

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd March 2023

Present: Gill Ainslie, Bob Batchelor, Robin Brown, David Chaplin, Chris Gibson, David Gill (on Zoom), Paul Hesketh, Margaret Mellor, Mary Odam, Tim Oxbrow, Hilary Platts, Teresa Rose, Russell Scates, Sue Scotchmere, Ruth Silburn, Revd Marion Walker, Chris Yule.

Apologies: Jim Ainslie, Kevin Brazier, Gill Crisp, Rachel Daniels.

Revd Marion opened the meeting with prayer.

23.14 Minutes of the PCC meeting held on 26th January 2023: the Treasurer asked for various amendments

- 22.03 f) Balance sheet – Treasurer explained the figures; final version when we have received the Middleditch Endowment valuation @ 31/12/22
- 22.03 g) Treasurer explained the graphs of Income & Expenditure, Surplus/Deficit, Restricted & Free Reserves, as shown covering the past 8 years
- 23.04: the Budget vote took place after item 23.09, and the minute was amended to read 'Following the above discussions of items 23.05-23.08 and their financial implications, the Treasurer modified the Budget to reduce the Deficit by £1k and the adoption of the 2023 Budget was voted on ...'

The Minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters Arising not covered by the agenda: None

23.15 Correspondence: Ruth Silburn had received an email from Cathy Smith at Suffolk Wildlife Trust congratulating St Andrew's on attaining one of the few Silver Eco Awards in Suffolk and on the excellent work being done in the churchyard.

23.16 Treasurer's Report

a) Matters arising: Thanks to Sandy Lloyd for his professional diligence in approving our Financial Statements and Annual Report for 2022.

Gippeswyk Singers will not be hiring the hall after Easter, a loss of £1.5k income *p.a.*
Electricity costs – in last 4 months weekday usage has increased by 60% and evening/ weekend by 35%, partly due to new Vestry heaters. Overall will add £300-£400 *p.a.* to electricity costs, which is not built into the Budget.

b) Income January-February 2023: Income from various events and donations were highlighted, including 2 anonymous donations of £100 in the wallsafe.

c) Payments schedule, January-February 2023: The final payments have been made for the Nave Roof Project; the first purchase of boiler fuel for 2 years was almost 70% more expensive; the CCLI Licence costs less than 2022 because smaller Sunday congregations have put us in a lower price band; the Parish Share is now up-to-date for 2023 and will be £6,017 per month henceforth.

d) Income & Expenditure to 31/12/22: due to several small items relating to last year appearing unexpectedly, income and expenditure have both increased slightly from those previously reported, and so the Deficit for 2022 is increased to £2,934.

e) Funds Schedule: Schedule shows that the PCC Motion 22.03 e) has been enacted, with Unrestricted Reserve up to £32K and the increase coming from the Dee Fund together

with the Deficit of £2,934, thereby reducing the Dee Fund to £133; otherwise the figures are unchanged from those previously reported.

f) Balance Sheet @ 31/12/22: the valuation for the Nellie Middleditch endowment/CB fixed interest securities @ 31/12/22 is down by £1,072 and so the overall total of is reduced to £152,369, which is still an increase of £4,792 over 2021.

g) 2023 Budget: this shows the agreed changes made at the previous PCC, and the revised figures for 2022; the budgetted Deficit of £12K does not include any effects of the loss of Hall hire or increased electricity costs mentioned earlier.

h) Parochial Fees: the Fees for Weddings and Funerals fixed each year by the Archbishops' Council had been increased by 10% but that has now been reduced to 5% as of 1st March.

23.17 Annual Report & Accounts

These had been circulated previously. There being no questions, **the PCC approved** the Annual Report & Accounts and they were signed. Tim thanked the Secretary, Treasurer and all involved in preparing them, and reminded the PCC that the APCM is on 23rd March, followed by a short meeting of the new PCC.

23.18 Giving and Fundraising

- A fund-raising event is planned for Saturday 22nd July, and Paul will have a brief meeting at the end of this PCC with anyone interested in being involved in planning.
- A booklet on Giving is in progress.

23.19 Updates:

Health & Safety: The Gas safety certificate has been renewed and all H& S matters are up-to-date

Safeguarding: There have been no safeguarding concerns in the last 2 months. An Action Plan summary had been circulated. A few people have completed online training recently. Hilary to share with Bob any information she has on training required and completed.

23.20 Churchwardens' report:

- a member of the public has commented on how good the churchyard and grounds are looking – thanks to the gardening team for all they do, it is much appreciated
- thanks to David G. and Chris Y. for running the Lent courses
- 2 new Gopak tables to replace those used for Open Door will arrive next week
- **The PCC agreed** to make gifts to Revd Marion, Mary Odam and Margaret Mellor as a token of appreciation and thanks for all they have done to support worship and music during the vacancy.

23.21 Panel reports: none received

23.22 Church events:

March

- 3rd - World Day of Prayer Service at St Mary's RC Church, Woodbridge Road; in the evening Beavers coming to do their Faith Badge
- 5th - Sunday afternoon concerts start for 5 weeks
- 18th – posy-making for Mothering Sunday

- 19th - 8am communion, 10am Mothering Sunday service and church parade, 3pm concert and 4pm t@4
- 23rd - APCM
- 25th - Prayer breakfast 8-9.15am; 8.45am Deanery conference at Colchester Rd Baptist Church.
- 26th - *n.b.* Rugby Club using half of the main car park from 9am – hopefully they will manage it better than last year. 6.30pm United Service at St Andrew's

April

- 1st - Children's Easter event
- 2nd - 9th Holy Week
- 8th - a.m. decorating church for Easter
- 17th - Licensing of Revd Alan Comfort
- 29th - Parish Council Coronation celebrations; Quiz in the evening.

May

- 6th - Tricia and MU looking into using hall for people to watch the Coronation together on TV with a meal, tea etc
- 7th - Special service followed by bring-and-share lunch
- 8th - Young people's Coronation Event – tbc
- 11th - PCC meeting
- 13th - Parish Away Day at Rushmere Baptist Church

23.23 Any other business

Tim thanked those members whose 3 years on the PCC comes to an end at the APCM - Rusell Scates, Sue Scotchmere and Ruth Silburn (PCC Members) and Robin Brown, Paul Hesketh and Hilary Platts (Deanery Synod). He also thanked Jim Ainslie, Margaret Mellor, Mary Odam and Penny Braybrooke who had been invited to attend during the vacancy. Tim was also thanked for his leadership and hard work during the vacancy.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm with The Grace.

**The date of the next full PCC Meeting is Thursday 11th May
(there will be a short PCC meeting immediately following the APCM on 23rd March)**