

Hughenden Parish Church Council

Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7.30 pm in Church House

Present

Clergy: Rev Keith Johnson, Rev Helen Peters

Churchwardens: Andrew Cole, Frank Hawkins

Elected: Janet Booth, Roger Grant, Mike Hill, Brian Morley, Antony Rippon,
Ben Sharp, Mark Sherrington, David Tester

Secretary: Susan Brice

(Colin Wilkinson had been invited to be present for this meeting due to heating discussions.)

1. Opening Prayers

Keith showed the PCC the film of the recent children's pancake party, made by Chris Coyston.

2. Apologies

Clare Godfrey. At this point Keith wanted to thank Clare for her excellent work as Lay Chair and for her time on the PCC.

Frank took the opportunity to thank David for his many years on the PCC and particularly for his commitment to the running of the Mission Group. This was David's last PCC meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2025

These were accepted without amendment and signed by Frank.

4. Actions from previous minutes

The Safer Recruitment C of E document was accepted by the committee and will be circulated to the PCC.

Keith commented that an Estate Agent had been invited to look at Church Cottage and offered an opinion that it might be able to be let at between £1700 - £1800 per month.

The faulty Bell Tower socket had been sorted.

19th July was the date fixed for a Family Fun Day to be held at the home of Liz Moseley.

An electrical inspection of the Church House buildings had been completed.

5. Matters Arising not on the agenda

No matters were declared.

6. Treasurer's Report

Brian reported a small deficit last year of £2,790. At the year-end there was £246,000 in restricted and unrestricted funds.

Adele Russell, our financial examiner and auditor, passed the finance report without any issues being raised. The accounts were approved and accepted by the PCC unanimously.

Thanks were expressed to Brian and to Mike Morgan, as well as to Adele Russell who had offered considerable help.

It was noted that the legacy we received from Kathleen Moxham's estate would be used towards the costs of Chris Coyston, our Children's and Families Minister.

7. Destratification fans and heating

Colin Wilkinson offered this presentation. The PCC were shown thermal imaging pictures of the church and how destratification fans could improve the situation whilst enabling us to continue to use our current heating system.

A time switch for the fans was considered as we have for the heating.

There was discussion about whether it was worthwhile to trial one fan? The need to test for effectiveness was agreed.

Colin and Lionel will look at the details.

We will be using warm air heating for years to come but not with HVO fuels as this would be too expensive.

It was agreed that we need to be able to show church authorities that we are aiming to be more eco-friendly in our heating provision.

Thanks were expressed to Colin for all the effort and time that he was putting into this project.

8. Vision Group update

The update was given by Ben. The group met on 9th February with a mainly Facilities and Buildings focus. They did a walk around the buildings and the whole site with Derek Brown, Kate Fulcher and Chris Coyston.

On 25th February they met again and a full and proper breakdown will be offered at the next PCC meeting.

Topics for discussion:

a) The need for a leadership team and a project leader, on the PCC or not.

Richard Peters had been approached but couldn't commit at this present time.

Antony commented that different skills were required for each part of the project. Frank said he thought we needed to look for someone with passion, aptitude and time.

Keith offered that the building contractors who did the large project at Holy Trinity, Hazlemere and are now working at St Andrew's, Hatters Lane offer the possibility of providing project management themselves.

b) The PCC needs to decide if Church Cottage should be let or not.

It was commented how very useful the cottage had been since the arrival of Chris Coyston. It has recently been utilised by Alpha, Youth and the Pancake Party.

There was unanimous PCC agreement that the cottage should not be let for the time being.

c) Emma Grace House, Naphill

Could we rent or acquire it? Probably beyond the focus of the present project.

Several suggestions were voiced about the possible use of this property.

Might the diocese buy it? Helen commented that it would make a good stipendiary curate house, enabling someone to come and train at our church. There were also ideas to use it as a youth meeting place.

At this point Keith told the committee that the national bid for youth money made by the Oxford diocese had been turned down. It had been commented that the diocese was wealthy and others were more deserving.

Thanks were offered to the Vision Team.

Antony suggested putting the Benefits Map on the screen at the APCM to show to the congregation. Antony would talk to this and offer concrete examples.

Keith said that this would fit in better with his sermon at the 10.00 am service on the APCM day, Sunday 23rd March.

9. Vicar's Matters

Keith commended the Wednesday morning team meeting to the PCC and Frank agreed it was a useful time to spend together.

The combined 10.00 am service on Sunday 24th August, the Flower Festival weekend, would also be a community service with people from the locality invited to celebrate the 150th year of our restored church. An historical display would be at the back of the church.

The Bell Tower would also offer visits up to the chamber.

Thanks were offered to Mike for relocating small trees that had been planted inappropriately within the churchyard.

It was agreed that a quote should be found for cutting down the large leylandii tree.

Mike agreed to research the situation with the yew tree. It is a listed ancient tree. Can we lop it or restrict it in some way?

Keith told the committee that Ben Brice had been put on a permanent contract as Parish Administrator and everyone was extremely happy with his work.

There was unanimous approval for a sum of £250 to be donated to a gift from the Deanery to Dave Bull, who is now the Bishop of Buckingham. The amount was proposed by Frank and seconded by Roger.

Grass cutting in the churchyard was a problem as very few people were on the rota (which is compiled by David Lowe). The Standing Committee will discuss finding a quote for professional cutting to be done.

A general difficulty with getting volunteers was discussed.

10. Churchwardens' Matters

Andrew reported that an electrical survey of all the related Church House buildings had been undertaken. A residual current device in the kitchen had been replaced. We are waiting for complete reports but the outbuildings will need considerable work and a quote will be offered for this.

Hazlemere Fire Protection have serviced all fire extinguishers and replaced where necessary. Church Cottage has also been supplied with appropriate fire protection.

Antony said that 2 people always need to be present when someone goes down into the boiler room as there is a risk of asphyxiation. There were now notices to this effect.

Battery operated candles were on the prayer table and real candles would not be used outside of service times.

New signage needs to be fixed to the walls as well as the children's mosaic which would go at the far end of the North aisle. The applying for faculties for these situations was unanimously agreed.

11. PCC Subgroups

- **Social and Outreach**

Antony spoke of the events organised by the Social and Outreach committee recently, including the quiz, the New Year walk and the bird watching trip to Otmoor.

Chris Coyston will attend the meeting regarding our involvement in Napfest 2025 which will take place on Saturday 14th June.

Antony commented that new members to the committee would be very welcome.

- **Mission**

David said that the documents which showed the mission plans for the year ahead had all been sent out. The Cables were leaving Israel for the USA imminently and financial support for them would cease. The intention was to send funds to Embrace the Middle East for at least the next 2 years. David was sad about the lack of personal contact there would be but as neither of our previous 2 contacts had lasted as long as planned, he felt it sensible to go with a well-established charity, that coincidentally has offices in High Wycombe.

The future of Love Wycombe was under discussion so no funding would be sent there at present.

David and Charlotte would be leaving the mission group in May.

David proposed that the church support Embrace the Middle East and this was seconded by Roger. The PCC voted unanimously in favour.

A second vote took place concerned with the allocation of grants as proposed by the MSG. Given that this included an allocation to Lighthouse, Ben Sharp declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting. The rest of the PCC voted in favour.

Roger volunteered to be a new member of the Mission Group and his offer was accepted.

12. Deanery Grant Application for new garden furniture in the MU Garden

Janet Booth agreed to research what was required and report back.

13. Future membership of the PCC beyond the annual meetings

There will be 1 vacancy on the PCC finishing in 2026,

3 vacancies finishing in 2027 and 4 vacancies ending in 2028.

There are also 3 vacancies on the Deanery Synod.

14. Deanery and Diocesan Synods

James Dwyer is now Area Dean as Dave Bull has become Bishop of Buckingham.

15. Parish Safeguarding

Roger said that his report had been sent out.

16. AOB

Roger said that he felt there should be a change of protocol in the writing of the meeting agenda. He said the meeting and the agenda were both too long and suggested putting allotted times against each item. Discussion took place with many others views being aired.

Keith closed in prayer and the meeting finished at 10.10 pm.

ACTIONS:

- **Colin and Lionel** to look at details of trialling a fan and to acquire client data as well as supplier data about the use of destratification fans.
- **Mike** to research the situation with our ancient yew tree.
- **Standing Committee** to discuss the grass cutting in the churchyard.
- **Janet** to research the MU requirements regarding garden furniture.

Susan Brice (PCC Secretary)

07.03.2025