

Hughenden Parish Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 26th September 2024 at 7.30 pm in Church House

Present

Clergy: Rev Keith Johnson
Churchwardens: Andrew Cole
Elected: Janet Booth, Roger Grant, Mike Hill, Brian Morley, Antony Rippon,
Ben Sharp, Mark Sherrington
Secretary: Susan Brice

1. Opening Prayers

Keith opened in prayer using psalm 121.

2. Apologies

Clare Godfrey, Frank Hawkins, Rev Helen Peters, David Tester

3. Treasurer's Report

Brian reported that church giving was in line with expectations and income from weddings and funerals had increased. Expenses were higher, particularly as we were paying for cleaning. He forecast a deficit of £29,000 at the end of the year.

With respect to High Leigh, it was noted that more financial flexibility was needed from the venue and suggestions were made that a smaller facility be considered in future.

Gift Day is due to take place on Sunday 13th October and it was hoped the money raised would cover the cost of redecorating Church Cottage - PCC set a fundraising target of £10,000.

At this point Brian needed to leave the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2024

The July minutes were accepted without amendment by the PCC.

5. Actions from previous minutes

No outstanding actions.

6. Matters arising not on the agenda

Many policies now need reviewing and the task was allocated to members as follows:

- Complaints and whistle-blowing: Roger
- Environment: Mike and Julia
- Conflict of interests: Andrew
- Data protection and privacy: Keith

- Social Media: Roger
- Photographs and images: Roger
- Health and Safety: Antony

Mike commented that only about 50% of the congregation replied to the Eco Questionnaire. He said that the Eco group needs to work with the Communications group to promote Eco issues within the church.

Antony commented that we didn't know the demographics of our congregation well enough.

New furniture in the MU garden was discussed. Keith said he may be able to access the Wycombe Deanery Mission Fund to help with the costs. He would be able to apply early next year and the PCC should discuss this again in the March meeting.

Mike said that Colin and Julia would be going to a conference where they would be able to consider up to date evidence on the sources of various eco fuels.

The use of de-stratification fans within the church looks promising. In the winter with the church heating on, it is planned to do some tests.

7. Set dates for 2025 PCC meetings and the APCM.

These dates have been set and sent out to PCC members.

8. Vision

A date of 16th October has been set for the next meeting.

9. Vicar's Matters

- **Children and Families Minister**

Keith said that an official letter offering the position had been issued. We were hoping it would be accepted, with the post starting after Christmas.

- **Arthur**

Arthur has now been in Chiltern Grange for just over a month and is being well looked after.

Work is underway to clear Church Cottage.

The Eco group would like the area under the Yew Tree cleared during the Churchyard Clear-Up. There are now gravestones there. There were suggestions the area could be used as a meeting place for a JC group in good weather.

Keith said that Ben Brice had been appointed as interim Parish Administrator. Hours and responsibilities for this position would be considered further.

Keith asked that the PCC would note and receive the documents regarding lottery funding. Discussion regarding the ethics of applying for lottery funding would take place at the November PCC meeting. Ben Sharp felt an explicit question needed to be asked as to whether

the committee was in favour, in principle, of applying for lottery money. And it was noted that a majority decision from the committee would be acceptable. Would the PCC in principle be prepared to apply for and accept National Lottery Funding for future Church projects? A vote will be taken in our November meeting.

A suggestion was made that the congregation be asked for their opinions on this matter.

10. Churchwardens' Matters

The plans for the repair of the church ceiling are progressing but there are no dates available as yet.

The painting of Church House will now not take place until the spring due to the wet weather.

The current printer has come to the end of its contract and a new one will be delivered next week.

There has been rodent activity in the Church House kitchen and a pest control officer has been in.

Regarding the ideas offered by Chris Bull at the recent parish weekend, Mike asked if they could be collated in some way. It was suggested that people be asked for their best memories.

11. PCC Subgroups

A mission report had been submitted by David and then circulated.

Social and Outreach. Antony talked of a possible Otmoor visit to see a murmuration and was working on a date for the quiz.

Michael Kitching is willing to be the new social media lead.

Ben Brice would review content before it goes out.

Antony reiterated that he wondered if we knew our congregation and were doing what was needed for them.

11. B Safeguarding

Roger gave a presentation to the PCC and told them that as a church we needed to promote safeguarding and make it visible to the congregation. He was looking for a state of 'informed vigilance.'

Roger said that those involved with the crèche, the bells, JC Club, the pastoral team, toddler group and youth group all needed to have a DBS.

The PCC voted unanimously in favour of all Roger's aims.

Keith would be the named Church Officer for social media. The revised policy for this would be circulated at the November meeting.

It was agreed to review and update the Data Protection policy and to put in place an audit. Ben Sharp agreed to action this

The Diocesan Safeguarding policy was approved and adopted unanimously by PCC.

Roger commented that he needed more frequent meetings with Keith and Helen and also raised concerns about non- church activities. Roger and Ben agreed to look into this matter.

Many thanks were offered to Roger for all his work.

12. Deanery and Diocesan Synod.

Mike commented that he was now the only lay representative and as he planned to move soon, more people would be needed.

13. Electoral Roll

No report

14. AOB

- **Candles**

Should we use candles on the prayer table? This question was discussed but no decision was made. Keith said it should be discussed further at the next meeting.

- **Disraeli's Regalia**

Jane Tyrer had received a quote from the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court for approximately £1600 to clean and restore the regalia that hangs in the chancel. Keith commented that we have a responsibility for such historic artefacts within our care and the PCC agreed to underwrite the cost of the restoration. There is the possibility of accessing a grant from an organisation such as Historic Churches.

Keith told the committee that Clare Godfrey wished to stand down from the position of coffee rota organiser.

Mike said that the Eco group felt the church needed to reaffirm its commitment to being a Fairtrade church. The PCC were resolved to St Michael & All Angels being a Fairtrade church.

Keith finished in prayer and the meeting closed at 9.47 pm.

ACTIONS

- **Keith to ensure the Gift Day on 13th October is advertised.**
- **Keith to arrange with Roger for a church Safeguarding Sunday.**

Susan Brice (PCC Secretary)

27th September 2024