.

Frank reported that the Standing Committee had wondered how the church could serve walkers and dog walkers in the park. There would be more discussion on this.

The dead cherry tree in the Mothers' Union Garden would be removed.

Julia said that an energy audit had been undertaken but it was not particularly helpful with ideas in the short term.

11. Deanery and Diocesan Synods

Deanery reports had been shared and thanks were offered to Mike.

The Diocesan Synod had not met.

12. Electoral Roll

There had been 1 addition to the Electoral Roll.

13. AOB

The PCC agreed to a shared lunch after the APCM on Sunday 21st April 2024.

The July PCC meeting was moved to Thursday 25th July.

Helen closed in prayer.

The meeting finished at 9.35 pm

ACTIONS

- **Clare: to put on the next agenda: Candles and also the issue of applying for lottery money.**

Susan Brice (Secretary)

8th March 2024